

Immigration



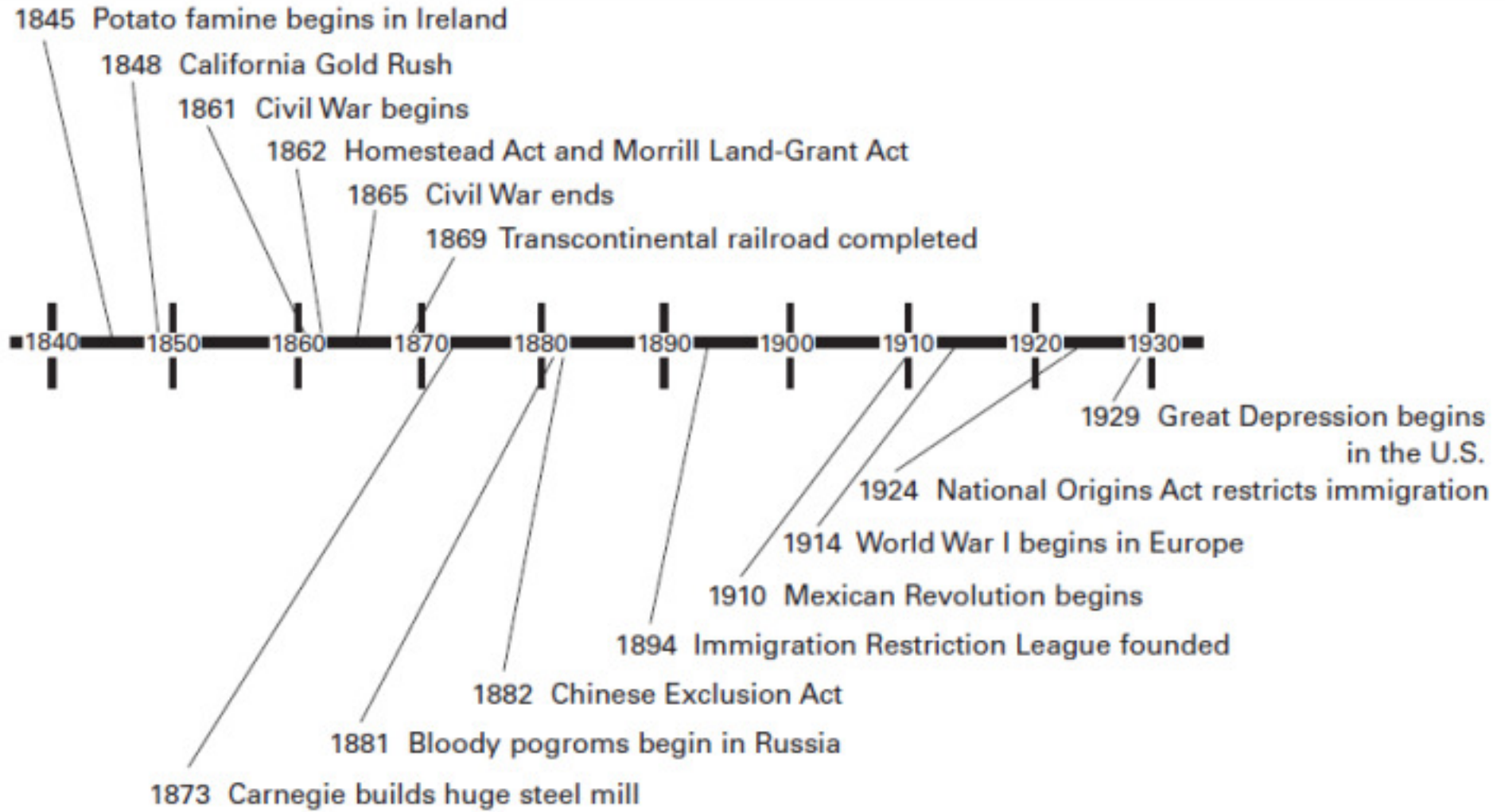
Immigration in the 1800s

- Came → plenty of jobs available and few immigration restrictions.
- Journey → booked a steerage (cheapest accommodations) on a steamship → 14-days
- Ellis Island → processing centers for many immigrants arriving on the East Coast
 - has to pass an initial inspection
 - those who failed the inspection might be separated from their families and returned to Europe.
- 1860 - 1900 → mostly eastern European Jews.



IMAGE 2: Immigrants arriving at Ellis Island, 1820-1880 (left) and 1880-1930 (right)

Which events do you think had the biggest impact on immigration?



It was sometimes said that America's streets were paved with gold. This myth held a grain of truth for the millions of immigrants who left a life of utter poverty behind. They came to America because it offered, if not instant wealth, then at least the chance to improve their lives. Some immigrants did get rich here, through hard work and determination. Many more managed to carve out a decent life for themselves and their families. For these immigrants, the chance to come to the United States was indeed a golden opportunity.



*Of course we came **steerage**. That's the bottom of the ship and three layers of bunks. One, two, three, one above the other. If you were lucky, you got the first bunk. Of course you can understand that it wasn't all that pleasant when the people on the second bunk or the third bunk were ill. You had to suffer and endure not only your own misery, but the misery from the people above you. My mother baked rolls and things like that for us to take along, because all you got on the boat was water, boiled water. If you had tea, you could make tea, but otherwise you just had the hot water. Sometimes they gave you a watery soup, more like a mud puddle than soup. It was stormy, cold, uncomfortable. I wasn't sick, but the other members of my family were.*



IMAGE 3: Steerage passengers on deck



Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles....

“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!”

—Emma Lazarus, “The New Colossus,” 1883



Ellis Island



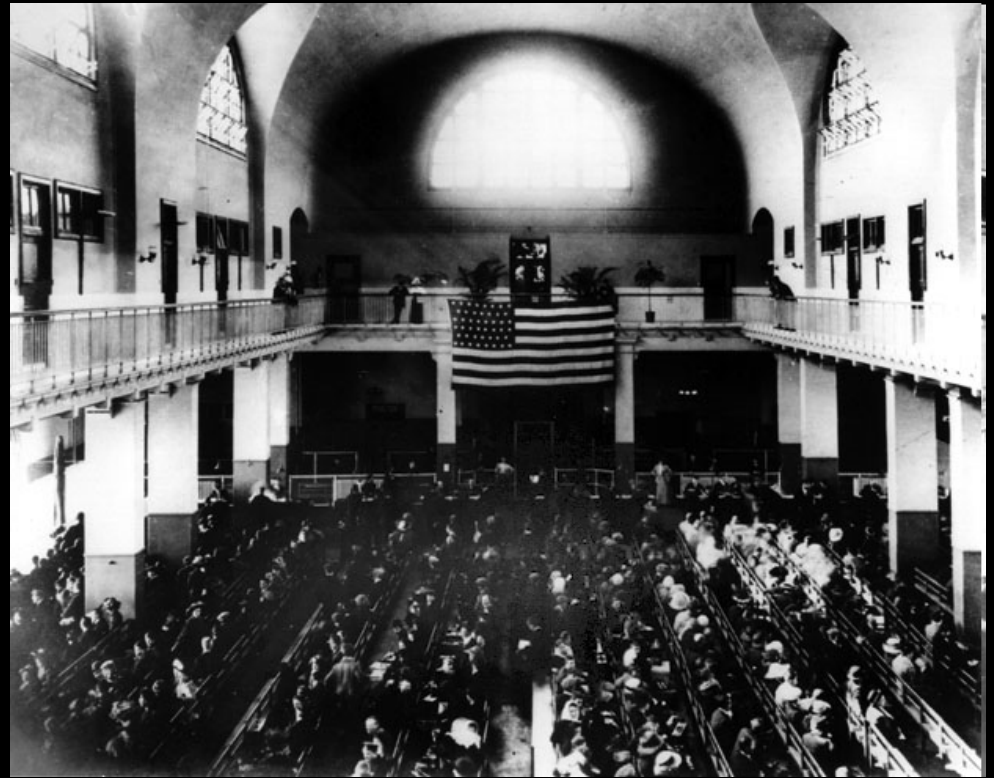
Aboard the ship, immigrants were separated by class. Poor passengers traveled in the steerage. When ships sailed into the Upper Bay, first and second class passengers were inspected and cleared for arrival.



Immigrants formed a long line into the main building and baggage room, where their items were left during the inspection process.



Immigrants just arrived from Foreign Countries—Immigrant Building
Ellis Island, New York Harbor. Copyright 1904 by Underwood & Underwood



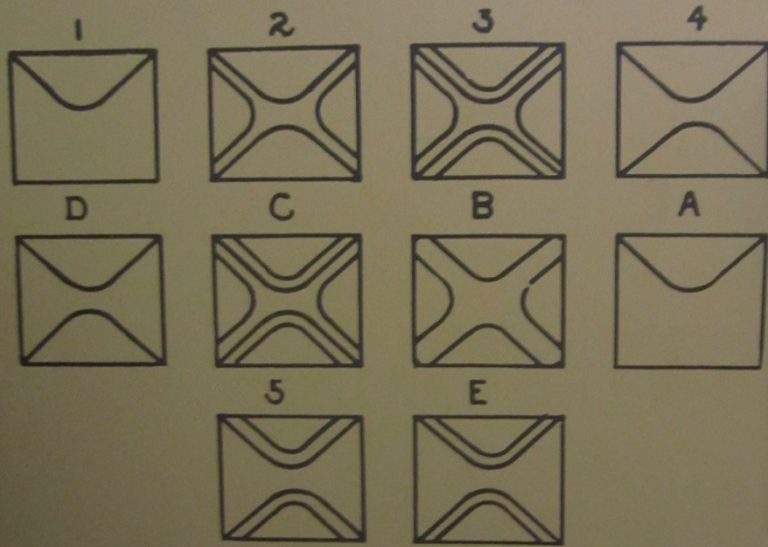
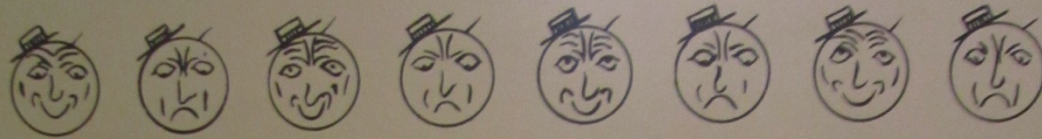
Chalk Markings

X	Suspected mental defect
⊗	Definite signs of mental disease observed
B	Back
C	Conjunctivitis
CT	Trachoma
E	Eyes
F	Face
F+	Feet
G	Goiter
H	Heart
K	Hernia
L	Lameness
N	Neck
P	Physical and Lungs
P _g	Pregnancy
Sc	Scalp (Favus)
S	Senility

Buttonhook of the type used by Ellis Island physicians for trachoma examination.

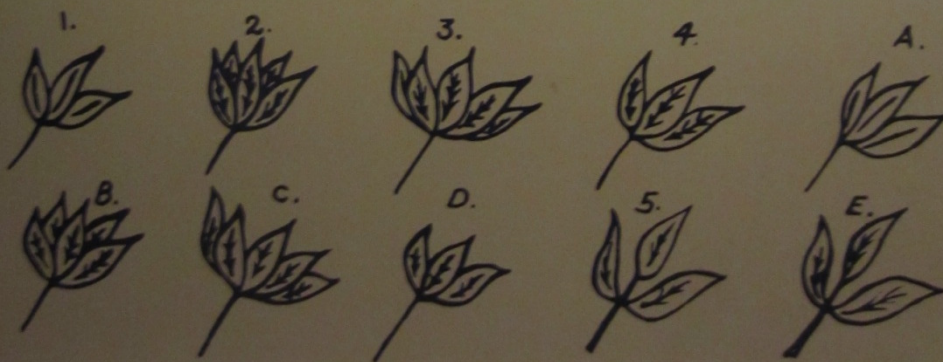


Doctors inspected immigrants for 60 symptoms. The most painful inspection was for trachoma, a disease that could cause blindness and death. This involved pulling the immigrant's eyelid, sometimes with a buttonhook.



Dr. Kees created visual comparisons to test illiterate suspected of being mentally deficient. In the top row, immigrants had to discover the four happy faces, and in the other two rows they had to pair up the identical images. The time factor suggested by Dr. Kees for the "find changes" test was 20 seconds for the "sorrowful" faces, 30 seconds for the "happy" faces, 20 seconds.

Visual Comparison Tests





At the end of the registry hall, inspectors verified 29 facts about each passenger, including name, occupation, and the destination in the United States.

Ellis Island Interview Questions

(from ship manifest, February 24, 1900)

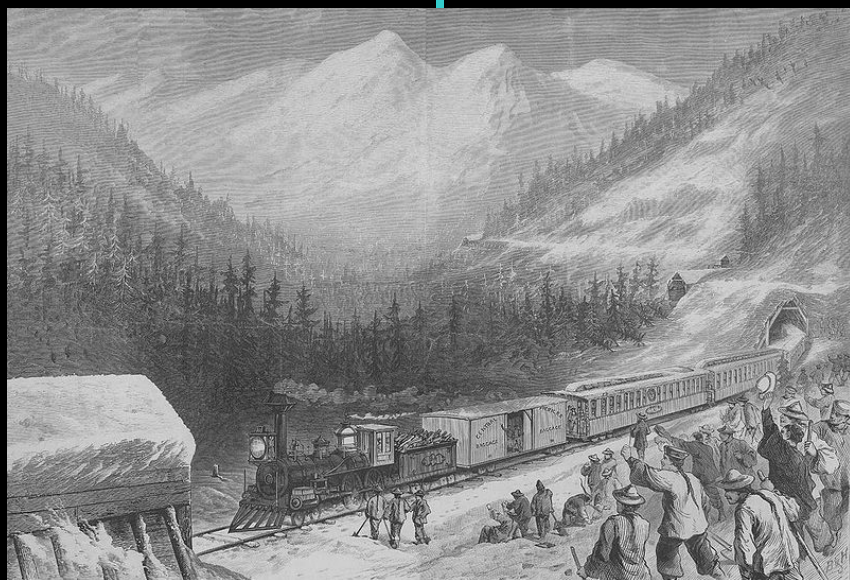
1. What is your name?
2. What is your age?
3. What is your sex?
4. Are you married or single?
5. What is your calling or occupation?
6. Are you able to read and/or write?
7. What is your nationality?
8. What is your last residence?
9. What is your final destination in the US?
10. Do you have a ticket to this final destination?
11. By whom was your passage paid?
12. Do you have any money? If so is it more than \$8.30? If not, how much do you have?
13. Have you ever been to the United States before? If so, where?
14. Are you going to join a relative here in the United States? If so, where?
15. Have you ever been in prison or almshouse?
16. Have you ever been supported by charity? If yes, state which.
17. Are you a polygamist?
18. Are you under contract, expressed or implied, to labor in the United States?
19. What is the condition of your health, mental and physical?
20. Are you deformed or crippled? If yes, describe the nature and the cause

When we landed at Ellis Island [outside New York City] our luggage was lost. We inquired for it and they said, 'Come another time. Come another time. You'll find it. We haven't got time now.' So we left and we never saw our luggage again. We had bedding, linen, beautiful copper utensils, that sort of thing. From Ellis Island we went by wagon to my brother's apartment on Hester Street. Hester Street and Essex on the Lower East Side [of New York City]. We were all bewildered to see so many people. Remember we were from a little village. And here you had people coming and going and shouting. Peddlers, people on the streets. Everything was new, you know.

At first we stayed in a tiny apartment with my brother and then, finally, we got one of our own. Two rooms. The bedroom had no windows. The toilets were in the yard. Just a coal stove for heat. The rent was ten dollars a month. A cousin of mine worked for the Triangle Shirtwaist Company and she got me on there in October of 1901.

Chinese Immigration

- The 1848 discovery of gold and the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad pulled Chinese immigrant to the U.S.
- Jan 1910 - Angel Island processed Asian immigrants arriving on the West Coast.





Angel Island



Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882

- stopped Chinese immigration and prevented the Chinese already in the U.S. from obtaining citizenship.
 - Not repealed until 1943



THE AMERICAN WALL, AS CONGRESSMAN
BURNETT WOULD BUILD IT.

UNCLE SAM: You're welcome in—if you can climb it!

Immigration Act of 1917

- Banned all “aliens over 16 years of age...who cannot read the English language.”
- Required all immigrants to pass a literacy test.



THE ONLY WAY TO HANDLE IT.

Keeping America American”

1st Quota Act (1921)- created a 3% quota for nationalities already living in the US in 1910.

2nd Quota Act (1924) – lowered the quota to 2% and pushed the year back to 1890.

Immigration rates dropped from 4.3 million in the 1920s to only 700,000 in the 1930s.

Nativism



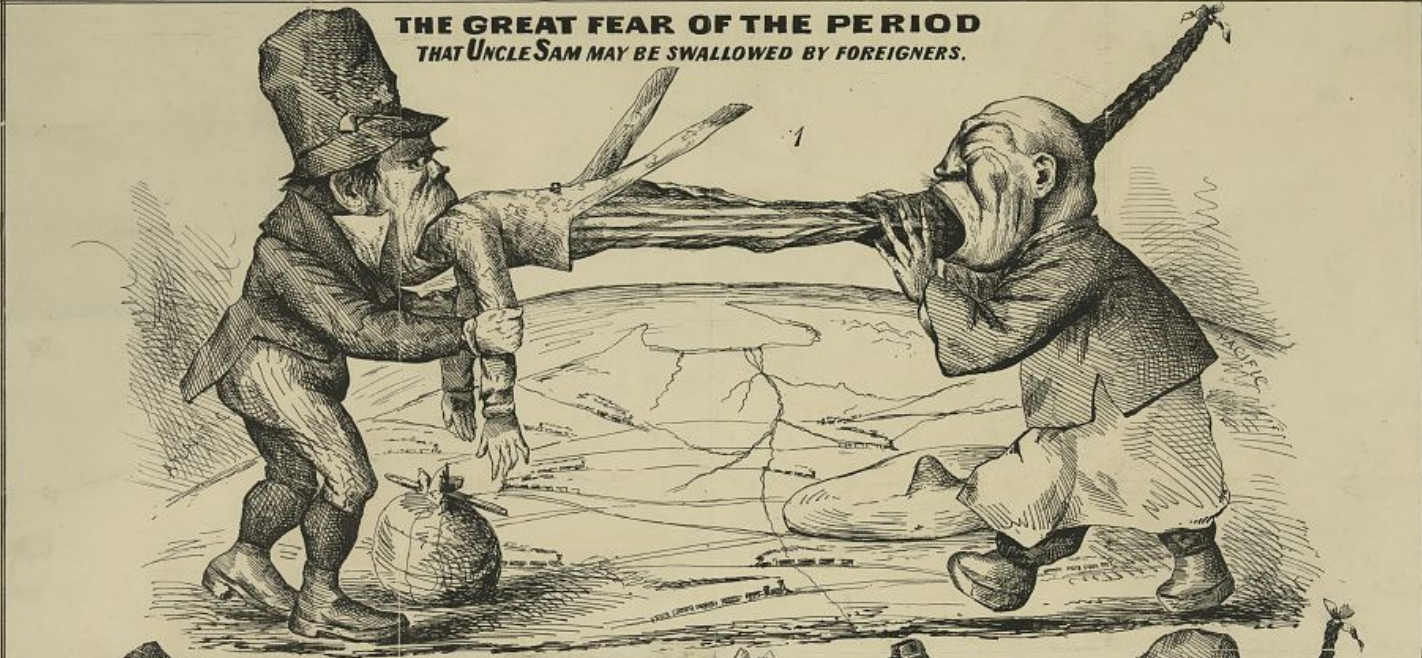
- Favored natives & opposed immigration
 - feared that the increase of Catholics (Irish) would give the Catholic Church too much power in the American government.
 - labor unions feared immigrants would work for low wages or accept jobs as strikebreakers

1. Describe what is happening in this cartoon.
2. What is the author's perspective? How do you know? Refer to as many details from the cartoon as possible when explaining your answer, such as the text in the image, the portrayal of the immigrants, and the figure in the sky.
3. How might the author have been trying to influence how you, the reader, feel about the subject of the cartoon?
4. How does this cartoon compare with "The Modern Moses" (Image 10)? They are both about a similar topic, but how do their perspectives on the topic differ? How can you tell? (One way to get started with this question is to compare the Uncle Sam figures and the immigrants in each cartoon).

Political Cartoon Analysis

- What negative attitudes or views are depicted?
- Based on these cartoons, what kind of reception do you think immigrants could expect to get when they came to the United States?
- In what ways do you think American attitudes toward immigrants around the turn of the twentieth century are similar to American attitudes today? In what ways are they different?

THE GREAT FEAR OF THE PERIOD
THAT UNCLE SAM MAY BE SWALLOWED BY FOREIGNERS.



THE PROBLEM SOLVED.

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Statue of Liberty: "Mr. Windom, if you're going to make this island a garbage heap, I'm going back to France."



Castle Garden was the main processing point for immigrants before facilities at Ellis Island were built.



1912



FREE
 COUNSEL FROM
 THE U.S. ARMY
 REFUGEE
 OFFICE
 PHILADELPHIA

NO
 OPPRESSIVE
 TAXES
 NO EXPENSIVE
 KINGS.
 NO COMPULSORY
 MILITARY
 SERVICE
 NO
 KNIGHTS OR
 DUNGEONS.

U.S. ARMY
 REFUGEE

J. MILLER

Sed willkommen! In unser Arde is Raum für All!

The Government is providing passage only for those who are able to pay for it.



"You're a Cheap Bunch of Soreheads and You Can't Land Here."



*Every Dog (no distinction of color) has his day. Red Gentleman to Yellow Gentleman:
"Pale face 'fraid you crowd him out, as he did me."*



The figure in the upper left of the cartoon is President William McKinley. In September 1901, Leon Czolgosz assassinated McKinley. Czolgosz was an anarchist, or someone who rejects the need for a government.

