What is a green card?

"Getting a green card" means becoming a legal, permanent resident of the U.S.



If you are a legal permanent resident:

- You are a legal immigrant in the U.S.
- You have the government's permission to live in the U.S. for as long as you like.
- In five years, you can become a citizen. Then, you have all the legal rights of a person born in the U.S., including the right to vote.
- You can work legally.
- You can drive legally.
- You can apply for financial aid for college.
- You can travel internationally.

What is a green card?, continued

Each year, the U.S. gives out about a million green cards.

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Most people who receive green cards already live in the U.S. This is called a "status change."

The U.S. only gives out a certain number of green cards per year. Many more people apply for green cards than can receive them.

Look back at fluency passage 4, which was about someone getting a green card. Who did you read about? How did they get a green card? How did the green card change their life?

