

Immigration to America

Grade 5 • SOCIAL-STUDIES • Students compare reasons, experiences, challenges, and contributions associated with immigration to the United States in different historical periods. • Standards: D2.His.2.3-5, D2.His.5.3-5

Read each question carefully and write your answer. Think about how immigration experiences have been different in various time periods in United States history.

1. What is a 'push factor' in immigration? (a) a reason that makes people want to leave their home country (b) a reason that attracts people to a new country (c) a type of transportation
2. In the 1840s and 1850s, many Irish immigrants traveled to America by sailing ship. How do most immigrants travel to the United States today? (a) by sailing ship (b) by airplane (c) by covered wagon
3. Which of these is an example of a 'pull factor' that attracted immigrants to the United States? (a) crop failures in their home country (b) the promise of available land and jobs (c) war in their home country
4. In the late 1800s, many European immigrants arrived at a processing station in New York harbor. Today, immigrants must apply for visas and go through interviews before arriving. What does this show about how immigration has changed?
5. During the 1800s, Swedish immigrants often formed farming communities in Minnesota where they spoke Swedish and built churches. Today, Vietnamese immigrants in Texas have created neighborhoods with restaurants and shops. What do both examples show?
6. In 1882, Congress passed a law that stopped immigration from China for many years. In 1965, Congress passed a new law that allowed more immigrants from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. What do these two laws show?
7. German immigrants in the 1850s often faced the challenge of learning English while working in new jobs. Mexican immigrants in the 1990s faced similar language

challenges. Name one way their experiences were different.

8. Compare these two situations: In 1910, Italian immigrants worked in factories and helped build subways in growing cities. In 2010, Indian immigrants worked as engineers, doctors, and computer programmers. What does this comparison show about how immigrant contributions have changed?

9. In the early 1900s, Polish immigrants could send letters home that took weeks to arrive. Today, immigrants from the Philippines can video chat with family instantly. Explain how this difference in communication affects the immigration experience.

10. Between 1880 and 1920, most immigrants to the United States came from Europe. Between 1980 and 2020, most immigrants came from Latin America and Asia. Besides the regions of origin, describe two other ways immigration patterns changed between these two periods.

Answer Key — Immigration to America

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

1. (a) a reason that makes people want to leave their home country (*Push factors are conditions that cause people to leave, such as war, famine, or lack of jobs.*)
2. (b) by airplane (*Modern transportation technology has changed how people travel long distances.*)
3. (b) the promise of available land and jobs (*Pull factors are positive conditions that attract people to move to a new place.*)
4. Immigration laws and procedures have become more complex and strict over time. (*Modern immigration requires more paperwork and approval before arrival.*)
5. Immigrants in different time periods have created communities that help preserve their culture. (*Both groups formed communities to maintain connections to their heritage.*)
6. Immigration laws have changed over time, sometimes restricting certain groups and later becoming more open. (*The 1882 law was restrictive while the 1965 law was more inclusive.*)
7. Answers may include: different types of jobs available, different transportation methods, different immigration laws, or access to different technology for staying connected to family. (*Multiple valid answers exist; any reasonable difference in context between the two time periods is acceptable.*)
8. The types of jobs and skills that immigrants contribute have changed as the economy and technology have changed. (*Economic changes over 100 years created different opportunities and needs.*)
9. Modern technology allows immigrants to stay more closely connected to their home countries and families, making the experience of being far from home less isolating. (*Instant communication reduces feelings of separation and allows immigrants to maintain stronger ties.*)
10. Answers should include TWO of the following: (1) immigration laws changed - for example, the 1920s set strict quotas limiting newcomers and the 1965 law ended those quotas; (2) transportation changed - early immigrants came on long ocean voyages by ship, while later immigrants could come by airplane; (3) jobs changed - early immigrants often worked in factories or on farms, while later immigrants worked in many kinds of service and technology jobs; (4) staying in touch changed - early immigrants wrote letters home, while later immigrants could call home by phone or use the internet. (*Multiple valid combinations exist; any two reasonable differences in immigration patterns between the periods are*

acceptable.)