

Immigration

Big Idea

As you read through these passages, complete this graphic organizer by filling in the reasons people left their homelands to immigrate to the United States.

Reasons for Immigrating	
Push Factors	Pull Factors
1	1
2	2

Europeans Flood Into America

Identifying the Main Idea

Write the main idea of this section below:

In the late 1800s, a major wave of immigration began. More than half of all immigrants were from eastern and southern Europe. They immigrated for a variety of reasons. Some came for jobs. Some came to avoid military service. Others, particularly Jews, fled religious persecution.

Most immigrants who came to the United States booked passage in **steerage**. This was the cheapest accommodations on a steamship. After about two weeks, they arrived at Ellis Island. This is a tiny island in New York harbor. Immigrants had to pass a medical exam. Most immigrants passed through Ellis Island in about a day.

Many immigrants settled in cities. There, they often lived in neighborhoods separated into ethnic groups, where they spoke their native languages, worshipped in familiar surroundings, and published ethnic newspapers. Immigrants who could learn English quickly and adapt to American culture generally adjusted well to life in the United States. So did those who had marketable skills or who settled among members of their own ethnic groups.

Asian Immigration

Making Generalizations

Complete the sentence to make a generalization.

Many Asian immigrants came to the United States because:

Chinese immigrants came to the United States for many reasons. They often came to escape poverty and famine or to find jobs. An 1850 rebellion in China also caused many Chinese to move to the United States. In the 1860s, demand for workers on the transcontinental railroad further increased Chinese immigration. Chinese immigrants mainly settled in cities on the West Coast. They often worked as laborers or servants or in skilled trades. Others became merchants or opened businesses.

Japanese immigration to the United States increased greatly between 1900 and 1910. As Japan industrialized, economic problems caused many Japanese people to leave.

At first, Asian immigrants arrived at a two-story shed at the wharf in San Francisco. In 1910, California opened a barracks on Angel Island for Asian immigrants. Most immigrants were young men. They were often kept at Angel Island for months awaiting the results of immigration hearings. Some immigrants wrote poems on the barracks walls.

Nativism Resurges

Comparing and Contrasting

Complete the sentences:

1. The two laws from 1882 were similar because:
2. The two laws from 1882 were different because:

This new wave of immigration to the United States increased feelings of **nativism**. This is an extreme dislike for immigrants by native-born people. In the late 1800s, these feelings were mainly directed at Asians, Jews, and eastern Europeans.

Religious and ethnic prejudices and economic fears led to the desire to limit immigration. Some people feared the large number of Catholic immigrants from Europe. Labor unions argued that immigrants would work for low wages or accept jobs as strikebreakers. Some nativists formed anti-immigrant organizations. Members of the American Protective Association would not hire or vote for Catholic immigrants. The Workingman's Party of California worked to stop Chinese immigration.

Anti-immigrant feelings led Congress to pass new laws in 1882. One banned convicts, paupers, and the mentally disabled from immigrating. It also taxed new immigrants 50 cents. The other was the Chinese Exclusion Act. It barred Chinese immigration for ten years. It also prevented Chinese already in the country from becoming citizens. The Chinese in the country protested the law. They pointed out that laws did not ban European immigration. Yet Congress renewed the law and made it permanent in 1902. It was not repealed until 1943.

Section Wrap-Up

Answer these questions to check your understanding of the entire section.

1. Describe the new wave of immigrants who came to the United States during the late 1800's.

2. How did nativism affect policies in the United States?