

# My Experience of Moving to a New Country

By Eric Ren

Do you know what it is like to move to a completely new country, a completely new school with unfamiliar people and a different lifestyle? I know what it's like. It is not easy. It is challenging. However, it is also the way to a new world.

In the summer of 2021, my family moved from Canada to the United States. I had to say goodbye to my friends and everything familiar. It was hard. I wouldn't be able to play soccer with my friends or go to my favorite kids' bookstore anymore. I would not be able to water the blueberry trees in the backyard anymore. Mom said, "Don't worry, you'll make new friends. You'll have fun with something new." I knew she was right, but I had no idea what to expect when we were on our way south.

When we arrived at our new home, we spent a couple of days touring the city. Burlingame, California is a small town, yet very convenient. People here are friendly and welcoming. On the first day we moved in, many neighbors came to say hello. I felt warm and comfortable.

Soon, the school year began. At the time, I was just starting fourth grade. On the first day of school when the teacher and classmates heard that I had just moved from Canada, they were surprised but gave me a warm welcome. I tried to explore the learning environment, the popular games at recess, and the after-school activities. I was happy that there were no academic difficulties. My favorite subject is math. I quickly found some students who loved math, too. However, my classmates did not play soccer. They loved a game called Four Square. They stood in a square which was cut into four parts and used a bouncy ball for the game.



At first, I felt shy and sorry when I made mistakes-and there were many. Therefore, I decided to watch and learn before I rejoined them. After a couple of days, I became a good player, and I had lots of fun with the other students. Gradually, I found more and more things to like. I loved the picnic style lunch. I loved science experiments. I loved the school choir. I love the sunshine in California!

I don't remember when I adapted to the new environment successfully. It brought some anxiety, but not so much that it was a problem. I encouraged myself to be brave. I figured out how to get along with others. I think it made sense that it took some time for me and my classmates to get to know each other. Moving to a new environment is a challenge, but I think it was worth it, as it introduced me to a whole new world.

## About the Author

Eric Ren is an extremely enthusiastic boy who loves to explore. He is 11 years old and in sixth grade. Eric is interested in all sorts of stuff! He usually enjoys reading mystery books, playing video games, playing chess, and working on Robotics. Eric currently lives in California, United States.