

Immigrant Experiences in America During the Gilded Age

The United States has always been a nation of immigrants. However, after the Civil War, industrialization drew an even greater flood of immigrants. From 1865 to 1900, some 13.5 million people arrived from abroad. During much of the nineteenth century, there were few restrictions on immigration as the growing number of factories provided job opportunities for cheap labor. Not until the 1920s would the numbers begin to dwindle.

❖ **“Old Immigration”**: The “old immigration” covered the years from the establishment of the United States until around 1850. Most immigrants came from northern and western Europe, especially Ireland, Germany, and Scandinavia.

❖ **“New Immigration”**: The “new immigration” covered the time from roughly 1870 to 1924. This period was marked by a shift in sources of immigration to southern and eastern Europe, especially the nations of Italy, Poland, and Russia. In addition, substantial numbers of Japanese and Chinese arrived.

<u>“Melting Pot” Theory:</u>	<u>Assimilation:</u>
People from different _____ have met in the U.S. to form a _____ American culture. In other words, cultures “_____” together to become one, making it difficult to distinguish between different cultures.	Immigrants “_____” into an already established American culture. They become “_____” by giving up their culture and adopt the appearances and attitudes of a larger society in order to be accepted.

Name of Immigrant Group	<u>Why did this group immigrate to the U.S.?</u> What were some of the key push and pull factors? (list two examples for each group)	<u>Journey to the U.S.</u> What was their journey to and arrival in the U.S. like? (list two examples for each group)	<u>Settling in the United States</u> List at least three notes about the experiences of each group in the U.S.-- such as living conditions, work, and treatment by others.

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