

KIDS  
DISCOVER

# Immigration



ILLUSTRIOUS  
INDUSTRIOUS  
INGENIOUS  
IMMIGRANTS



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.





# Immigrants All!

What would it take for you to pack up just a few of your most cherished things and move to another country for good? Do you think it would take war, famine, or persecution due to your religion, race, or political beliefs? Or would you move just for the chance to make a lot more money than you do now? All through history, people have become immigrants for these and other reasons. But no matter the cause, the decision to leave home is never easy. Close friends and family may be left behind and may never be seen again. You don't know if your new country will welcome or reject you. Will you find work and a decent home? Will you learn the new language and customs easily? These are just some of the trials facing immigrants, people who move to another country.

Humans have been on the move since prehistoric times. One of the oldest known migrations brought people from Asia to the Americas 12,000 or more years ago. The first written record of a mass migration is in the Hebrew Bible. It's the story of the Jewish people leaving Egypt to find the Promised Land. Between 1820 and 1980, 37 million people left Europe for North America. That is now called the Great Atlantic Migration. Since the second half of the 20th century, mass migrations of refugees from war and economic trouble have moved people all around the globe.

Join us as we meet some of the brave people who have set out for new lands.

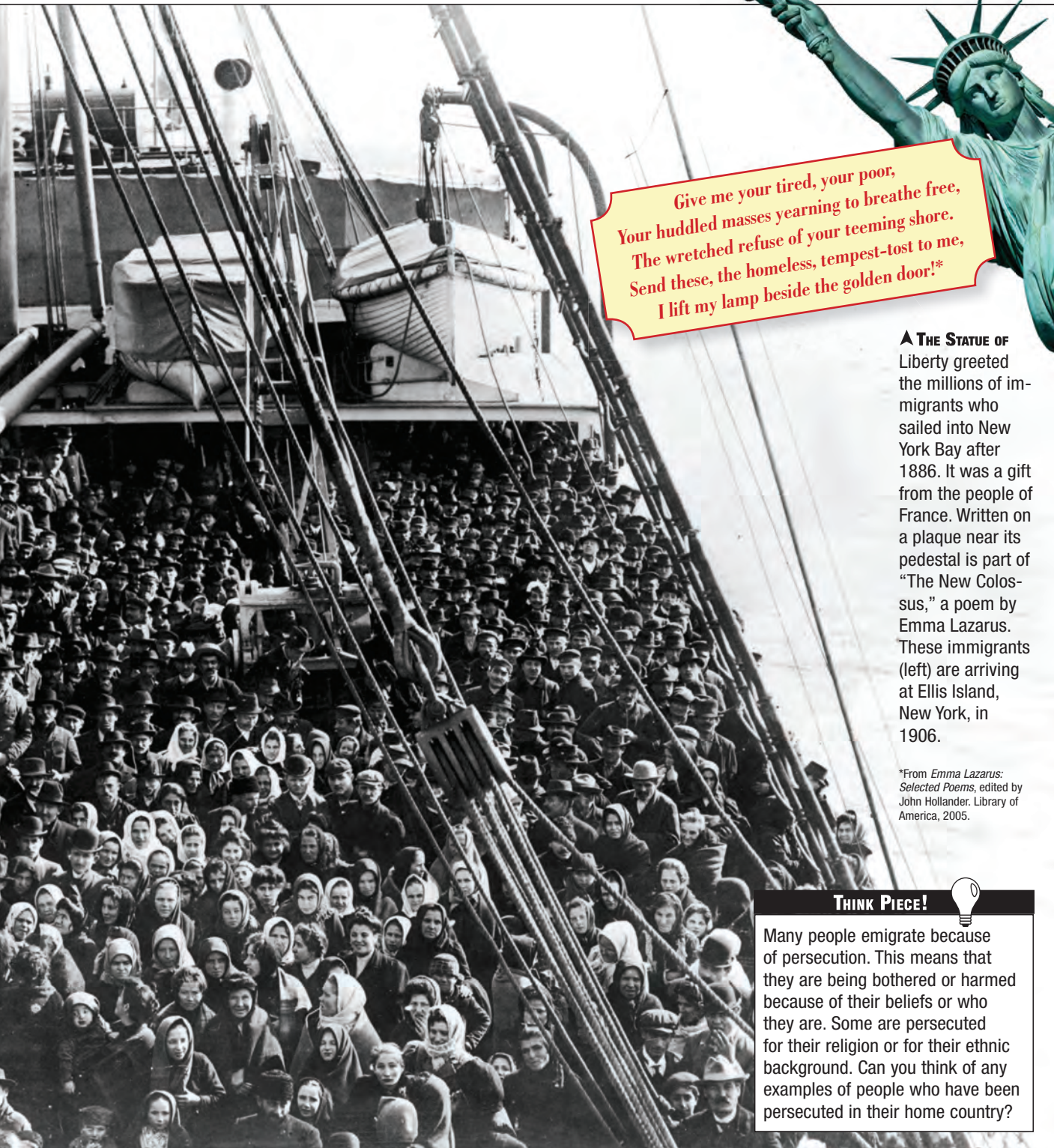


## Words to Know

► **THE WORD MIGRATION** comes from the Latin word *migrare*. It means to move from one place to another.







Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!\*

▲ **THE STATUE OF Liberty** greeted the millions of immigrants who sailed into New York Bay after 1886. It was a gift from the people of France. Written on a plaque near its pedestal is part of "The New Colossus," a poem by Emma Lazarus. These immigrants (left) are arriving at Ellis Island, New York, in 1906.

\*From Emma Lazarus: *Selected Poems*, edited by John Hollander. Library of America, 2005.

#### THINK PIECE!



Many people emigrate because of persecution. This means that they are being bothered or harmed because of their beliefs or who they are. Some are persecuted for their religion or for their ethnic background. Can you think of any examples of people who have been persecuted in their home country?

➤ **AN EMIGRANT** IS a person who leaves one country to move permanently to another.



➤ **AN IMMIGRANT** IS someone who moves into a new country. Every emigrant from one country is also an immigrant to another country.



➤ **A REFUGEE** IS someone left homeless by war or persecution.





# A Nation of Immigrants

America's first immigrants may have come on foot. Some scientists believe that they walked here 12,000 years ago on land that used to connect Asia and North America. Over thousands of years, their descendants gradually migrated east and south. Eventually, two whole continents were populated.

Then, in 1492, Europeans "discovered" those continents and claimed them. The European colonization of America started

with a drop – a few settlers looking for a better life in a new land. Soon the drop became a trickle. Boatloads of immigrants arrived from Spain, France, England, and elsewhere. Eventually the trickle became a stream. Then the stream turned into a flood. In the 40 years between 1880 and 1920, around 25 million immigrants entered the United States. The flood of immigration slowed down for a while, but the river continues to flow. Every day, new immigrants arrive, looking for a better life than they had in their native country.

► **IMMIGRANTS WERE** encouraged to come to the United States in many ways. One way was in letters from family and friends who had already made the trip. Also, steamship companies looked for passengers in European cities. Sometimes they gave emigrants places to stay while they waited for ships. Western states wanted new settlers. They sent people to East Coast port cities to talk immigrants into going west. Railroad companies also encouraged immigrants to go westward.



▼ **CHINESE PEOPLE** were the first Asians to immigrate to the U.S. in large numbers. About 300,000 arrived on the West Coast between 1850 and 1882. Many went to work in the goldfields. When the Gold Rush ended, they took jobs laying railroad

tracks. Thanks to Irish, Norwegian, and Chinese immigrants, western railroads got built. But in 1882, prejudice led to passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act. It kept Chinese laborers from coming to the U.S. for 10 years.

▼ **MANY OF** Virginia's first English settlers were indentured servants. They had to work for their masters for many years before they could be free in the new land. After about 1660, England slowed down emigration

to the colonies. Too many workers were leaving. But the English did send about 50,000 people who had been charged with crimes to the colonies. It was cheaper to kick them out than to pay for jailing them in England.



► **AFRICAN PEOPLE** were first brought to Virginia in 1619 to work in tobacco fields. When it was found that cotton also grew well in hot, humid areas, the slave trade grew. Millions of Africans were

brought to the U.S. against their will. It became illegal to bring enslaved persons into the country in 1807. But the trade kept going in the United States until the Civil War put an end to slavery.





*“At Ellis Island I was born again.”*

—Edward G. Robinson, actor\*

\*From *Children of Ellis Island* by Barry Moreno. Arcadia Publishing, 2005.



◀ **IN 1892 THE U.S.** government opened an immigration station at Ellis Island in New York Bay. Between 1892 and 1924, about 12 million immigrants passed through Ellis Island to receive permission to enter the U.S. Doctors examined them. Sick people were held in the island’s hospital until they were healthy. Those with incurable diseases were sent back home. New arrivals were questioned to make sure they were not “feeble-minded” and would be able to earn a living. Immigrants feared the screening process. Some called Ellis Island the Island of Tears.



◀ **MORE AMERICANS** claim ancestry from Germany than any other country. Ireland and England come in second and third.



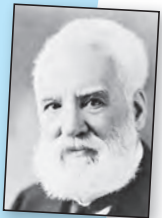
◀ **THE EARLIEST**

European immigrants arrived on sailing ships. Those boats took from one to three months to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Once steam power became common, in the 1860s, the trip lasted only about 10 days. The shorter crossing time meant tickets were cheaper. The risk of dangers from bad weather dropped. There was also a lower risk of shipboard diseases caused by poor living conditions.

**ILLUSTRIOUS IMMIGRANT**

**ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL (1847–1922)**

Born in Scotland, Bell immigrated to Canada with his parents. He became a teacher in Boston and did experiments with sound that led to the invention of the telephone in 1876. All his life, Bell worked to improve conditions for people who were deaf or hard of hearing. He made friends with Helen Keller and supported her work for the rest of his life. In 1898 he took over as president of the National Geographic Society from his father-in-law.



▲ **EUROPEANS LEFT** home for many reasons. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, better living conditions made Europe’s population rise. That meant each family member inherited less land. Peasants who couldn’t

make a living on small plots of land moved to cities. But cities didn’t have enough work for everyone. Emigration offered the hope of a better life. When Ireland’s potato crop went bad in the late 1840s, more than

1 million people starved to death, and at least that many emigrated. In the mid- to late 1800s, Russia’s government allowed violent attacks on Jewish people, so at least 2 million Jews left Russia.





## The Immigrant Experience

You've just stepped off the ferry from Ellis Island with your beat-up suitcases in hand. So this is New York City! All around you, the waterfront is busy: Workers bump up against you, speaking a language you don't understand. What do you do first? Maybe you notice that the streets are not paved with gold! Oh well, you thought that probably wasn't true anyway. Then, if you're lucky, you seek out family or friends who emigrated earlier and wrote, encouraging you to come to America. Or perhaps at Ellis Island you purchased a train ticket west, and you need to find the train station. Or maybe, if you know no one in New York and your kids are tired and hungry and a little scared, you start looking for a place to live.

One in every three immigrants who landed in New York City during the peak of migration in the late 19th and early 20th centuries stayed there. But no matter where people settled, their most important task was to find a job and a home. Let's look at what life was like for the new immigrants.

▲ **THERE WERE FEW** city parks, and they were far from immigrant neighborhoods. So immigrant children played in the streets. Stickball was a version of baseball. Using a broom handle or long stick, the batter swung at a rubber ball pitched with a bounce. Then he or she would run the "bases" chalked on sidewalks and in the middle of the street. The outfield was at the end of a block. Half the fun was arguing about whether passing wagons or pedestrians had messed up the play.



**"FIVE MEN AND A WOMAN, TWO YOUNG GIRLS, NOT 15, AND A BOY WHO SAYS UNASKED THAT HE IS 15, AND LIES SAYING IT, ARE AT THE MACHINES SEWING KNICKERBOCKERS."**

—JACOB RIIS, JOURNALIST, DESCRIBING A TENEMENT SWEATSHOP\*

\*From *How the Other Half Lives: Studies Among the Tenements of New York* by Jacob August Riis. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1914.







◀ **IMMIGRANTS IN** cities lived in poorer areas. Around 1900, New York's Lower East

Side was one of the most crowded places in the world.

◀ **THE APARTMENT** buildings immigrants lived in, called tenements, were crowded and unhealthy. Large families lived in a few rooms. Toilets were in hallways and shared by several families. In older buildings, the only water faucet was in the hall.



◀ **MOST IMMIGRANTS** worked long hours for low pay. Many worked in dangerous conditions in steel mills and other factories or in mines. Hundreds a year were killed or maimed in work accidents. They or their families got no money for such misfortunes. Women and children often worked at home. Paid by the piece, they sewed garments, rolled cigars, or did other jobs.

▲ **AT SCHOOL,** immigrant children became Americanized. They learned the language, history, and customs of their new country. This often led to fights with their parents, who were less eager to give up the "old ways." Many immigrant

kids had to juggle school and work, so it was a big deal just to finish elementary school.



◀ **NEWER IMMIGRANTS** tended to follow their countrymen and countrywomen who had come before them. They ended up in the same cities, neighborhoods, and jobs. For

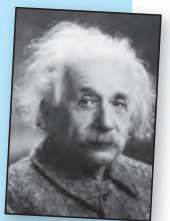
example, many Italians and Jews lived in New York City and worked in the garment (clothing) industry. Eastern Europeans went to Pittsburgh and worked in steel mills.

Scandinavians farmed in Wisconsin or Minnesota. The climate reminded them of home. Asians found work on big farms in California or lived in or near San Francisco.

## ILLUSTRIOUS IMMIGRANT

### ALBERT EINSTEIN (1879–1955)

People knew Einstein was a genius before he left his native Germany. He was already famous for his theories of relativity and gravitation. He was Jewish, so when Adolf Hitler took power in 1933, Einstein decided he could not stay in Germany. He moved to New Jersey. Eventually, he became a U.S. citizen. He warned that Germany might build an atomic bomb, so the United States started making its own atomic bomb. Einstein's theories made the bomb possible. But Einstein was a pacifist (someone against war) and worked for world peace much of his life.

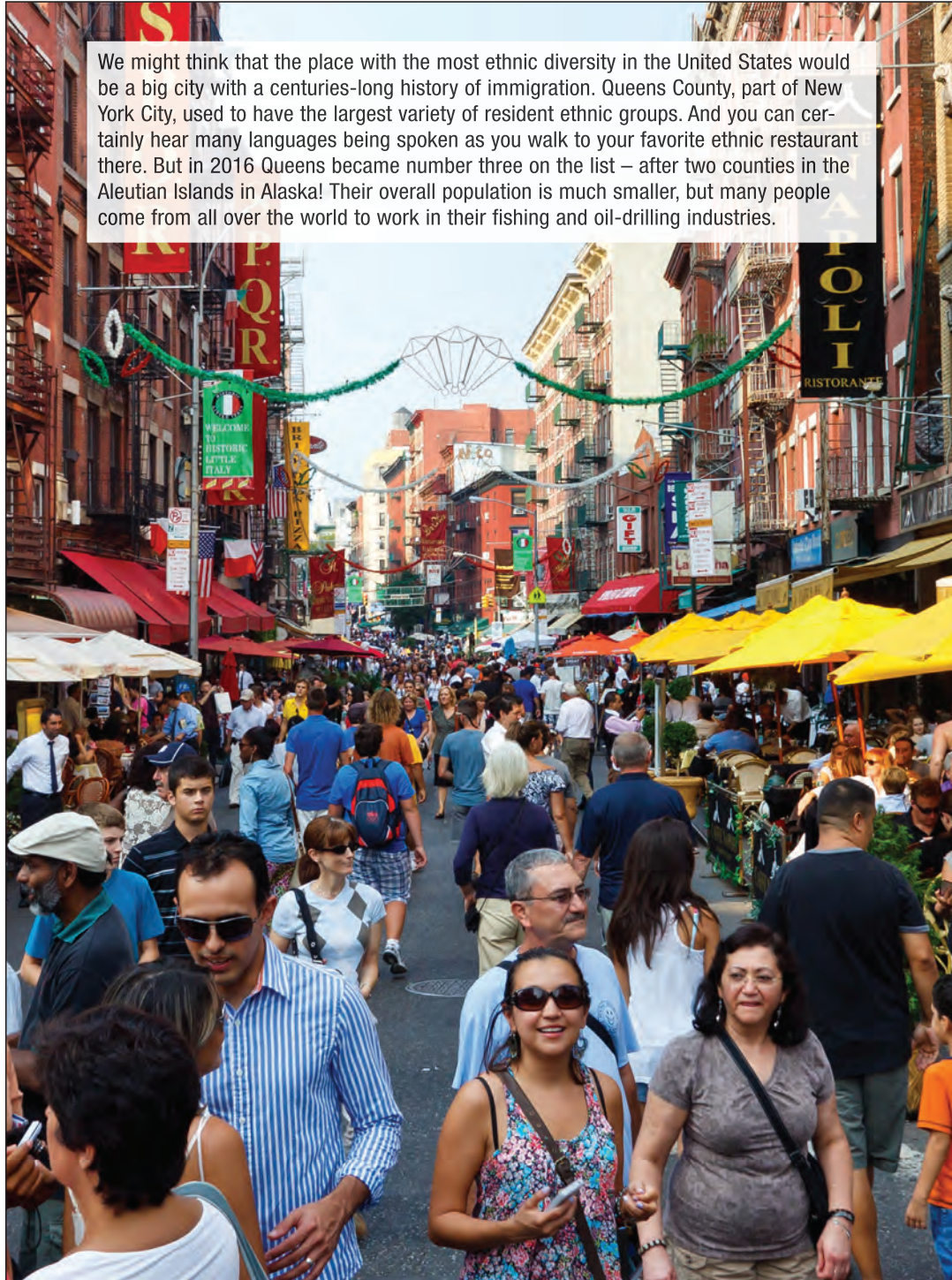




# Today's Immigrants

Immigrants have not landed on Ellis Island for more than 60 years. Today, the island is a museum run by the National Park Service. But immigrants still come to the United States every day. A few arrive by boat, and others land in jumbo jets. Still others drive across the border from Canada or Mexico. The newest immigrants get their ideas of the U.S. not from letters written by family and friends, but from American TV shows. But the biggest difference between today's immigrants and those of the past is where they come from. Europeans still land on these shores, but far more immigrants come from Asia and Latin America. Let's take a look at the "new wave."

We might think that the place with the most ethnic diversity in the United States would be a big city with a centuries-long history of immigration. Queens County, part of New York City, used to have the largest variety of resident ethnic groups. And you can certainly hear many languages being spoken as you walk to your favorite ethnic restaurant there. But in 2016 Queens became number three on the list – after two counties in the Aleutian Islands in Alaska! Their overall population is much smaller, but many people come from all over the world to work in their fishing and oil-drilling industries.



▲ **THE UNITED STATES** is becoming increasingly multi-ethnic. An *ethnic group* is a group of people of the same racial, national, religious, or cultural background.



◀ **IMMIGRANTS** today tend to settle in neighborhoods already populated by their ethnic group. New York City's Brighton Beach, for example, is home to many Russian people.





◀ **AFTER THE** United States pulled out of the Vietnam War in 1973, Vietnamese people who had helped the U.S. feared revenge from the new Communist government. Thousands escaped in small, crowded boats. Other Southeast Asians (Laotians and Cambodians) left as well. Many came to the U.S. to build a new life.

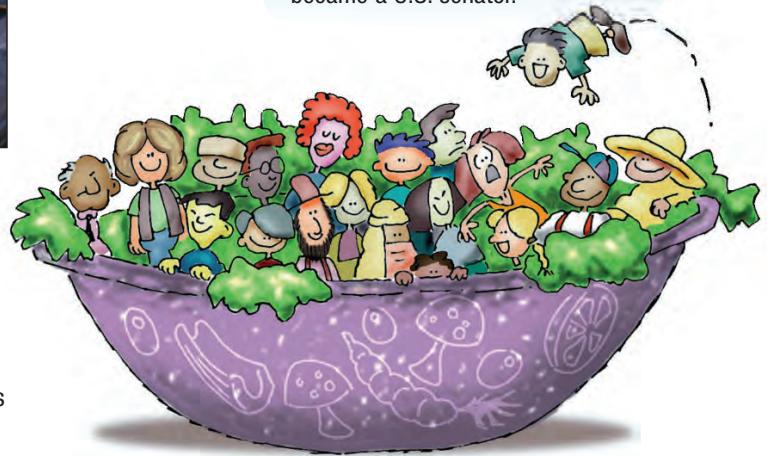
**ILLUSTRIOUS IMMIGRANT**

**TAMMY DUCKWORTH (1968– )**

U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth was born in Bangkok, Thailand. Her father was American; her mother is Thai, of Chinese ancestry. The family settled in Hawaii when Duckworth was 16. Serving in the National Guard during the Iraq War, she was piloting a helicopter when it was shot down. She lost both her legs and almost lost her right arm. She was awarded the Purple Heart. Duckworth was elected to Congress in 2012, representing Illinois, and in 2016 she became a U.S. senator.



◀ **MEXICANS ARE** among the oldest and newest immigrants to the U.S. Long before pioneers came from the East, Spanish Americans from Mexico had settled in parts of the Southwest. Mexican culture is still strong there. Mexican immigrants have often been welcomed in the U.S. when workers were needed. But they've been rejected when jobs are hard to find.



▲ **EARLIER, U.S.** immigrants were expected to leave behind their old languages and customs. They would blend into the culture of their new country. Children right off the boat went to classes taught in

English. In 1908, playwright Israel Zangwill wrote: "America is God's crucible, the great Melting-Pot where all the races of Europe are melting and re-forming."\*\* Now, many immigrants keep cultural ties with

their old homes. Maybe the U.S. today is more of a tossed salad; many ingredients come together but also remain separate.

\*\*From *From the Ghetto to the Melting Pot: Israel Zangwill's Jewish Plays* by Israel Zangwill. Edited by Edna Nahshon. Wayne State University Press, 2006.



▲ **PUERTO RICAN** people who move to the U.S. mainland are not immigrants, since Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory. Still, they contribute to the growing cultural diversity of the United States.

▲ **MANY OF TODAY'S** immigrants come to study in the U.S. to become doctors, lawyers, and other types of professionals. Some stay, adding important skills to our society. Above is Dr. David Ho, from Taiwan, who has made big contributions to AIDS research.

**"I BELIEVE WITH ALL MY HEART THAT AMERICA REMAINS 'THE GREAT IDEA' THAT INSPIRES THE WORLD. IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO BE BORN HERE. IT'S AN HONOR TO BECOME A CITIZEN HERE."**

—ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, FORMER GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA\*

\*From *Fantastic: The Life of Arnold Schwarzenegger* by Laurence Leamer. St. Martin's Press, 2005.



**THE REGENERON** Science Talent Search is very competitive. It gives awards to students who cre-

ate outstanding science projects. The winners are often immigrants or the children of immigrants.



Number of Immigrants Admitted

# U.S. Immigration Since 1820

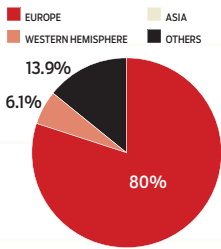
This chart shows the waves of immigrants who have arrived since 1820, when the U.S. started keeping records. Before 1880, most immigrants were northern Europeans: English, Scandinavians, Germans, and Irish. Between 1880 and

1920, when the greatest numbers arrived, most were from southern and eastern Europe, including Italy and Czechoslovakia. From the latter half of the 20th century into the 21st, Latin Americans and Asians have been the largest groups.



## 1820-1839

Europe's population doubled in the century after 1750. The Industrial Revolution caused mass unemployment for craftspeople. Others could find only limited work. Many emigrated.



The rapidly expanding country that awaited immigrants looked like this:



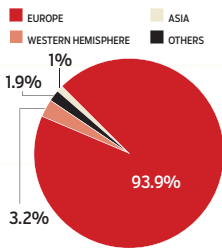
While the U.S. government was gaining land from the colonial powers, most of the Native Americans were getting pushed west of the Mississippi River.



**FINANCIAL PANIC**

## 1840-1859

In 1843, the first iron-hulled steamship, the *Great Britain*, crossed the Atlantic. Most of the immigration was from northern and western Europe to the northern U.S. The Irish came to U.S. cities as a result of the Great Famine of 1845-1849. They were followed by Germans and Scandinavians, who chose midwestern farmlands.



Ocean transport became safer, faster, and cheaper.

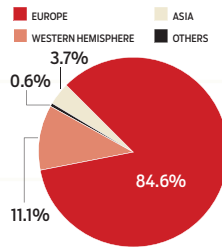


Thousands of Chinese headed to California during the Gold Rush of 1849.



## 1860-1879

Nearly 200,000 Chinese laborers came to the West, mostly to build railroads. The Central Pacific and Union Pacific lines linked the two coasts in 1869.

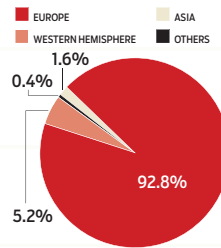


**POSTWAR DEPRESSION**

**ECONOMIC DEPRESSION**

## 1880-1899

European Jews, Italians, Poles, Czechs, and Slovaks came in large numbers. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the first federal attempt to limit immigration by nationality.



In 1892, the government opened a new immigration center on Ellis Island, in New York Bay. More than 12 million immigrants passed through it over the next several decades.



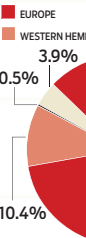
**POGROMS IN RUSSIA AGAINST JEWS**



**STATUE OF LIBERTY**

## 1900-1919

These years are defined by immigration.

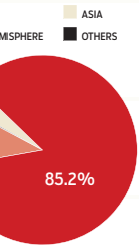


The 1917 Immigration Act excluded Asians from the Philippines. American territories required that immigrants be able to read English.

1820 1825 1830 1835 1840 1845 1850 1855 1860 1865 1870 1875 1880 1885 1890 1895 1900 1905



**1919**  
Immigrants were dominated by Italy.

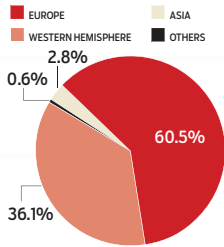


The Immigration Act of 1924 set limits for people from each country outside the Western Hemisphere. It was very prejudiced against eastern and southern Europeans.

**1920-1939**

The National Origins Act of 1924 set limits for people from each country outside the Western Hemisphere. It was very prejudiced against eastern and southern Europeans.

Many Mexicans started immigrating to the U.S.

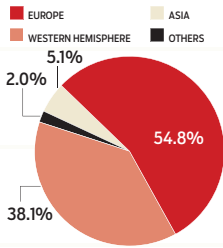


Immigration dropped to its lowest level in 100 years. Wall Street's crash and the Great Depression made the U.S. less attractive.



**1940-1959**

Most earlier immigrants and their children became Americanized. The foreign-born population dropped.



In 1942, during World War II, when the U.S. was fighting Japan, Japanese Americans were sent to detention camps.

In 1948, the U.S. began to admit war refugees. After that, it let in victims of the Korean War and the Hungarian Revolution.

In 1952, the McCarran-Walter Act allowed small numbers of Asians to immigrate again.

**TODAY**

According to government figures from 2014, there are more than 42.4 million immigrants living in the U.S. This number includes documented and undocumented immigrants, as well as refugees. Undocumented immigrants are people who do not have the papers required to enter and live in a country legally.

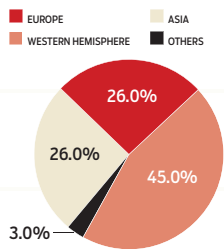
In 2014, the leading countries of birth for new documented immigrants were Mexico (13 percent), India (7.7 percent), and China (7.5 percent).

It is estimated that about 11.7 million undocumented immigrants make their home in the U.S. Approximately three-quarters of them come from Mexico and Central and South America.

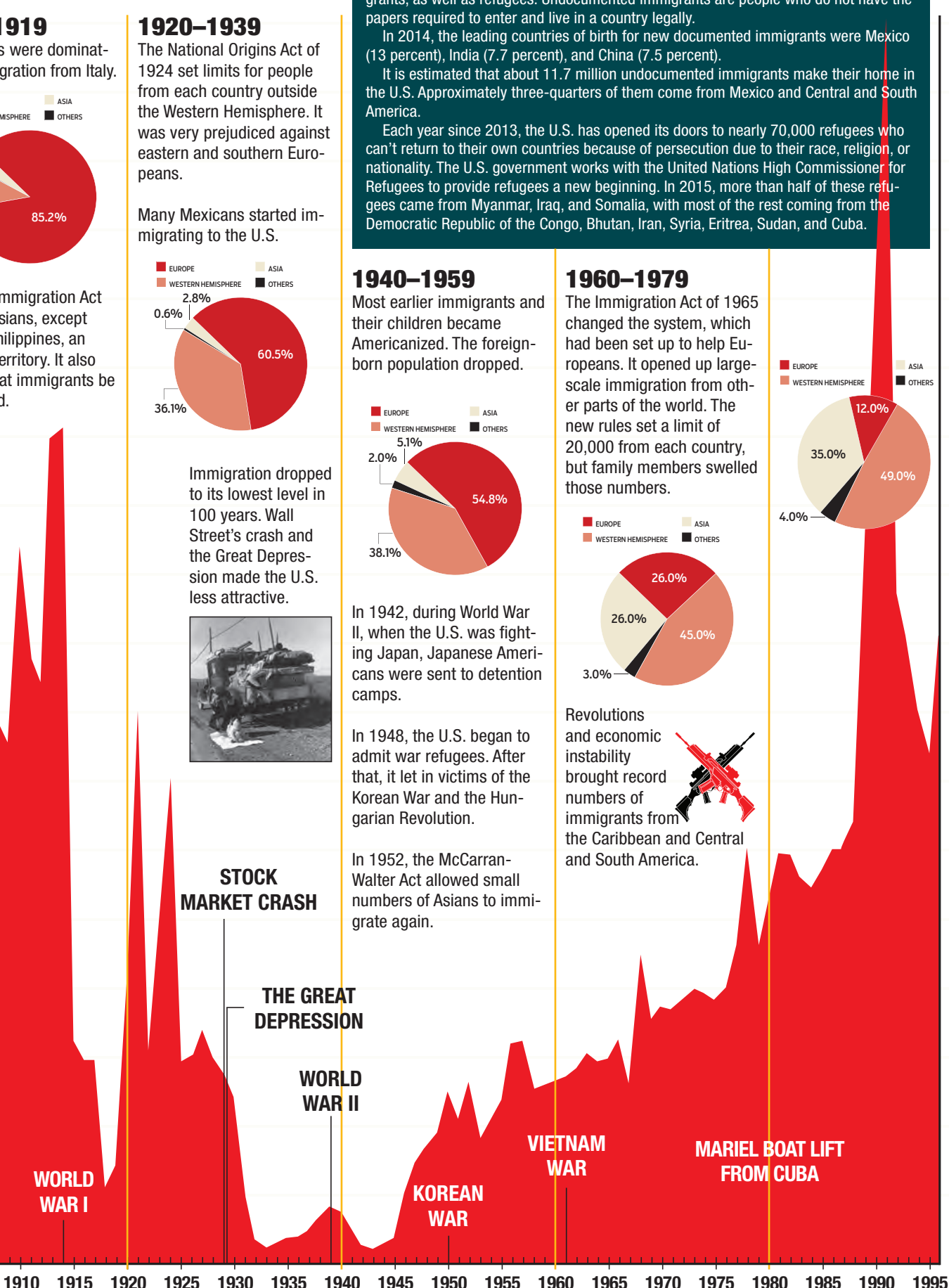
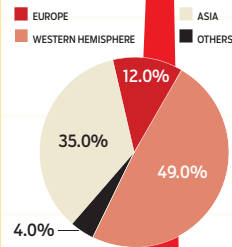
Each year since 2013, the U.S. has opened its doors to nearly 70,000 refugees who can't return to their own countries because of persecution due to their race, religion, or nationality. The U.S. government works with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide refugees a new beginning. In 2015, more than half of these refugees came from Myanmar, Iraq, and Somalia, with most of the rest coming from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Bhutan, Iran, Syria, Eritrea, Sudan, and Cuba.

**1960-1979**

The Immigration Act of 1965 changed the system, which had been set up to help Europeans. It opened up large-scale immigration from other parts of the world. The new rules set a limit of 20,000 from each country, but family members swelled those numbers.



Revolutions and economic instability brought record numbers of immigrants from the Caribbean and Central and South America.



WORLD WAR I

STOCK MARKET CRASH

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

WORLD WAR II

KOREAN WAR

VIETNAM WAR

MARIEL BOAT LIFT FROM CUBA



# Meet Some Young Immigrants

## CHINA

### XIAO XIAO DONG



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

### ISMAEL CABRERA



## PAKISTAN

### KHUDIJA JAMIL



<b>1 Why did you come to the U.S.?</b>	My father came to further his studies in chemistry.	My father came here to make a better future.	To finish high school and go to a good university.
<b>2 How old were you?</b>	I was five years old.	I was four years old.	I was 13 years old.
<b>3 Where do you live?</b>	New York City, New York.	Beverly, Massachusetts.	Los Angeles, California.
<b>4 What was one disappointment you or your family experienced in your new country?</b>	None. Everything was new and surprising to me.	I didn't like the cold weather. It's always around 77°F in the Dominican Republic. And I didn't like the food.	Although the school system is really good, the majority of students don't take enough advantage of what they have.
<b>5 What was one surprise you or your family experienced in your new country?</b>	The highways and the many cars. In China people ride bikes. There are few cars and just about no highways.	Snow; living in an apartment; the huge buildings in Boston.	The surprise that I had in California was the high unemployment.
<b>6 What do you like best about living in the U.S.?</b>	The people. I meet people from all over the world.	The education; buying lunch in school.	Tourist spots (Disneyland).
<b>7 How do you feel immigrants are treated in the U.S.?</b>	I believe the U.S. welcomes immigrants, and people are mostly willing to help.	People are kind.	Sometimes there's prejudice based on color, accent, and other unshared characteristics.
<b>8 Why did you settle where you did?</b>	We moved to New York for the many opportunities here.	My father's sister was here, so it was easier to find work.	To have a familiar climate. All else would be different.
<b>9 Would you like to go back to your country of birth for a visit, or permanently? Why?</b>	I'd like to go to China to see how everything has changed, but not permanently because I am accustomed to living here.	I go back every other summer to visit my mother. When I am older, I would like to bring my mother here.	Right now education is my priority, but I'd like to go back home for a long visit and see how things work out.
<b>10 What's the biggest difference between living here and living in your birth country?</b>	In China, schools are stricter on the kids. Here, they don't give as much homework, but you learn different things.	The weather is different, and there I have more relatives.	Children don't have as many rights as they do over here in the U.S.
<b>11 What is your favorite American food?</b>	It's either french fries or cheeseburgers. I can't decide.	Pizza, hot dogs, and the deserts my stepmother makes.	Veggie sandwiches.
<b>12 What do you miss most about your birth country?</b>	My relatives. They are all in China.	My mom and my other relatives.	My family and culture.
<b>13 What was the hardest thing to adjust to in the U.S.?</b>	The hardest thing to adjust to was the language. It was difficult to adjust to new sounds, a new alphabet, and new words.	Missing my mom, missing the town I came from, the cold weather, and learning the language. I spoke no English when I came here.	I guess I wasn't as well prepared as I thought I was to handle the sudden change in the culture and social life.



**MEXICO****ABRAHAM GARZA****VIETNAM****MY TRAN****NIGERIA****FOYE ADEYEMO****RUSSIA****MARTIN KRONBERG**

My dad was sent here from his work in Mexico.

I was six years old.

Alameda, California.

We missed our family.

Learning English was harder than we thought.

I like the fresh air and that it is not crowded here.

We are treated the same as everyone else.

Because my dad's work is here.

I would like to go visit my relatives in Mexico City, but I don't want to stay there because it is very dangerous.

Here it is very peaceful, and in Mexico you can get robbed or kidnapped at any time. You need to be careful.

I like pizza a lot!

I miss the food.

When I came here I didn't know any English, so I had to learn.

Because I wanted to have a good education.

I was 10 years old.

St. Paul, Minnesota.

The disappointment was not knowing how to speak English when I first came to America.

I was surprised by the very cold weather and the amount of snow in the winter.

Education and freedom of religion.

In my opinion, I think the immigrants are treated well in the U.S.

We heard it is a good place to live, and it has good schools.

Yes, I would like to visit my country because I miss my country so much.

The biggest difference between living here and living in my country is the standard of living, and freedom.

My favorite American food is chicken nuggets.

I miss my grandparents, aunts, and uncles. My friends, too!

The hardest adjustment was learning English and American culture.

My father got a job in the U.S.

I was eight years old.

Auburn, Alabama.

I don't like the weather. It's either too hot or too cold – never just right.

I was very surprised when I found out in fourth grade that I did not need to wear a uniform to school.

I like ice-skating best.

I feel that a lot of people don't give immigrants as much respect as they give citizens.

Because my parents felt it had good schools.

I'd like to visit because I miss my relatives and friends, but not stay, because life is hard due to politics.

There is more discrimination in America.

My favorite American food is spaghetti and sauce.

I miss my relatives.

It was hard to adjust to school. When I first moved to America, it took me a while to adjust to my age-mates' lifestyle.

So my parents could keep working as scientists.

I was four years old.

New Haven, Connecticut.

I couldn't express myself properly at first, due to my speaking a foreign language.

The people that we stayed with when we first came here were really nice, and I didn't even know them.

Modern technology.

Some people look at immigrants as part of one particular group, not as individuals.

Because my parents got their jobs there.

I would like to go for a visit because I enjoy spending time with my cousins, my grandparents, and other relatives.

In Russia the Coca-Cola commercial sounds different and weird.

Pizza.

All my relatives.

Language. But a teacher and a friend were always there to help me understand things better.



# Immigration Law

The U.S. Constitution says nothing about immigration. Its creators left it to the states to control how many new people came into the country. New York has the highest number of immigrant arrivals, and it was first to set guidelines. The early laws were meant to

keep out people who could not make a living. They also barred those with contagious diseases.

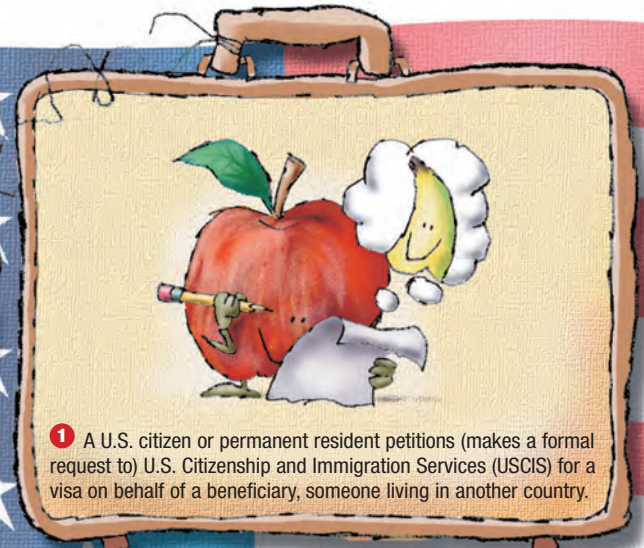
As immigration grew, the federal government took more responsibility for controlling it. The first national immigration law was enacted in 1875. It mostly kept out criminals. After a surge of immigrants be-

tween 1880 and 1920, the government set quotas (limits) for each country. These were based on how many people of that ancestry were already in the U.S. The policy helped northern Europeans but cut the number of immigrants from other nations. Since then, quotas have gone up and down, depending in part on



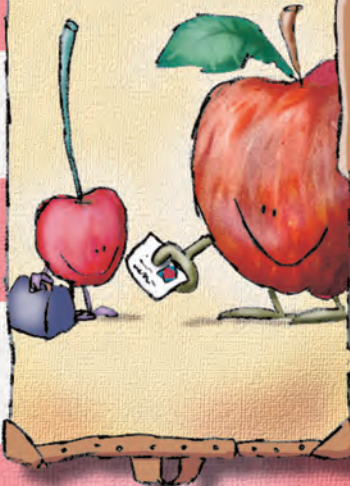
## How To Become A U.S. Citizen

In 1990, the United States passed a major law that allows 675,000 immigrants to enter the U.S. each year. Under special circumstances, that figure can be greater, and it usually is. In 2014, 1.3 million immigrants entered the U.S. It's easier for those with special skills and for people with family members living in the U.S. to get in. At times, more refugees are permitted. Here is how a person can immigrate legally.



**1** A U.S. citizen or permanent resident petitions (makes a formal request to) U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for a visa on behalf of a beneficiary, someone living in another country.

**3** In the U.S., the USCIS checks the sponsor's credentials. It also checks how the sponsor is related to the beneficiary.



**4** The U.S. State Department checks the petition with the foreign country. It makes sure the beneficiary is legally allowed to emigrate to the United States.



**5** If everything is in order, the State Department grants the beneficiary a visa. This lets the person enter the U.S. as a permanent resident.

**6** After living in the U.S. for five years, an immigrant with permanent resident status may be allowed to become a citizen. He or she applies to the USCIS,





the U.S. economy. One result of strict regulations (laws and limits) is a large population of undocumented immigrants. They aren't qualified to immigrate legally. But they still want a better life, so they manage to enter the U.S. somehow. Most live in fear of being sent back to their native countries.



◀ **AT FIRST, CHINESE** immigrants were welcomed as a source of labor to build the railroads. But eventually, longtime U.S. citizens began to dislike the Chinese because they would work for lower wages. Anti-Chinese sentiment grew. In 1882, the U.S. Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, the only law ever to stop a specific ethnic group from immigrating to the U.S.



**THINK PIECE!**  
Some people want strict controls on immigration. They fear the U.S. could be overrun by immigrants who want to enjoy the high standard of living here. Do you think there is enough wealth in the world for everyone to have enough food, clean water, and other resources, no matter where they live? How could the U.S. help people in other nations have better lives at home?

▲ **SOME UNDOCUMENTED** immigrants are encouraged to come to the U.S. by employers who want cheap labor. These immigrants may risk their lives to enter the U.S. Then they work long hours for low wages under harsh conditions. They put up with this because that life is still better than the one they left behind.

**ILLUSTRIOUS IMMIGRANT**

**MADELEINE ALBRIGHT (1937- )**

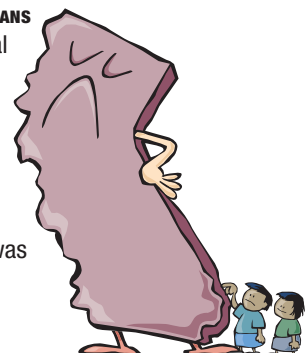


Albright came to the U.S. at the age of 11. Her father, a Czech diplomat, had been accused of crimes against the state by Czechoslovakia's new Communist government. Here, she grew up to hold a series of government jobs. In 1993, she was named permanent ambassador to the United Nations. In 1997, she became the first woman to serve as U.S. secretary of state.



▼ **IN THE EARLY** 1990s, thousands of Haitian people left their country in crowded, dangerous boats. They were trying to escape harsh economic and political conditions. U.S. immigration authorities sent many of them back. The U.S. said they were not true refugees. They said the Haitians were not in danger of persecution and were only seeking a better life.

► **IN 1994, CALIFORNIANS** passed a controversial proposition. It was to keep undocumented immigrants from getting government benefits, such as free schooling. The courts said the proposition was unconstitutional.



**“A SIMPLE WAY TO TAKE THE MEASURE OF A COUNTRY IS TO LOOK AT HOW MANY WANT IN ... AND HOW MANY WANT OUT.”**

— TONY BLAIR, FORMER U.K. PRIME MINISTER\*

\*From *Reader's Digest Quotable Quotes*. The Reader's Digest Association, Inc., 2013.

2 The USCIS places the beneficiary in one of four preference categories. For example, number one is unmarried adult children of U.S. citizens.



which makes a recommendation to state and federal courts saying whether the application should be approved or not. The applicant must show knowl-

edge of American history and the ability to read, write, and speak English. The courts approve the application and administer the oath of citizenship.



# Immigrants Around the World

The United States is not the only nation of immigrants. Central and South American countries, Canada, Australia, and Israel are also rich with immigrants and their descendants. Many places were colonized by European nations and had many European immigrants. Colonial rule of one nation by another has all but disappeared, but international migration is still going strong. It's estimated that more than 244 million people now live outside the country of their birth. More than 60 million are refugees, forced out of their homes by persecution, war, or natural disaster. Let's look at immigrants around the world.



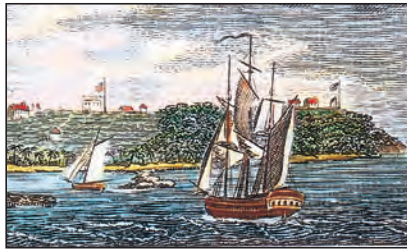
**▲ EMIGRANTS FROM** one country to another often move into a certain type of business or industry. Many Chinese immigrants have become retailers, investors, and moneylenders in other Southeast Asian nations. Chinese people represent only about 10 percent of the population in these countries. But they have at times owned or run most of the businesses in certain industries.

## THINK PIECE!

Immigration was a big reason for the United Kingdom's 2016 "Brexit" vote to leave the European Union (EU). Because the EU guarantees its citizens can work in any member country, the U.K. had experienced a huge increase in immigration from Europe. Many British people thought these immigrants were taking jobs British citizens should have. Do you agree with the U.K.'s decision to leave the EU? What might be another solution to the country's immigration issues?

**▼ BETWEEN 1820** and 1865, many people freed from slavery emigrated from the U.S. to Liberia, a country

on the west coast of Africa. In 1847 they formed a government, making Liberia the first republic in Africa.



**▲ IN THE 19TH** century, Europeans emigrated all over the globe. Some moved to the colonies that their countries ruled. Today, many people emigrate from former colonies back to the

European countries that once ruled them. For example, many Algerians have settled in France. The United Kingdom takes in Commonwealth residents from Africa, Asia, and the West Indies.



**▲ BECAUSE OF A CIVIL** war in their country, approximately 11 million Syrians fled their homes between 2011 and 2016. Nearly 5 million Syrian refugees entered the nearby countries of Turkey,

Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq. And 6.6 million were displaced within Syria. Many wait in refugee camps for an end to the fighting or a way out to another country.







► **NOT EVERYONE** leaves home by choice. Wars, natural disasters, and slavery drive many to emigrate. Of the 60 million refugees in the world

today, about half are children. They often travel alone or in groups on dangerous journeys to safety in other countries.



◀ **BRAZILIANS ARE** among the most ethnically diverse people in the world. Early Portuguese colonists married and had children with native people and people of African descent. Dutch and French people colonized the northeastern part of the country. In the 20th century, German, Italian, Polish, and Japanese immigrants added to the ethnic mix. In 1908, 165 Japanese families arrived in Brazil to work on coffee farms. Today, about 1.8 million people of Japanese ancestry live there.

► **AFTER WORLD** War II, the nation of Israel was created. It was to be a homeland for Jewish people from all over the world. American Jews who have immigrated to Israel often celebrate U.S. holidays, such as the Fourth of July. So do American immigrants all over the world!



## ILLUSTRIOUS IMMIGRANT

### **MOHANDAS K. GANDHI (1869–1948)**

In 1893, Mohandas Gandhi left his native India for South Africa, another colony of the British Crown. He planned to work for an Indian lawyer there for a year and then go home. But he stayed for 21 years. He was shocked by the way white South Africans treated people from India. He led a campaign of nonviolent resistance to discrimination. He later used the same strategy to win India's independence from Great Britain.

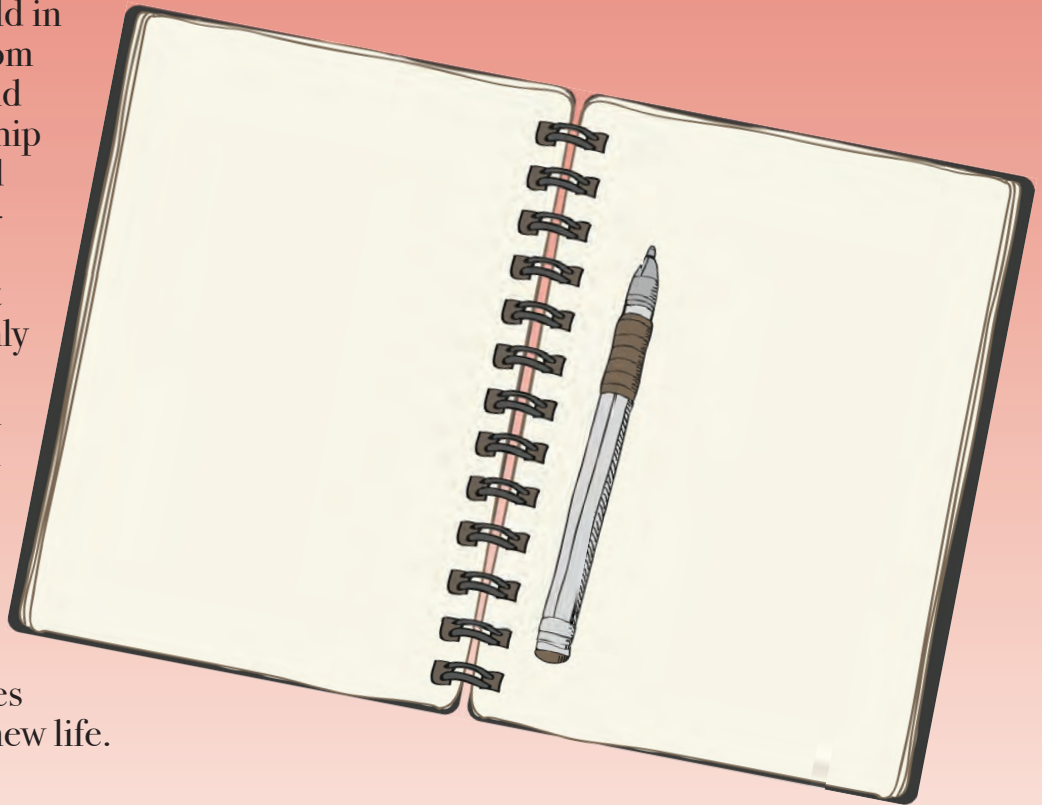




# Activities

## WRITE A DIARY ENTRY

Imagine you are a child in an emigrant family from a century ago. You and your family are on a ship headed for the United States. The long journey gives you plenty of time to think about your new life. Suddenly the Statue of Liberty comes into view! You will land in New York City soon, and you're filled with emotion. Use details from the magazine to help you write a diary entry about your hopes and dreams for your new life.



## DRAW A PICTURE

As a newly arrived immigrant to the United States, you must decide where to live. Like many immigrants, you have chosen a neighborhood where others from your country have settled. What does the neighborhood look like? Does it have a park? Are the apartment buildings spread out or close together? What stores are in the neighborhood? Where do people work? Using your imagination and details from the magazine, draw a picture of your new neighborhood.





## MAKE CONNECTIONS WITH THESE RELATED TITLES



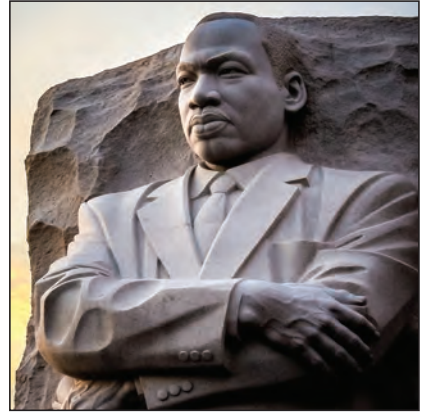
### The New Nation

In the early 19th century, immigrants from Europe and all over the world began coming to America in droves. From Ireland, Germany, and England, these immigrants arrived in major port cities like New York and Boston. Many moved west to claim new land and start anew. Learn about this fascinating early period of America's history in *The New Nation*.



### Industrial Revolution in America

Imagine a life without electricity, refrigeration, cars, TVs, and computers. Hard to picture, right? This was normal for people living in the U.S. less than 200 years ago. But all of that changed with the Industrial Revolution. Learn about incredible inventions that changed the U.S., and the impact the Industrial Revolution had on people and society.



### Civil Rights

The civil rights movement is one of the most critically important periods in American history. Segregation, particularly in the South, helped give birth to nonviolent protests, sit-ins, and civil disobedience that ultimately led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Learn about the heroes that led the charge for this movement, like Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## LEARN MORE ONLINE!

- Jane Addams (1860–1935) made it her life's work to help poor families. In Chicago in 1889, she founded Hull House. It was the country's first settlement house, an institution that assisted immigrants in getting food and medical care, finding jobs, and learning English, among many other services.



## CALIFORNIA STANDARDS

**HSS 5.8** Students trace the colonization, immigration, and settlement patterns of the American people from 1789 to the mid-1800s, with emphasis on the role of economic incentives, effects of the physical and political geography, and transportation systems.

**5.8.1** Discuss the waves of immigrants from Europe between 1789 and 1850 and their modes of transportation into the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys and through the Cumberland Gap (e.g., overland wagons, canals, flatboats, steamboats).





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Southwest Peoples	The Constitution
Northwest Coast Peoples	The New Nation
America 1492	Lewis and Clark
Exploring the Americas	Westward Expansion
Early Settlements	Pioneers
13 Colonies	<b>Immigration</b>
Declaration of Independence	Industrial Revolution in America
American Revolution	Civil Rights
Revolutionary Women	

**ON THE COVER:** An Italian woman and her children arrive at Ellis Island, New York, May 1908. **Getty Images: Bettmann.**

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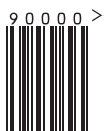
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