



An Urban Society

Lesson 1 The New Immigrants

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Why do people move?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *Why did many people immigrate to the United States during this period?*
2. *How did immigrants adjust to their new life in the United States?*

Terms to Know

assimilate blend in with the main, larger group of people

emigrate to leave the country where one was born

ethnic group people with the same culture or national background

nativist person who is against new immigrants coming to their country

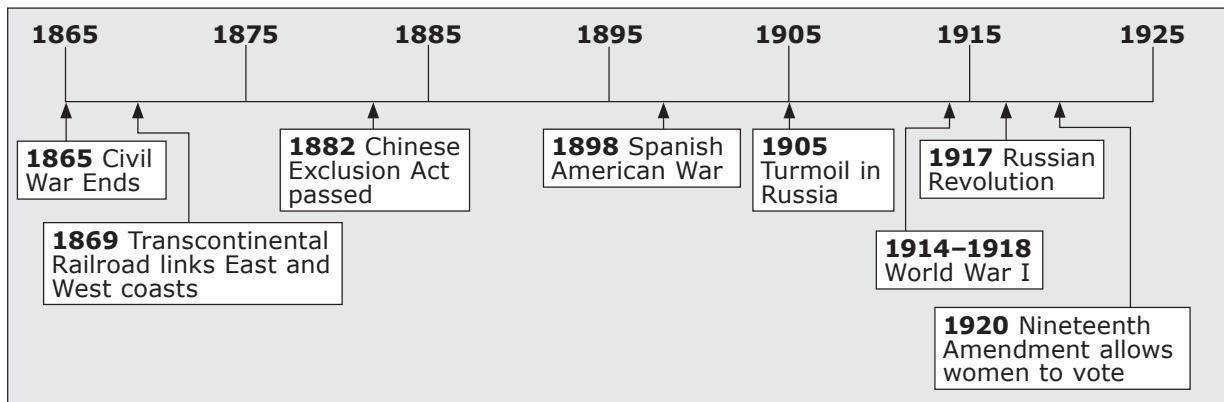
recruit hire workers for jobs

steerage part of the ship where poor people traveled because tickets were cheaper

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



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Lesson 1 The New Immigrants, *Continued*

A Flood of Immigrants

In the middle of the 1800s, immigrants to the United States were mostly from northern and western Europe. By the late 1800s, most immigrants were coming from southern and eastern Europe. They came from Italy, Russia, Poland, Hungary, Turkey, Greece, Serbia, and Croatia. Immigrants also came from China and Japan.

Many of the new immigrants were Catholic or Jewish. Most of the United States was Protestant. Also, most immigrants did not speak English. For these two reasons, they did not blend into U.S. society at first.

People decided to leave their home countries, or **emigrate**, because of problems there. The people heard that the United States offered many opportunities, so they moved there to have a better life.

Reasons to Leave Europe	Reasons to Go to the United States
poverty	jobs
overcrowding	land
crop failure	chance for a better life
lack of work	
unfair laws against certain ethnic groups	

Immigrants came to the United States even though the trip was often very hard to make.

First, they had to get to the ship. Not every country had a city on the coast where big ships could dock. Sometimes ships docked hundreds of miles away, in a foreign country.

Then they made the long ocean voyage to the United States. The trip took 12 days from Europe. From Asia, the trip often took several weeks.

Finally, people who were poor had little money to spend on steamship tickets. The **steerage** section was the cheapest. Steerage was often very crowded.

Most immigrants from Europe landed in New York City. After 1886, immigrants saw the Statue of Liberty when they arrived. It was a gift from the people of France.

New immigrants had to pass inspection at a U.S. government center before they could enter the country. Immigrants from Europe went to Ellis Island, near

Contrasting

- How were new immigrants different from immigrants who had come before?

Mark the Text

- Put checkmarks beside the three reasons why it was hard for immigrants to get to the United States.

Drawing Conclusions

- Where did most European immigrants land?

Reading Check

- What drew people to the United States? What made them leave their homes?

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Lesson 1 The New Immigrants, *Continued*

? Critical Thinking

5. List the three problems immigrants had to solve in the order you think is most important.

Explaining

6. Why did new immigrants from the same ethnic group often live in the same neighborhood?

FOLDABLES®

? Analyzing

7. Use a one-tab Foldable and place it along the dotted line. Write the title *Cause and Effect of Nativist Attitudes*. On both sides, explain the reasons and results of opposition to immigration.

New York City. Most Asian immigrants sailed to California. They went through a government center on Angel Island, near San Francisco.

Government inspectors asked many questions and wrote down the name of each immigrant. Each immigrant had a health exam. Immigrants who did not pass this inspection could not enter the United States.

The Immigrant Experience

Immigrants to the United States faced important problems:

- Where would they work?
- Where would they live?
- How would they get used to life in their new country?

Finding a job was not easy. Sometimes immigrants were **recruited**, or hired, for a job even before they left their homeland. These were often unskilled jobs, such as unloading cargo or digging ditches. Some industries were growing fast and needed immigrant workers. For example, steel factories in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, hired immigrant men who worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week. Many immigrants worked long hours making clothing in factories called sweatshops.

Immigrants had to **assimilate**, or fit in with, life in the United States. They also wanted to keep their own culture alive. It was sometimes hard to do both. Parents spoke their native language, but their children learned English at school and with friends. Women in the United States often had more freedom than they did in their homelands.

Another problem immigrants faced was where to live. Many immigrants came from farms and small villages. In the United States, they could not afford farms, so they often lived in cities.

People from the same **ethnic group** often lived in the same neighborhood. There they tried to preserve their old way of life. Their houses of worship were like those in the old country. They published newspapers in their native languages. Their neighborhoods had theaters, stores, and social clubs that kept the old languages and customs alive.

Some Americans, called **nativists**, didn't want the new immigrants to come to the United States. They thought:

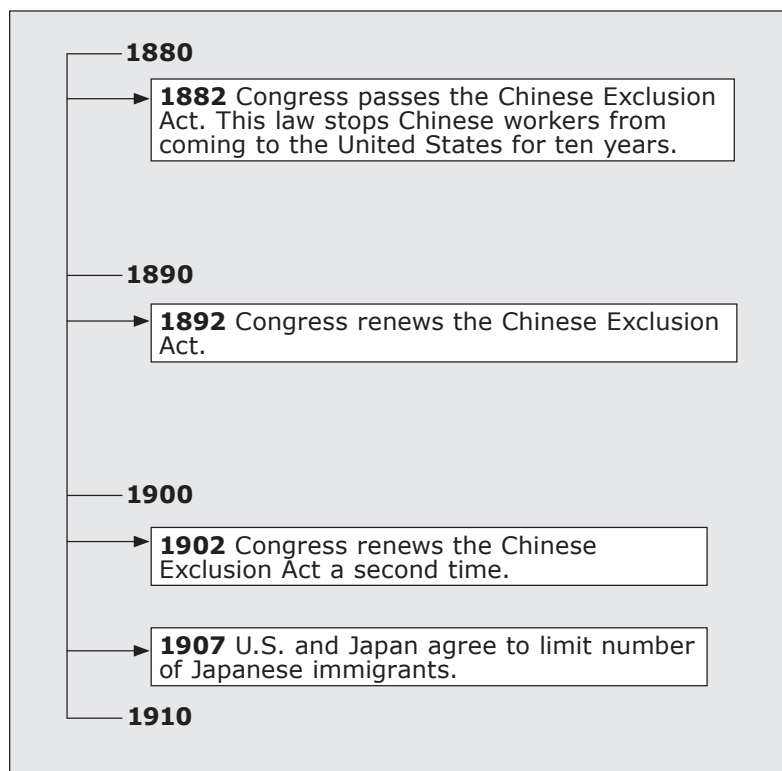
- New immigrants would take jobs from them.
- Employers would pay low wages to everyone, because immigrants were willing to work for low wages.

Glue Foldable here

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Lesson 1 The New Immigrants, *Continued*

Nativists wanted government to take action, so Congress passed laws to keep immigrants out.



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Check for Understanding

List two problems immigrants might have faced before leaving their home countries, and describe why they believed America would be different.

1. _____
2. _____

Why did factories hire immigrants?

? Making Connections

8. What immigration problems are in the news today?

✓ Reading Check

9. What were the main reasons some people opposed immigration?



10. Use a three-tab Foldable and place it along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write the title *New Immigrants* on the anchor tab. Label the three tabs *Before Sailing*, *During the Trip*, and *After Reaching America*. Use both sides to summarize what you remember about why people immigrated, their journey, and their new lives.