

# Day 1

## “Welcome to America!” Chinese and Irish Immigrant Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Walk around the room and talk to your fellow “immigrants”. Try to find someone who fits each category. You may only use each name once and may also use your own to fill in one category.

Find someone who...

- departed from Limerick
- is unemployed
- arrived at the same place as you
- works in a vineyard
- is under the age of 18
- arrived at New York
- departed from Manchuria
- is over the age of 40
- works on a railroad
- resides in Philadelphia
- is a prostitute or looking for gold

## Scavenger Hunt People

<p><b>Gee Chan</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">31</p> <p>Hong Kong to San Francisco</p> <p>Vineyard Cultivator</p>	<p><b>Shima Nakao</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">57</p> <p>Manchuria to San Diego</p> <p>Shoemaker</p>	<p><b>Thomas McGarry</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">14</p> <p>Glasgow to Boston</p> <p>Textile mill worker</p>	<p><b>Colin O’Ferrell</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p>Limerick to Boston</p> <p>Coal Miner</p>	<p><b>Tai Kam</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>Hong Kong to San Francisco</p> <p>Prostitute</p>
<p><b>Takuzo Hara</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p>Manchuria to San Francisco</p> <p>Factory Worker</p>	<p><b>Lee Chai</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>Canton to San Francisco</p> <p>Miner</p>	<p><b>Po-Lin Yan</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">42</p> <p>Manchuria to San Francisco</p> <p>Railroad Worker</p>	<p><b>Katoro Doi</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">31</p> <p>Shanghai to San Francisco</p> <p>Vineyard Owner</p>	<p><b>Samuel Douglass</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p>Queenstown to New York</p> <p>Coal Miner</p>
<p><b>Sika Kaida</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">17</p> <p>Shanghai to San Francisco</p> <p>Garment Factory Worker</p>	<p><b>Jeong Fen</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">37</p> <p>Shanghai to San Francisco</p> <p>Rancher</p>	<p><b>Yuen Hea</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>Shanghai to San Francisco</p> <p>Looking for Gold</p>	<p><b>Sai-Jung Hai</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">32</p> <p>Shanghai to San Francisco</p> <p>Soybean Farmer</p>	<p><b>Lee Bing</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p>Canton to San Francisco</p> <p>Railroad Worker</p>
<p><b>Pat Galligan</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">24</p> <p>Hamburg to Boston</p> <p>Coal Miner</p>	<p><b>Mary Smyth</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">31</p> <p>Queenstown to Philadelphia</p> <p>Housemaid</p>	<p><b>Sean O’Donnell</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">33</p> <p>Glasgow to Baltimore</p> <p>Shipbuilder</p>	<p><b>Chen Kenichi</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>Hong Kong to San Francisco</p> <p>Railroad Worker</p>	<p><b>Phil Welsh</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>Limerick to New York</p> <p>Contractor</p>

<p><b>Yataro Kamada</b></p> <p><b>35</b></p> <p><b>Manchuria to San Francisco</b></p> <p><b>Railroad Worker</b></p>	<p><b>Frankle Coan</b></p> <p><b>34</b></p> <p><b>Glasgow to New York</b></p> <p><b>Tailor</b></p>	<p><b>Robert Moore</b></p> <p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Liverpool to Philadelphia</b></p> <p><b>Unemployed</b></p>	<p><b>Thomas Locke</b></p> <p><b>40</b></p> <p><b>Hamburg to Newport, RI</b></p> <p><b>Railroad Worker</b></p>	<p><b>Anne Walsh</b></p> <p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Liverpool to New York</b></p> <p><b>Housemaid</b></p>
<p><b>Catherine Coan</b></p> <p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Glasgow to Baltimore</b></p> <p><b>Domestic Servant</b></p>	<p><b>Bridget McGovern</b></p> <p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Hamburg to Baltimore</b></p> <p><b>Sugar Refinery Worker</b></p>	<p><b>Edna Nelson</b></p> <p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Queenstown to Newport, RI</b></p> <p><b>Textile Mill Worker</b></p>	<p><b>Kiyo Sakai</b></p> <p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Manchuria to San Francisco</b></p> <p><b>Wool Mill Worker</b></p>	<p><b>Kelly McMahan</b></p> <p><b>64</b></p> <p><b>Hamburg to Baltimore</b></p> <p><b>Street Vendor</b></p>

# Coming to America by Tod Olson

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For more than 300 years, immigrants from every corner of the globe have settled in America, creating the most diverse nation on earth. Though immigrants have given much to the country, their passage here was never easy, nor their welcome always friendly.

"My imagination was aflame with America," recalled Louis Adamic, a Slovenian immigrant who came to the United States in 1913. "In America, everything was possible." Since 1600, more than 60 million people have brought their hopes and dreams to America. Representing more than 120 different ethnic groups from nearly every nation on earth, they have made the U.S. the most multicultural nation in the world.

Though immigrants have made major contributions to the U.S., their reception here has been mixed. Often they have been welcomed, at other times they've been shunned. But it is impossible to think of America without immigration. With the exception of some 2 million Native Americans, we have each come from immigrant groups. As Michael Pappas, who came here from Greece in 1913 said, "We are the ones who built America." On these pages, we'll retrace the path that led immigrants like Pappas to these shores, and look at the lives they found here.

## 1607-1820

*"What then is the American, this new man? He is either a European or a descendant of a European, hence that strange mixture of blood, which you will find in no other country."-Hector St. ~ John de Crevecoeur, French immigrant ~and author (1782)*

"England is swarming," said a British observer in the 1590s, "with valiant youths rusting by lacke of employment." From 1607, when the first ragged band of English settlers arrived in Jamestown, Virginia, to 1820, when a new wave of immigration began, it was these "rusting youths" who colonized America.

Six out of 10 immigrants in Colonial times came from England. While the most vocal-Puritans, Pilgrims, and Quakers--came to escape religious persecution, most came for work. Many enjoyed wages triple those found in England. But nearly half came as indentured servants, selling their labor in exchange for free passage to America. By the time of the Revolutionary War, Americans were a diverse lot. In addition to containing some 200 Indian tribes, the country in 1780 had 3.2 million Europeans and nearly 800,000 Africans, forcibly brought to the U.S. as slaves.

## THE RECEPTION

*"Why should Pennsylvania, founded by the English, become a colony of aliens?" Benjamin Franklin, American, patriot (1751)*

Most immigrants in Colonial times were welcomed with open arms. Of course, there were exceptions. Quakers and Jews could not testify in court in New York City. In 1698, South Carolina offered land to all newcomers—except Scotch-Irish and Catholics. But in general, the Colonies not only welcomed immigrants, but sought them out. William Penn, for one, sent agents to Europe to proclaim the virtues of his Pennsylvania colony. After all, the infant colonies were desperate for that basic resource without which they couldn't survive: people.

## 1821-1890

### THE ARRIVAL

*"My dear Father ... Any man or woman are fools that would not venture and come to this plentyful Country where no man or woman ever hungered or ever will and where you will not be seen naked." -Margaret McCarthy, Irishimmigrant (1850)*

In the mid-1800s, immigration began to soar. As many people arrived in the 1840s (1.7 million) as had come in the 230 preceding years. For the first time, the English were outnumbered at American ports by Germans and Irish, who made up 70 percent of America's foreign-born by 1860.

In the 1840s, disease wiped out potato crops in both Germany and Ireland, sending thousands of hungry peasants fleeing for their lives. Most Irish, dirt poor when they arrived, settled in Boston and New York City, working as laborers.

The Germans, a little better off, headed for the farmland of the Midwest.

On the West Coast, the Chinese became the first non-Europeans to immigrate to the U.S. They were drawn by tales of gold; in fact, the Chinese name for California means "Gold Mountain." But many Chinese ended up in back-breaking labor on the railroads.

### THE RECEPTION

*"Wanted. A Cook or Chambermaid. Must be American, Scotch, Swiss, or African-no Irish." - Help wanted ad, New York Evening Post (1830)*

America in the mid-19th century still welcomed immigrants. Some states even gave immigrants the right to vote before they became citizens. But as the immigrant population grew, the old guard English became resentful. The newcomers competed for jobs, and many of them practiced Catholicism in a mostly Protestant country. In the mid-1850s, the so-called, nativists burned or attacked dozens of Catholic churches.

But Chinese immigrants suffered the most. In 1876, a California legislative committee reported, "The Chinese are inferior to any race God ever made." And in 1882, all Chinese laborers were barred from entering the U.S.

## 1891-1924

### THE ARRIVAL

*"I came to America because I heard the streets were paved with gold. When I got here, I found out three things: First, the streets weren't paved with gold; second, they weren't paved at all; and third, I was expected to pave them." -An old Italian story*

Nearly half of the 55 million immigrants to the U.S. since 1607 arrived between 1880 and 1924. Steamship lines, by the 1880s, could make the trip across the Atlantic in 12 days.

The vast wave of steamship passengers came from new places on the globe. In 1880, 87 percent of immigrants came from Northern and Western Europe; by 1907, 80 percent were from Eastern Europe. Polish and Russian Jews came to escape persecution at home; Italians, Greeks, and Slavs came looking for work. The new immigrants built thriving communities in the large industrial cities of the Northeast and Midwest. Though they made up less than 15 percent of the population, these newcomers provided nearly half the labor for the factories of the Industrial Revolution.

## **THE RECEPTION**

*"Our capacity to maintain our cherished institutions stands diluted by a stream of alien blood. The US. is our land. We intend to maintain it so." -Congressman Albert Johnson (1924)*

The huge rise in immigration came at a time of vast social upheaval. Cities grew crowded with the poor, unemployment rose, and labor violence was common. The "new" immigrants-as they were called to distinguish them from the "old" Irish, Germans, and English-took much of the blame.

In 1886, the Statue of Liberty went up in New York Harbor, promising to keep America's "golden door" open to immigrants. Yet the U.S. Congress was already closing the door. In 1885, it banned those who arrived with "contracts to work." In 1891, "idiots, insane persons, paupers, felons," and those with a "loathsome or contagious disease" were barred. Anarchists, and illiterates soon followed. Still, when the Ellis Island immigration center opened in New York City in 1892, it received nearly half a million immigrants a year.

But after World War I, (1914-1918) the nativists won the day. In 1924, Congress passed a law setting strict quotas on immigration, discriminating heavily against Asians and Eastern Europeans. The golden door had swung closed.

## **1924•Present**

### **THE ARRIVAL**

*"There are no vacations, no pensions; they just work and work all their lives. We're willing to work, but can't find good jobs."-a Chinese garment worker, California, 1992*

For 30 years after the quota laws were passed, Americans acted as if the age of immigration had ended. From 1925 to 1955, only 100,000 people a year moved to the U.S.

That all changed in the 1960s. In 1965, quotas based on nationality were lifted. With the U.S. economy booming, a new wave of immigration began.

These new immigrants, most from Asia and Latin America have been settling in large cities and suburbs, mainly in California, Texas, New York, and Florida. Like previous immigrants, many have been fleeing persecution or seeking a better life. And they've once again transformed the face of America.

### **THE RECEPTION**

*"During the next 15years, the United States will create 30 million new jobs. Can we afford to set aside more than 20 percent of them for foreign workers?" -Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, Select Commission on Immigration and Refuge Policy (1981)*

In the past 55 years, the road has not been smooth for new Americans. Some 300,000 Japanese-Americans were interned, or confined in camps, during World War II. Latinos in Texas' were often routinely forced to use segregated facilities. And in a climate of company downsizings and government belt-tightening in the 1990s, fears are rising again that immigrants are taking jobs and benefits from American workers.

Still, as a percentage of our total population, immigration today is only one third as large as it was at the turn of the century. And many people argue that immigrant labor and resources actually add jobs to our economy. What is certain is that the immigrants of the 1990s, like others who came before them, will continue to add to the diversity that is America. •

## ***Coming to America***

America is considered a nation of immigrants. For each of the following time periods, describe where the majority of immigrants were coming from, why they decided to come to American and the treatment they encountered once they were here.

### 1. 1607-1820

-Countries of origin

-Reasons to come to America

-Treatment encountered

### 2. 1821-1890

-Countries of origin

-Reasons to come to American

-Treatment encountered

### 3. 1891-1924

-Countries of origin

-Reasons to come to America

-Treatment encountered

4. 1924-present

-Countries of origin

-Reasons to come to America

-Treatment encountered

5. Describe 3 ways that all periods of immigration were the same.

6. Describe 3 ways that immigration has differed throughout the period of America and the United States.