

Name: _____

Viewing Guide: *The Learning*

Directions: Watch three clips from the film **The Learning** and respond to the questions below.

Key Terms

Demand: Desire, ability and willingness to buy a product.

Human capital: The stock of knowledge and acquired skills possessed by individuals.

Incentive: Something that motivates a particular course of action.

Opportunity cost: The value of what is given up as the result of a decision.

Remittance: Transfer of income from a foreign worker to his or her home country.

Standard of living: Quality of life based on necessities and luxuries that make life easier.

Supply: The amount of a product available in a market.

Background

In 2005, the Baltimore school district in Maryland began recruiting teachers in the Philippines to address the district's shortage of mathematics, science and special education teachers. Working abroad is an attractive option for many Filipino teachers, because they can earn up to 25 times more in the United States than they would at home. Currently, about 600 Filipino teachers are working in Baltimore; they represent 10 percent of the district's teaching force. The film **The Learning** tells the stories of four teachers from the Philippines who teach in Baltimore and send remittances home to their families in order to improve their family members' economic situations.

Analysis

1. What incentive do these teachers have to leave the Philippines and go work in the United States?
2. What are the opportunity costs for these teachers if they do so?
3. Given the benefits and opportunity costs of remaining at home with your loved ones or earning a higher income by working overseas, which alternative would you choose? Explain your thinking.
4. In the table below, describe what you think might be the long-term impact of such teacher migrations on the supply of and demand for teachers in the United States and the Philippines.

	Supply of Teachers	Demand for Teachers
United States		
Philippines		

5. In what ways do the teachers' remittances affect their families' standards of living?

6. How do you think the migration of skilled human capital to other countries could affect long-term growth in the Philippines?