

This is the Immigrant Story of Micaela Sanchez and her family. Originally from Lima, Peru, they came to the United State, in specific Salt Lake City, Utah, when Micaela was only four years old and the year was 2000. Micaela is pictured on the left here in one of the last photos she has from Peru. Not to long after taking this picture her and her family relocated to a whole new culture and to a whole new way of life.

This story begins when Micaela and her family touched down in Salt Lake City, Utah. Since Micaela was only four when she moved away from Lima, Peru, she doesn't remember much of her life back there. Instead she remembers how her family carried the culture of Peru to Salt Lake City and also how they assimilated to their new culture. When Micaela, her brother Andreas, her father Luis, and her mother Silvia first arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah they lived near Conwood Heights and Micaela remembers when her family started to interact with the new culture they all started to change, her father and her mother especially. In her first few years living in her new culture in Salt Lake, Micaela remembers seeing less and less of her father Luis. Micaela remembers only seeing him at night when he came home from his job as a personal contractor. In their first few years living in Utah, Michael remembers just how stressed her mother and father were with their new work load, trying to learn the new language of English, and trying to learn the in and outs of the new culture. However, along with the negatives came some positives. Sanchez family moved to a nicer part of town called Suncrest. Michael's parents, Silvia and Luis, started to make the most of their new life. They started to buy designer clothes, take vacations, buy a couple of cars, and develop their dream house, all things that weren't available Peru. This when Micaela realized the two identities within her family, the American side and the Peruvian side. From a viewers perspective, the Sanchez family looked like an everyday middle class family with a couple of cars, a pretty decent house, and a little bit of spending money. However, within the Sanchez residence, the culture was Peruvian. Her father still listened to Peruvian music, her mother still cooked Peruvian food, and the textiles and artwork around the house were mainly Peruvian. And of course they spoke in Spanish. This is a perfect example of how an immigrant family, like the Sanchez family, can come to the United States of America, assimilate to the culture to a certain degree, but also retain the culture of their home land. Sure, the Sanchez family came here, they became American, and they became citizens, but they will always retain the Peruvian side of their identity for the rest of their lives.