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# The Story of Immigration

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Word Count: 1,795



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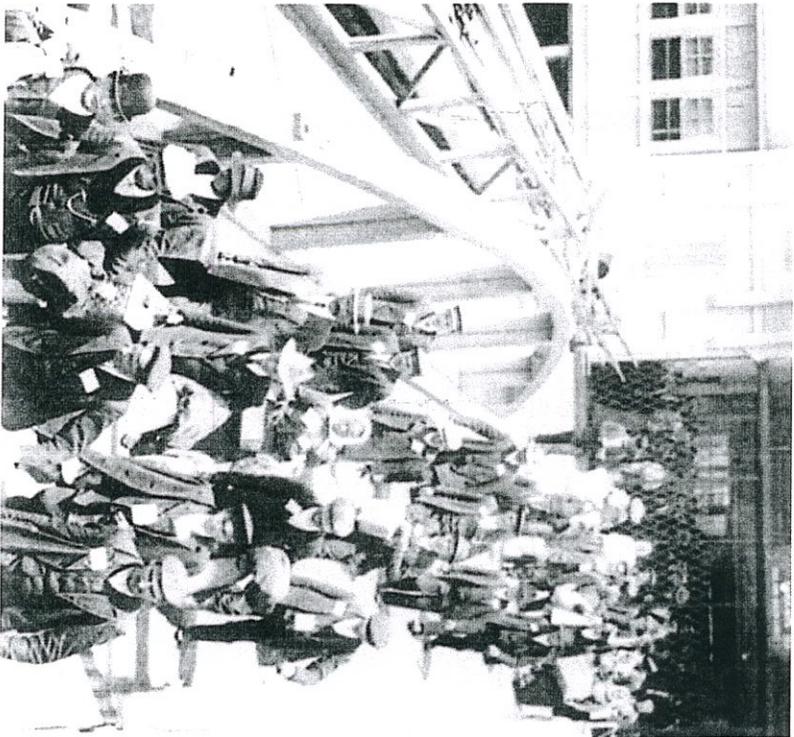
# The Story of Immigration



Written by Robert Charles

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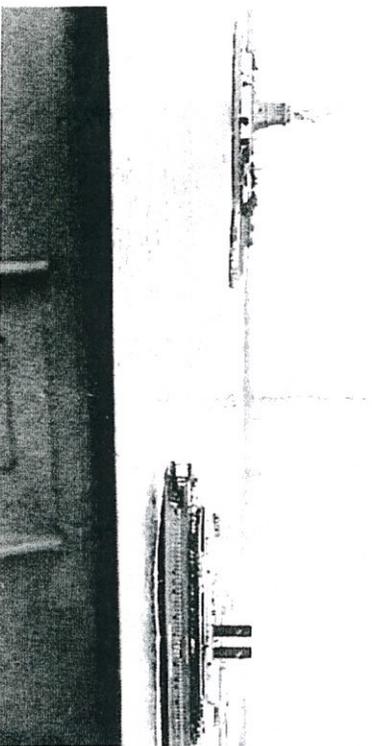
Starting a new life

### Introduction

Throughout history, humans have moved around the Earth. Even before there were countries with borders, humans moved from region to region seeking a better life. Later, as nations were established, people continued to move. But in order for people to enter a country, they had to seek permission from the government of the country they were entering. These people came to be known as **immigrants**. Their movement was called **immigration**.

This book focuses mainly on people who have immigrated to the United States from many different parts of the world. Since the United States is, in many ways, a nation built by immigrants, it is a good country to study for immigration. But it should be noted that people also immigrate to other countries. In fact, when some Europeans were coming to the United States, many others were going to other areas. Parts of Africa and Australia, regions of Asia, and certain countries in South America were other popular immigrant **destinations**.

During the history of U.S. immigration, there have been several major waves of human movement. This book is about some of those major waves. It is also about some of the main points of interest concerning immigration. As you read, you will learn about the people who immigrated to the United States.



New York Harbor and the Statue of Liberty



Immigrants to the United States recite the Pledge of Allegiance after they take their oath of citizenship.

### **Kinds of Immigration**

There are two major kinds of immigration—voluntary and involuntary. Voluntary immigrants have moved on the basis of their own willingness and desire to move. They may have done so to escape religious or political **persecution**. Or they may have left their **native** country simply to seek a better life and/or fortune in another land.

The two types of voluntary immigration are legal and illegal. Illegal immigrants often sneak into or are smuggled into a country. Or they may enter legally as visitors, but then they refuse to leave.

Involuntary immigration is when the movement is forced upon a person by someone else. For example, the Africans who were captured and placed on boats headed for North America or Europe did not choose to leave their native land. They were forced against their will to become slaves and work for people.

Refugees fleeing from war wait to board buses at a camp on the border of Serbia and Macedonia in 1999.

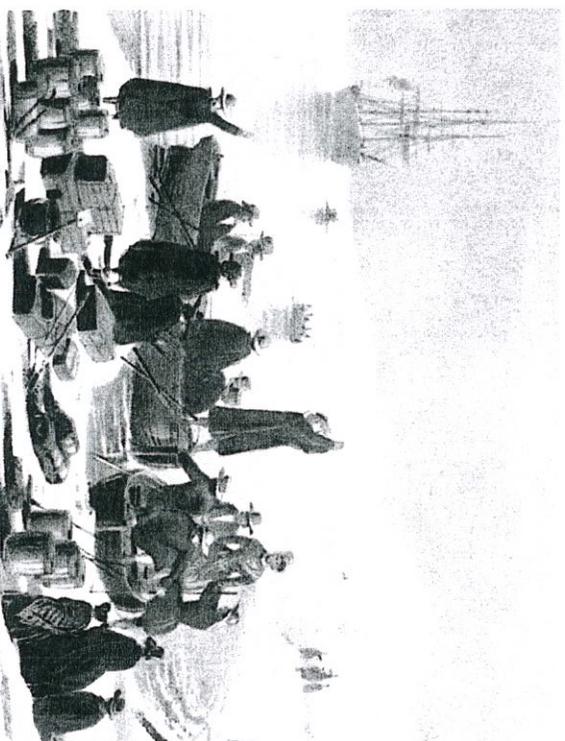


### **Do You Know?**

There is a special group of immigrants known as refugees. These are people who have left their homeland but have nowhere to go. Each year, the United States government allows a certain number of political refugees into the U.S. There are an estimated 15 million refugees in the world today.

## **Waves of Immigration**

Some historians have identified four major waves of immigration to the United States. The earliest wave occurred before the United States was a country. People came to the New World seeking religious freedom and to start a new life in a location offering many opportunities. This wave lasted from the early 1600s until about 1830. Most of the immigrants were from Western Europe. They settled in the northeastern part of the country. But there were pockets of Spanish immigrants who settled in Florida, and many French immigrants settled north in Canada in the area of present-day Quebec.



Pilgrims landing at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts, 1620



Thousands of Chinese immigrants helped build the Central Pacific Railroad in the 1860s.

This was a time of enormous growth in the United States. Workers were needed to help tend crops. It was during this time that many Africans were involuntarily brought to the United States as slaves. In many ways, the United States was built on the sweat and toil of these people. By the time of the American Revolution, more than 500,000 Africans had arrived in what was to become the United States.

Another wave of immigration took place from 1870 until 1890. This wave included a continuation of immigrants from areas similar to the first wave. It also saw many people from Northern Europe, in an area known as Scandinavia, come to America. Asians, especially people from China, were part of this wave. Chinese workers were instrumental in building railroads that led to the settlement of the West.

Land was plentiful and cheap, and workers were needed in the industries that were popping up across the United States.

The next wave, which lasted from 1890 to 1930, saw the biggest **influx** of immigrants to the United States. Their reasons for coming were much the same as those who came during the previous wave. During the peak of this immigration wave, just after 1900, close to a million people came to the U.S. each year. Many of these people came from southern Europe, particularly Italy, and Eastern European countries such as Austria, Hungary, Poland, and Russia.



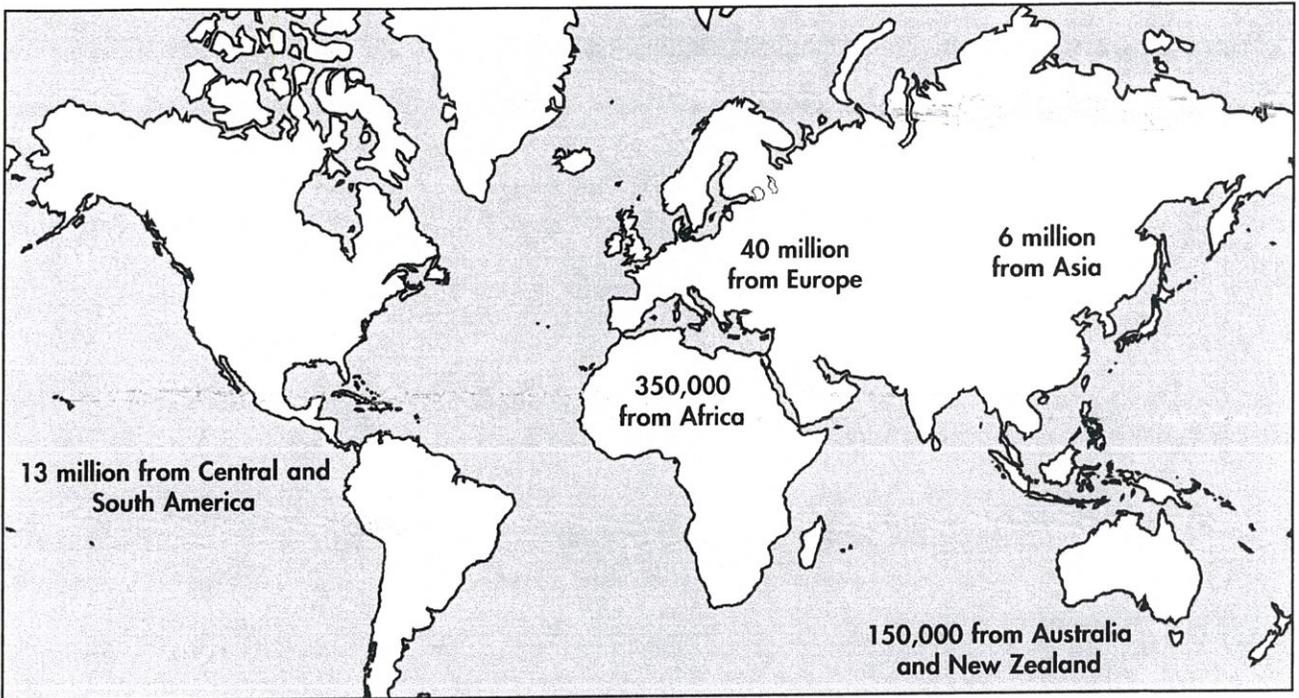
European immigrants arrive in New York just after 1900.

The last wave started in the mid-1960s and is still going on today. This modern-time immigration wave can be linked to civil strife, political upheaval, and war in other parts of the world. The wave consists of many mini-waves. For example, from the 1960s through the 1990s, many Cubans left Cuba to escape the repressive government of Fidel Castro. From about 1965 to 1975, more than 250,000 Cubans were airlifted to the United States.

The wars in Southeast Asia brought many people from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam to the United States. The fall of the Shah's government in Iran resulted in an influx of Iranians. The breakup of the Soviet Union and the war in Yugoslavia were followed by mini-waves of immigration from these regions. This current wave of immigration has seen many Spanish-speaking people from Mexico and Central and South America coming to the United States, as well as people from Caribbean nations. These people are looking to escape a life of poverty in their native countries. But not all of them are legal immigrants. In fact, the flow of illegal immigrants across the Mexican border has presented a serious problem.



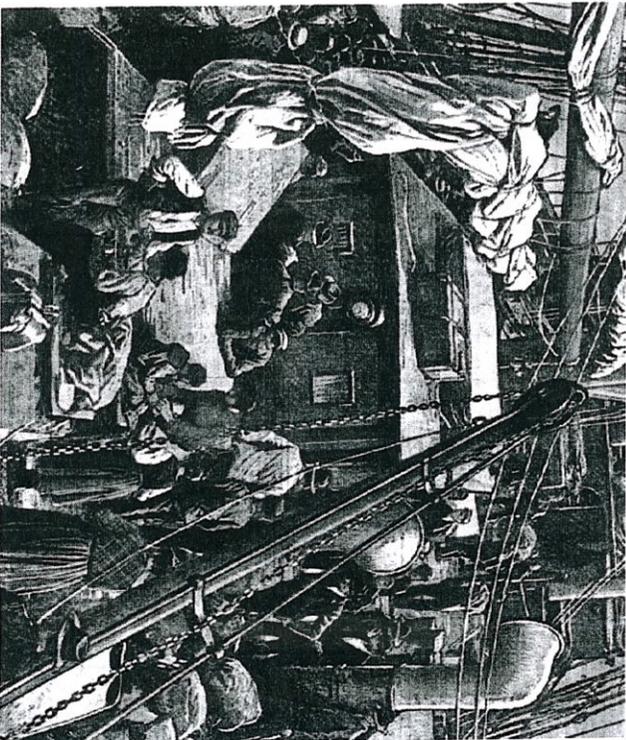
Mexicans wait to cross the border to the United States near the city of Tijuana.



Origins of United States Immigrants, 1880–1990

### Immigration Laws

Prior to the U.S. Revolution, most of the immigrants to the United States came from the western part of Europe. Many had the same religious and ethnic background. Few restrictions were in place at that time. Individual colonies controlled the admission of immigrants. Some colonies even gave away land to encourage people from Europe to settle. After the Revolutionary War, laws were passed stating how long an immigrant was required to live in the U.S. before citizenship was allowed.



Conditions on ships were difficult and uncomfortable for immigrants.



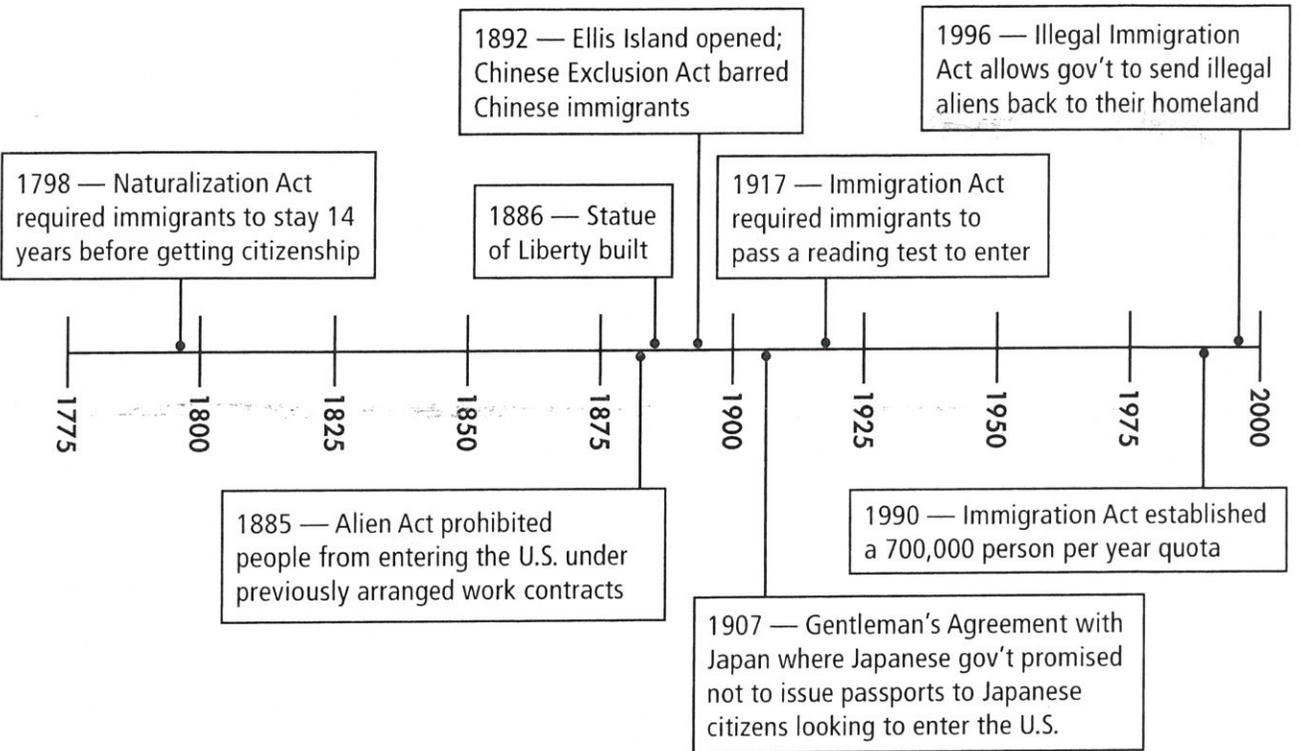
Chinese butcher and grocery shop, Chinatown, San Francisco, around 1905

After the U.S. Revolution, people from other parts of the world began to arrive. At first they came from other parts of Europe, such as Eastern Europe, Italy, and Russia. In addition, immigrants began to arrive from Asia, particularly from China and Japan. They brought in different cultures and religions. These new immigrants from other regions of the world were not welcomed by those who had already settled in the United States. As a result, people put pressure on the government to pass laws to keep immigrants from these countries out of the United States.

One such law was the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1892. This act was designed to keep Chinese immigrants from settling in the United States. Another law, passed in 1917, excluded certain groups of people and required immigrants to pass a reading test. In 1921, the first **quota** law was **imposed**. This law was designed to put a quota, or limit, on the number of people who could enter the United States from any one nation. The first quota law limited immigrants from Europe to 3 percent of the number of people from a given area living in the United States.

Even today, there are attempts to pass laws that would restrict immigration to the United States. Some propose to reduce immigration to fewer than 20,000 people per year. In 1990, a law set a quota of 700,000 immigrants per year through 1993. In 1996, another law was passed to permit illegal immigrants to be returned to their homeland.

Immigrants to United States, 1821–1995	
1821–30.....	143,439
1831–40.....	599,125
1841–50.....	1,713,251
1851–60.....	2,598,214
1861–70.....	2,314,824
1871–80.....	2,812,191
1881–90.....	5,246,613
1891–00.....	3,687,564
1901–10.....	8,795,386
1911–20.....	5,735,811
TOTAL.....	62,215,942



## Symbols of Immigration

Most of the people who came to the United States during the early peaks of immigration came through New York City on the East Coast and San Francisco on the West Coast. Three major symbols of immigration emerged: Ellis Island, Angel Island, and the Statue of Liberty.

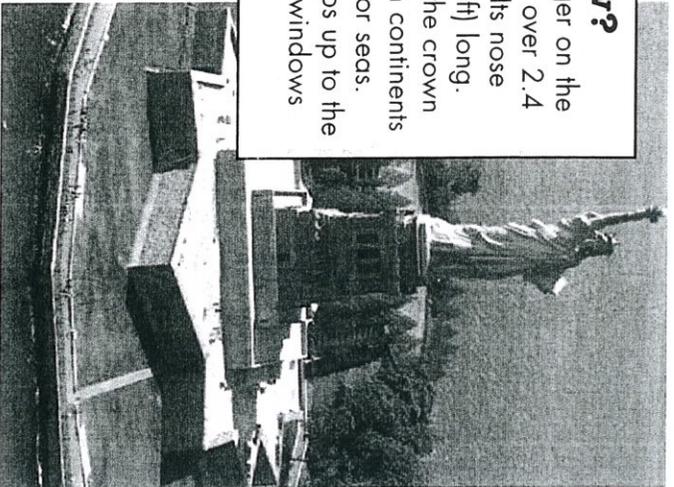
Before immigration centers were established, immigrants were often simply dumped onto a wharf and left to fend for themselves. Many brought disease into the country. To keep track of those entering the country, centers were built to process records for immigrants.

Immigrants entering through New York City went to an immigration center called Ellis Island. Located in New York Harbor, it was the place where most immigrants first set foot on U.S. soil. Immigrants were given a routine medical exam by a doctor. An official record was made of who they were, where they were from, and where they were going. Sometimes immigrants were held in a center for days or even weeks. Ellis Island was an immigration center from 1892 until 1954, and it symbolized immigration to the United States.

## Do You Know?

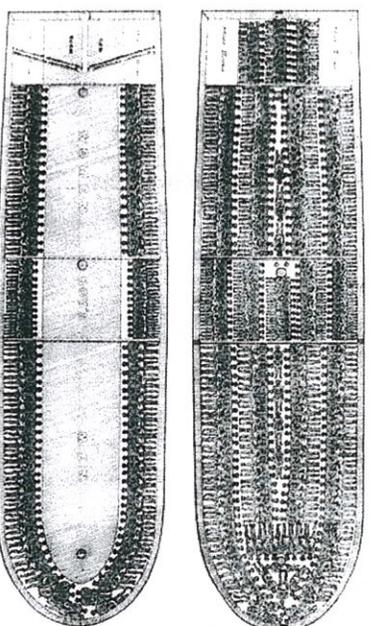
One index finger on the Statue of Liberty is over 2.4 meters (8 ft) long. Its nose is 1.4 meters (4.6 ft) long. The seven rays in the crown stand for the seven continents and the seven major seas. There are 354 steps up to the crown, which has windows for looking out.

The Statue of Liberty stands inside the courtyard of the star-shaped walls of Fort Wood, on what is now called Liberty Island.



On the West Coast, a less well-known center was established on Angel Island in San Francisco Bay. This became the major processing center for immigrants coming to the U.S. from Asia.

Perhaps the best-known symbol of immigration in the world is the Statue of Liberty. It was a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States. The Statue of Liberty symbolizes freedom and hope to all those entering the United States. It stands more than 46 meters (300 ft) tall from the ground to the tip of its torch.



Plan of how slaves were stowed on a 1700s British slave ship

## How They Arrived

Most immigrants during the first three immigration waves arrived in the United States by boat. The trip over the ocean was long and often unpleasant. Slaves experienced the worst conditions. They were packed tightly into the cargo holds of wooden boats and given little food and water. Fresh air was scarce. It is not surprising that many did not survive the trip.

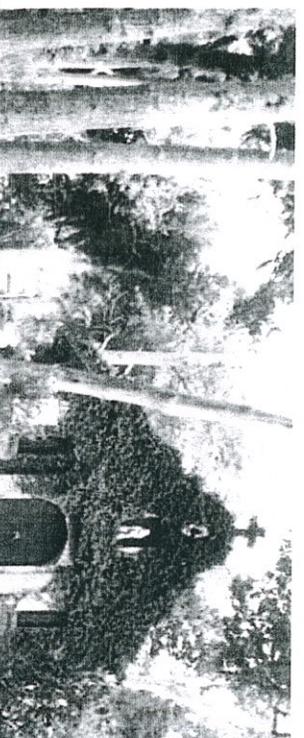
Many of the early European immigrants signed on with captains of ships. They worked for free passage to the New World. Once they arrived, the captains sold them as **indentured servants**. This means that they had to work for several years for the person who paid for them. They worked until their debt was paid, and then they were set free.

Even in modern times, many immigrants arrive by boat. People from various Caribbean nations, including Cuba, have come on small boats. Others from China have been smuggled in on large ships. Many Mexican immigrants cross the border on foot and by swimming across the Rio Grande River. In most of these cases, the immigration is illegal.

Today, airplanes are a common way for legal immigrants to get to the United States. Family members living in the United States or agencies who sponsor immigrants often provide airfare.



In 1994 tens of thousands of Cubans escaped their country for political reasons using small boats or makeshift rafts.



### **Do You Know?**

The first permanent settlement by Europeans in the United States was in St. Augustine, Florida. It was settled by Spanish immigrants.

Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche,  
St. Augustine, Florida

### **Conclusion**

Throughout history, people of the world have been on the move. Many leave their country of birth and go to a new country. These immigrants move for many reasons. Some move for religious and political reasons. Others move simply for the hope of a better life. Others move to be reunited with family members.

The United States is a popular destination for many immigrants. They came before the United States was a country and continue to arrive today. Immigration continues to offer the chance of a better life to millions of people around the world.

## Explore More

### On the Web:

- 1 In the address window, type: *www.google.com*
- 2 Then type: *immigration*. Click on "Google Search."
  - Read the colored links. Click on one that looks interesting.
  - To explore other links, click the "back" arrow on the top left until you get back to the page with the links that Google found.
  - Then try searching using other words from this Quick Reader, such as: *Ellis Island, Angel Island, Statue of Liberty, refugees, indentured servants, illegal immigrants, and quota*.

### Try This

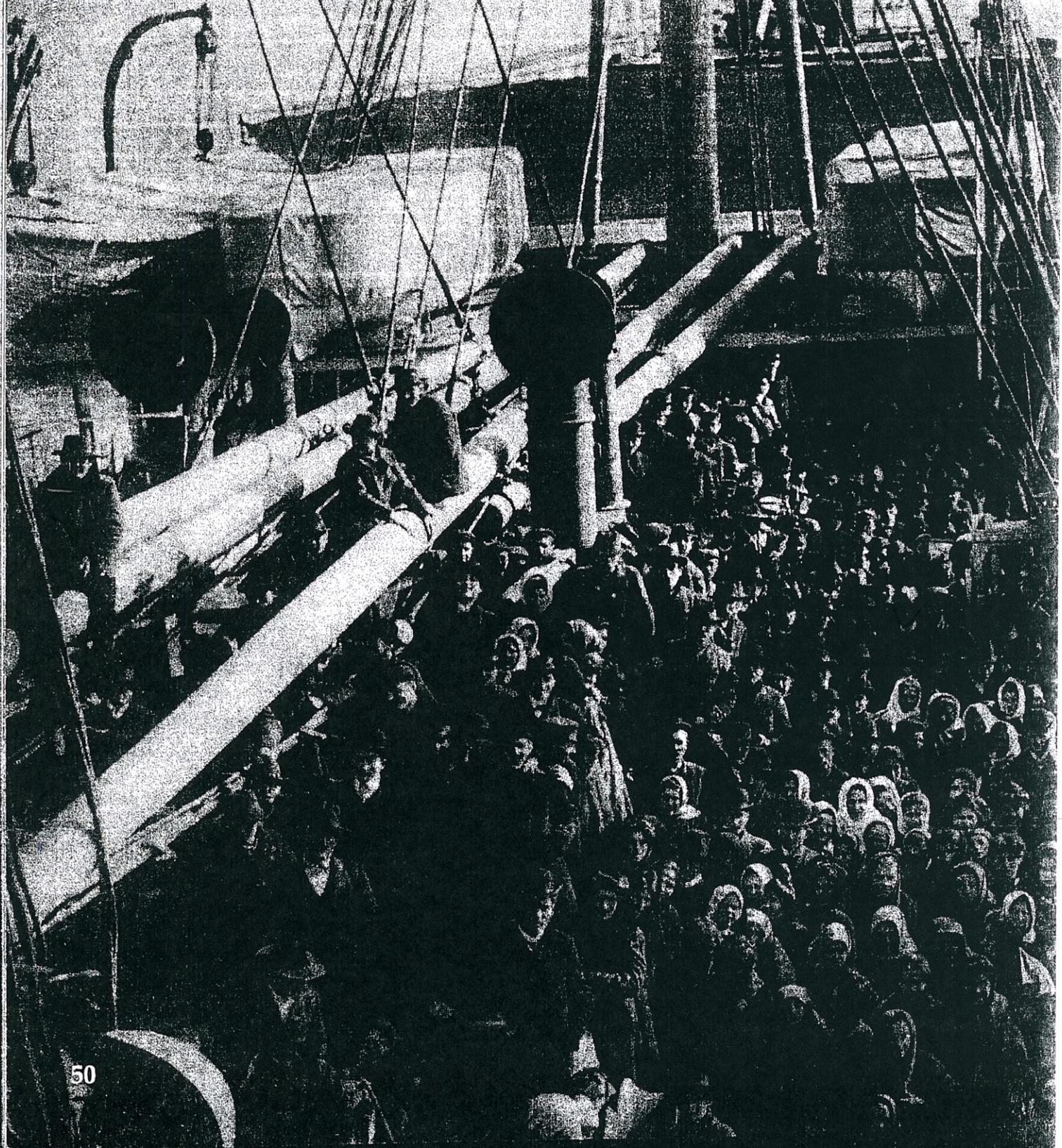
- Get a world map. Do research on popular immigration routes. Draw these routes on your map. Compare your map with others in class.
- Imagine you are an immigrant to the United States and are discriminated against by other immigrants. Write a letter to someone back home telling how you feel about that.

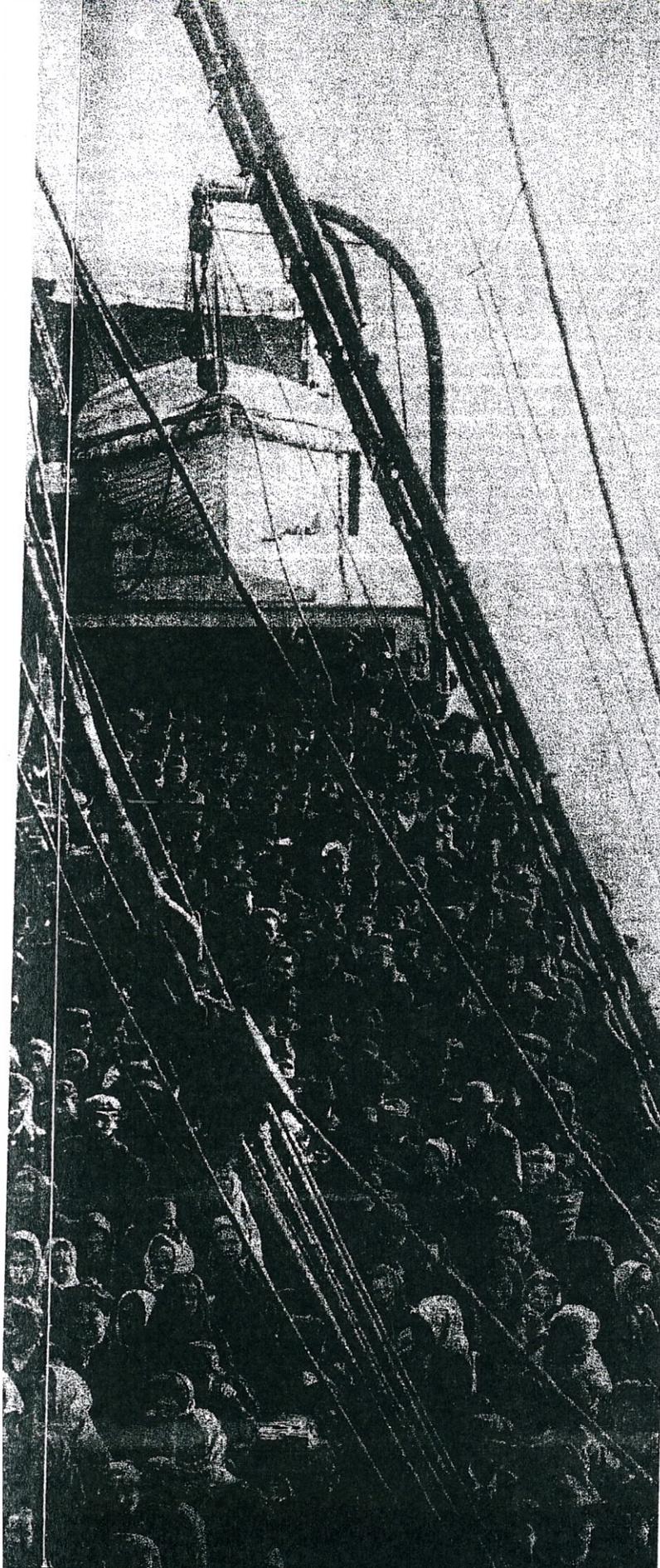
## Glossary

<b>destination</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	the place toward which someone or something is going or sent (p. 5)
<b>ethnic</b> ( <i>adj.</i> )	designating a group of people with a common cultural heritage or nationality, distinguished by customs, characteristics, language, and common history (p. 14)
<b>immigrant</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	a person who comes to live in a new country, region, or environment (p. 4)
<b>immigration</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	an act or instance of immigrating; also, the number of immigrants entering a country or region at a particular time (p. 4)
<b>imposed</b> ( <i>v.</i> )	required by an authority (p. 16)
<b>indentured servants</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	people bound by contracts to work for others for a given period of time (p. 20)
<b>influx</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	a continual coming in of people or things (p. 10)
<b>native</b> ( <i>adj.</i> )	belonging to a country or location by birth (p. 6)
<b>persecution</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	cruel oppression or harassment, especially for reasons of religion, politics, or race (p. 6)
<b>quota</b> ( <i>n.</i> )	a set number that limits the amount of something or that serves as a goal (p. 16)

# COMING OVER

BY RUSSELL FREEDMAN





**B**ETWEEN 1880 AND 1920, twenty-three million immigrants arrived in the United States. They came mainly from impoverished towns and villages in southern and eastern Europe. The one thing they had in common was a fervent belief that in America, life would be better.



Most of these immigrants were poor, and many immigrant families arrived penniless. Often the father came first, found work, and sent for his family later.

Immigrants usually crossed the Atlantic as steerage passengers. Reached by steep, slippery stairways, the steerage lay deep down in the hold of the ship. It was occupied by passengers paying the lowest fare.

Men, women, and children were packed into dark, foul-smelling compartments. They slept in narrow bunks stacked three high. They had no showers, no lounges, and no dining rooms. Food served from huge kettles was dished into dinner pails provided by the steamship company. Because steerage conditions were crowded and uncomfortable, passengers spent as much time as possible up on deck.

The great majority of immigrants landed in New York City, at America's busiest port. Edward Corsi, who later became United States Commissioner of Immigration, was a ten-year-old Italian immigrant when he sailed into New York harbor in 1907. He wrote, "My first impressions of the New World will always remain etched in my memory, particularly that hazy October morning when I first saw Ellis Island. The steamer *Florida*, fourteen days out of Naples, filled to capacity with sixteen

hundred natives of Italy, had weathered one of the worst storms in our captain's memory; and glad we were, both children and grown-ups, to leave the open sea and come at last through the Narrows into the Bay.

"My mother, my stepfather, my brother Giuseppe, and my two sisters, Liberta and Helvetia, . . . looked with wonder on this miraculous land of our dreams.

". . . Passengers all about us were crowding against the rail. Jabbered conversation, sharp cries, laughs and cheers—a steadily rising din filled the air. Mothers and fathers lifted up babies so that they too could see, off to the left, the Statue of Liberty. . . ."

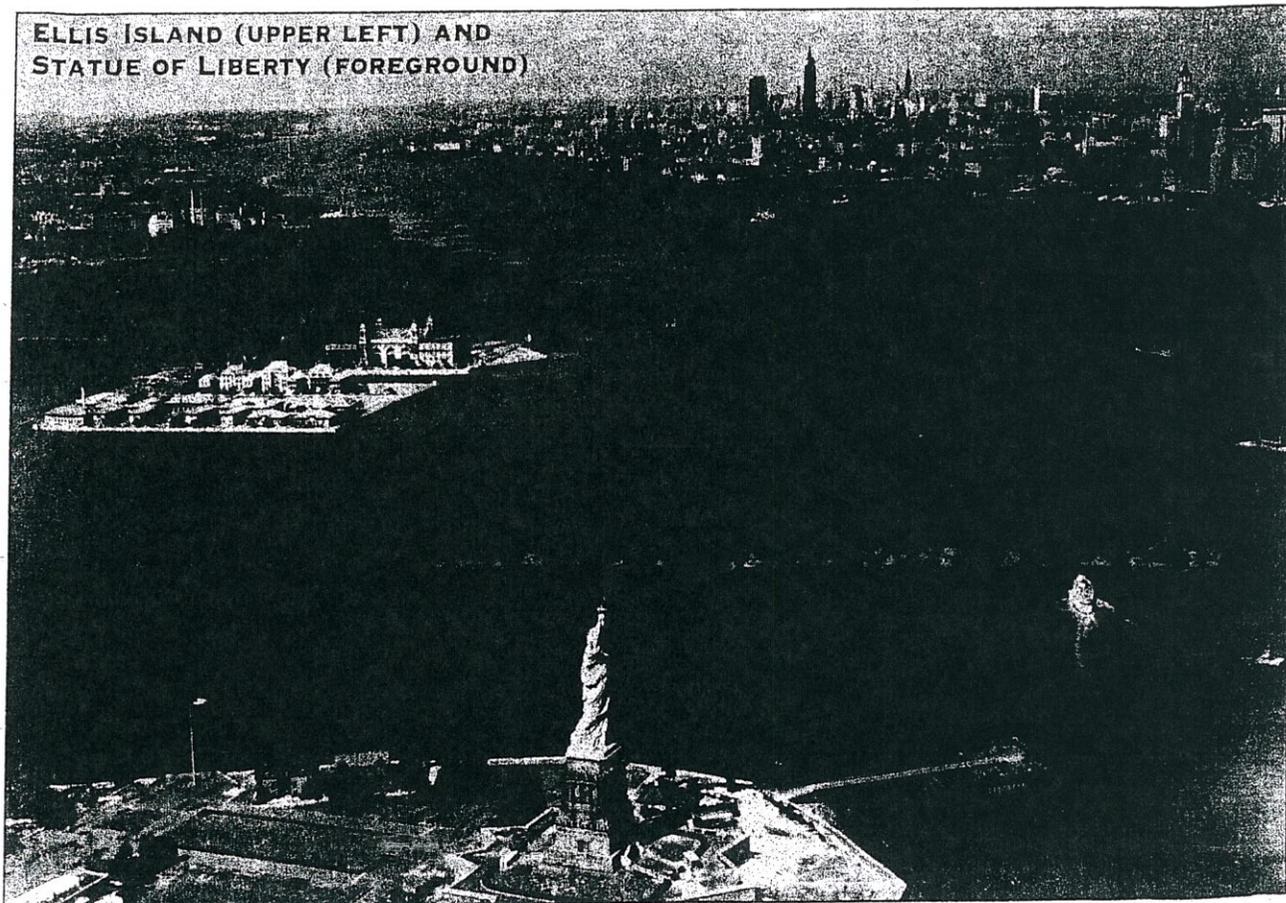
But the journey was not yet over. Before they could be admitted to the United States, immigrants had to pass through Ellis Island, which became the nation's

chief immigrant-processing center in 1892. There they would be questioned and examined. Those who could not pass all the exams would be detained; some would be sent back to Europe. And so their arrival in America was filled with great anxiety. Among the immigrants, Ellis Island was known as Heartbreak Island.

When their ship docked at a Hudson River pier, the immigrants had numbered identity tags pinned to their clothing. Then they were herded onto special ferryboats that carried them to Ellis Island. Officials hurried them along, shouting, "Quick! Run! Hurry!" in half a dozen languages.

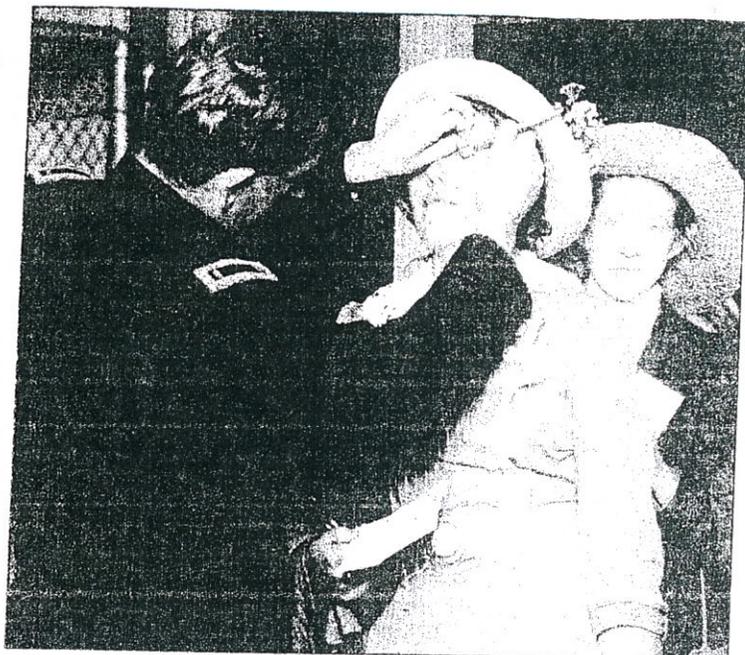
Filing into an enormous inspection hall, the immigrants formed long lines separated by iron railings that made the hall look like a great maze.

ELLIS ISLAND (UPPER LEFT) AND  
STATUE OF LIBERTY (FOREGROUND)



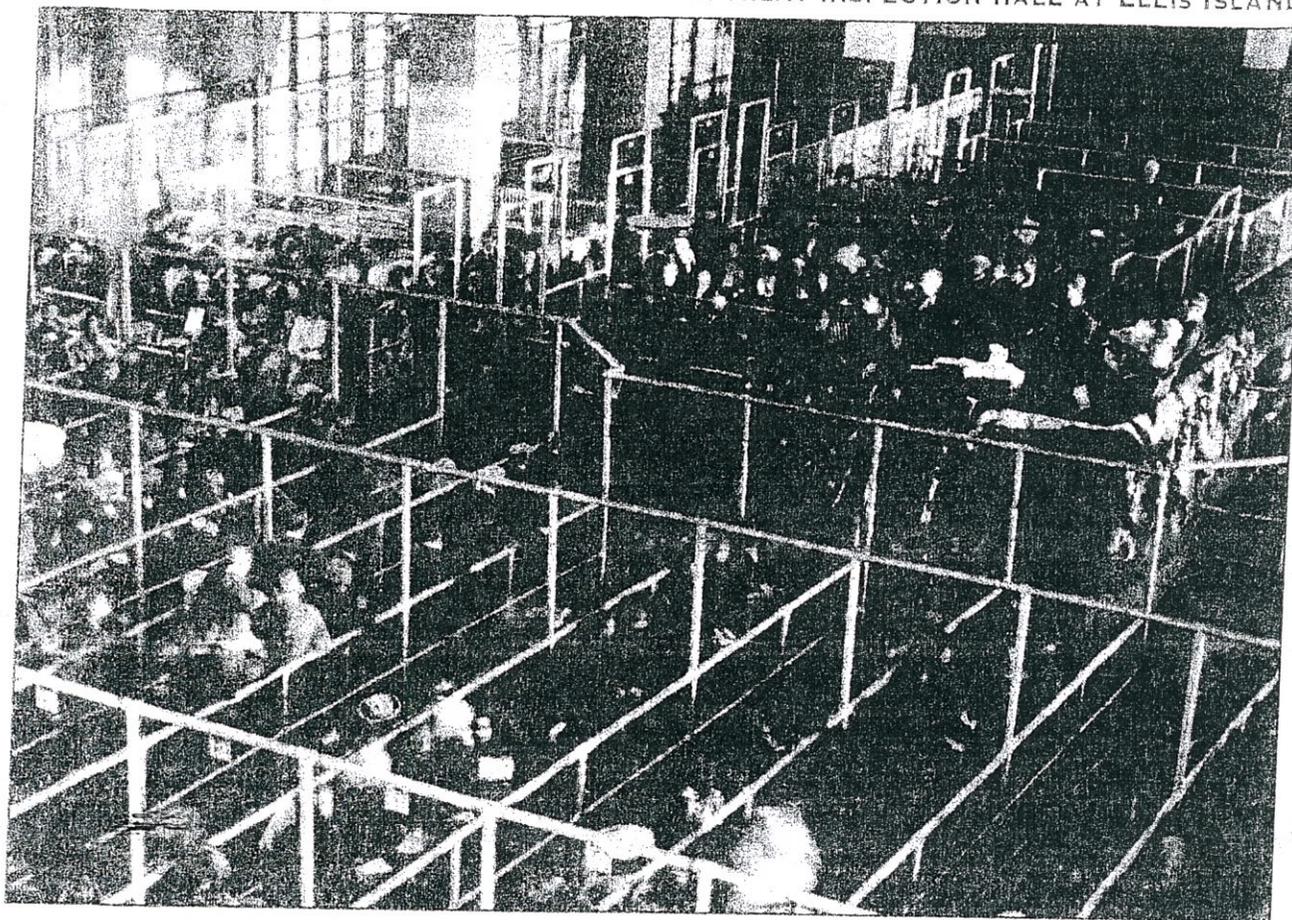
First the immigrants were examined by two doctors of the United States Health Service. One doctor looked for physical and mental abnormalities. When a case aroused suspicion, the immigrant received a chalk mark on the right shoulder for further inspection: *L* for lameness, *H* for heart, *X* for mental defects, and so on.

The second doctor watched for contagious and infectious diseases. He looked especially for infections of the scalp and at the eyelids for symptoms of trachoma, a blinding disease. Since trachoma caused more than half of all medical detentions, this doctor was greatly feared. He stood directly in the immigrant's path. With a swift movement, he would grab the immigrant's eyelid, pull it up, and peer beneath it. If all was well, the immigrant was passed on.



THE EYE EXAMINATION

THE GREAT INSPECTION HALL AT ELLIS ISLAND





Those who failed to get past both doctors had to undergo a more thorough medical exam. The others moved on to the registration clerk, who questioned them with the aid of an interpreter: What is your name? Your nationality? Your occupation? Can you read and write? Have you ever been in prison? How much money do you have with you? Where are you going?

Some immigrants were so flustered that they could not answer. They were allowed to sit and rest and try again. About one immigrant out of every five or six

was detained for additional examinations or questioning.

Most immigrants made it through Ellis Island in about one day. Carrying all their worldly possessions, they waited on the dock for the ferry that would take them to Manhattan, a mile away. Some of them still faced long journeys overland before they reached their final destinations. Others would head directly for the teeming immigrant neighborhoods of New York City. But no matter where they went, they all hoped to find the same thing: a better life for themselves and their children. 

AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY AT ELLIS ISLAND



**A**NNA GRIPPED THE steel railing of the steamship to steady her wobbly legs, while hundreds of other immigrants pressed tightly against her, straining to see the first sight of land. How good it felt to be finally able to stand up straight.

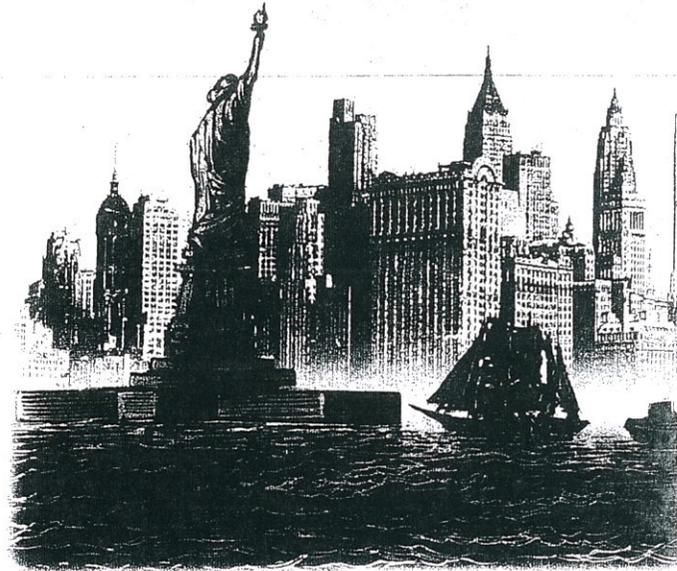
Anna had been born with her right leg slightly shorter than her left, so it had been a difficult three weeks over the Atlantic Ocean in steerage class, where the ceiling was so low that she couldn't stand up straight. Her right leg ached, and she longed to rub away its stiffness.

Now voices young and old blended many different languages together, laughing, crying, and praying, overcome with emotion. America! They had finally arrived. Tears pricked Anna's eyes as her mother's low, quivering voice fervently uttered a thankful prayer in Polish. For as long as Anna could remember, they had been able to speak Polish only between the walls of their two-room wooden cottage. In school, on the streets, and even in church, they were to speak Russian. Gradually their lives had become more Russian than Polish.

But this was America! Father said things would be different. Anna loved to hear her father talk about America. "In America we will be Polish Americans, Anna," he had said, affectionately tugging one of her braids, and above his coarse, tangled beard the corners of his mouth lifted. "In America the soil is rich and fertile, and we will be able to grow anything our hearts desire. More importantly, Anna," he'd said as his eyes grew strangely intense, "no

# WELCOME TO AMERICA

by *Benita L. Le Mahieu*



one will tell us what to believe or how to worship." Anna had gently fingered the small cross hanging from a chain around her neck.

Now Anna's heart fluttered wildly as she squinted against the bright sun reflecting off the water. Looming ahead was the Statue of Liberty, promising the new life that Father so passionately desired for all of them.

"Look," she called excitedly to her younger brother, Franek. "There's the Statue of Liberty." But Franek only smiled wanly, leaning weakly against Father. As she glanced at his face, pale beneath the black woolen hat perched crookedly over his brown curls, concern etched tiny wrinkles

Her father made no response. Anna was deeply troubled as her family unloaded their baggage from the barge at Ellis Island and joined the long line waiting beneath a huge awning that led to the entrance of a

palacelike building. Her heart hammered as she watched official-looking men in uniforms walk back and forth under the awning, carefully eyeing each immigrant. They yelled in different languages, urging the crowd forward. Anna began walking, dragging her bag beside her, only when she no longer felt their piercing stares.

Her voice quavered, whispering, "Father, they won't make us go back to Poland, will they?" Her father said nothing, only tucked her small, cold hand under his arm. His rough, woolen suit scratched her hand, but her father's strong, reassuring arm slowed the pounding of her heart.

With a sigh of relief, they moved past the inspectors, entered the building, and shuffled into the Baggage Room. Bulging canvas bags littered the floor. Wooden boxes and trunks were piled high around the walls. Voices echoed and blended together, and babies cried. Above the bedlam, a loud voice instructed them to leave their bags and proceed up the staircase to the second floor.

"Oh no! We can't leave our bags here," Anna's mother protested in a thin, strained voice, gesturing helplessly at the bags jumbled together on the floor. "They'll get lost." She held on to the wicker basket that

---

*"They won't  
make us go  
back to Poland,  
will they?"*

---

contained their precious sewing machine from Poland. Sewing, mending, and altering clothes for the other villagers had been the way Anna and her mother had helped earn enough money to come to America. "Look!

A few others are taking their bags with them, too." Anna's mother pointed.

Anna's father hesitated. "You're right," he agreed. "We'll take them with us."

Anna looked fearfully at the steep staircase they had to climb to reach the second floor. How was she going to climb up the stairs and drag her bag with her? Franek wasn't strong enough to carry it. As if reading her mind, Anna's father took her bag. Now hampered with two bags banging against his legs, he trudged toward the stairs.

Another inspector stood at the bottom of the stairs, but he barely glanced at them, since his attention was drawn to a commotion in a far corner of the room.

Anna wearily followed her father up the staircase, clutching the rail. Breathing heavily and trying to ignore the pain in her right leg, Anna kept her eyes down. Only after bumping into her father at the top of the staircase did she dare to look around.

Awed by the sight in front of her, Anna forgot her fear. Never before had she seen so many people under the same roof. A maze of pipes and wires filled the room. People sat in groups, waiting on wooden benches in different parts of the maze. Just like cattle in pens, Anna thought.

At one end of the room, the American

*rozumieć*. I don't understand," she yelled after him, but the inspector had disappeared.

"Father, what does this mean? Why did he put a letter on my coat?" Just then one of the doctors beckoned for Anna to follow him, ushering her away from her family. Anna looked helplessly back at them. Mother was joining a long line of women, while Father and Franek were directed to another line of men and boys. But where are they taking me? she wondered.

Anna was escorted into a small examining room and joined the other immigrant women standing in line—all with white chalk marks on the outside of their coats. Anna saw her own fear mirrored in the eyes of each woman. Two nurses carefully examined each immigrant. They must not send me back, Anna thought. I won't get back on that crowded, stinky boat again! I would rather die.

Then it was her turn. The nurse placed a cold stethoscope on Anna's chest and listened to her heart. Then she listened while Anna took deep breaths. Anna squirmed and clenched her teeth while her eyelids were pulled back with a steel hook. Again, like the inspector, the nurses spoke a foreign language. Anna was relieved to hear one of the other immigrant women speak up in Polish.

"They want you to walk around the room," the woman interpreted. Conscious of their stares, Anna limped awkwardly around the room, her boots clomping loudly on the bare floor.

Anna waited uneasily in front of the

nurses. She wanted to thrust her calloused, pinpricked fingers in their faces and say, "See. I can sew. I won't be a burden to America."

"What is wrong with your leg?" the nurse asked.

Anna listened while the Polish immigrant interpreted for her, then replied stiffly, "I was born with my right leg shorter than the left."

"Take off your boots, please."

Anna's fingers shook as she unlaced her boots. She stuck out her stocking feet, conscious of the stench wafting out of her boots, but even more conscious of her short right leg.

"What work will you do while you are in America?" the nurse asked as she examined Anna's leg, rotating her ankle and then bending her knee.

"We sew," Anna eagerly explained. "My mother sews beautiful clothes. I help her."

"Wait here," the nurse instructed briefly, removing Anna's inspection tag.

Anna anxiously watched the two nurses talking together, glancing in her direction. Stamping her inspection card, one of the nurses brought it back to her, smiling widely. Anna looked blankly at it. What did it say?

"You're fine," said the nurse smiling. "You may go back to your family." What? Anna looked at her blankly. She could go? Just like that?

"I don't have to go back to Poland?" Anna asked tremulously. Relief flooded her body until she felt weak. The two nurses nodded, pointing to an exit.

Anna jumped up and stumbled to the

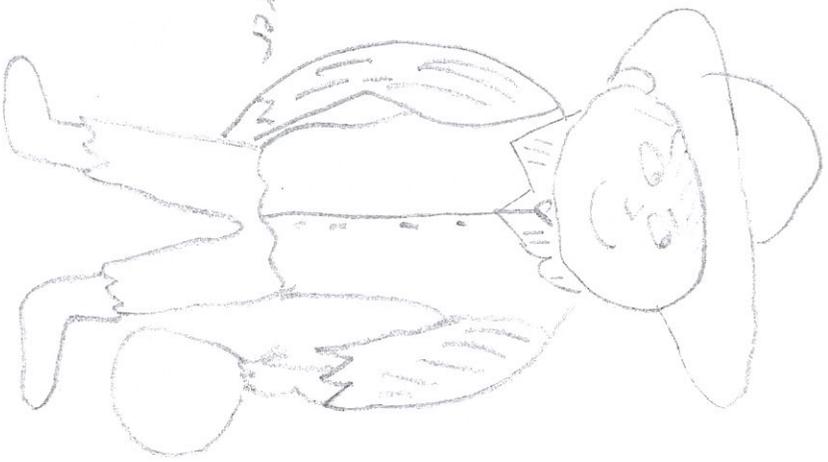
# NO IRISH NEED APPLY

- Persecuted by Americans
- poor living conditions
- 80% of infants died
- poverty
- illiterate

## An Irish Immigrant

### Notable Immigrants/ancestry

- Andrew Jackson, 21st U.S. President
- Maureen O'Hara actress
- Henry Ford
  - son of Irish immigrant automobile manufacturer
- John Hancock 1st to sign Declaration of independence
- Sandra Day O'Connor Supreme Court Justice
- John F. Kennedy 35th President



### Hope for a New Life

- Rights and Freedom from English rule
- Men got low paying jobs UNSAFE earned 50¢ day / 14 hours worked in mines and building bridges, canals, railroads
- Women - made clothes in factories, chamber maids, cooks, caretakers of children

### Time frame and Events

- 1800's English Rule
  - not allowed to own land
  - not allowed to own land
- 1845-51 - Great Hunger
  - ate grass
  - ate dogs
- many died
- could not pay rent had to leave homes

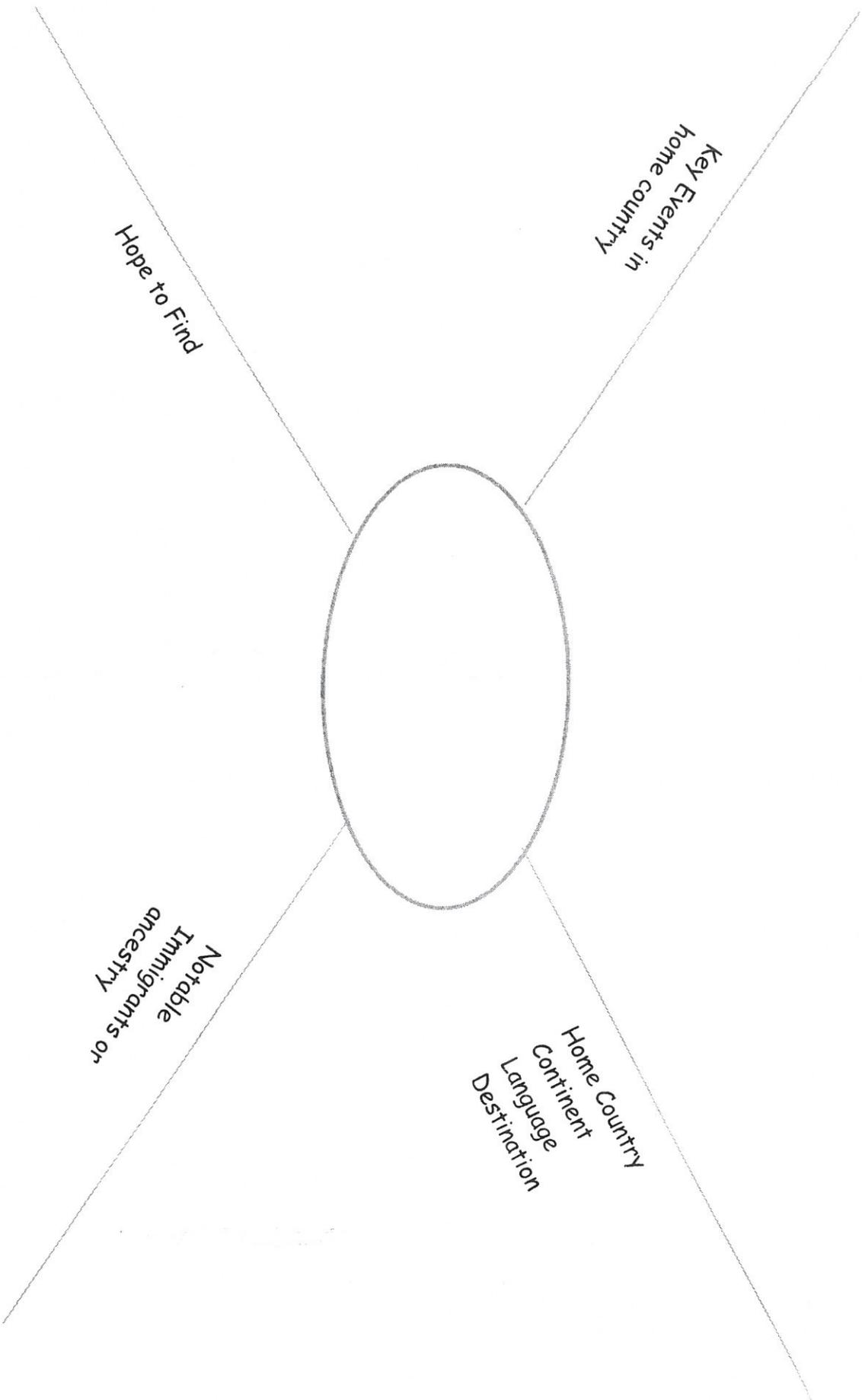
### Home Country

- Ireland - Europe
- spoke Irish/Gaelic
- Ellis Island / Federal Immigration Center

**Process Grid Immigration: People on the Move**

<b>Immigrant Group</b>	<b>Home country Continent Language Destination</b>	<b>Time frame • Key events in home country</b>	<b>Hope to find</b>	<b>Notable immigrants or ancestry</b>
Irish	Ireland Europe (western) Irish Ellis Island, NY	<u>1800s</u> • Ireland ruled by England • Potato famine	• Rights • Jobs	• Frank McCourt • Andrew Jackson (7 <sup>th</sup> president) • Sandra Day O'Connor • Maureen O'Hara
Vietnamese	Vietnam Asia Vietnamese West coast cities	<u>1970s – 2000s</u> • End of the Vietnam War in 1975 • People fled to escape the Communist rule by the North Vietnamese	• Freedom of choice  • Avoid punishment for helping enemy	• Peter Tran • An Hang • Eugene Trinh (NASA astronaut) • Joseph Cao (1 <sup>st</sup> Vietnamese born member of Congress)
Mexican	Mexico North America Spanish Southern states	• Late 1840s: After the Mexican American War • 1910: End of cruel leader, Porfiro Diaz • 1940's: World War II	• Stay on their land • Searching for jobs • Bracero program or serve in military	• Cesar Chavez • Jose Hernandez • Bill Richardson • Linda Rondstadt
Sudanese	Sudan Africa Arabic / English Major cities (Omaha, NE)	• 2003+: Ongoing civil war, drought and famine	• Religious freedom • Better economic living conditions • Education • Peace	• "Lost Boys" • Machot Lot (director of Southern Sudanese Community of Washington) • Mawut Mayen – recent UW grad in Economics •
Russian	Russia / former Soviet Union Europe (eastern) Russian (also	• Late 1800s: Political and religious persecution • 1917: Bolshevik Revolution • 1970s: Detente - relaxed restrictions	• Freedom of choice • Freedom of expression • Freedoms	• Mikhail Baryshnikov • Alekzander Solzentzen • Anna Kornakova • Vida Zulavich

# Immigration Mind Map



Key Events in home country

Home Country  
Continent  
Language  
Destination

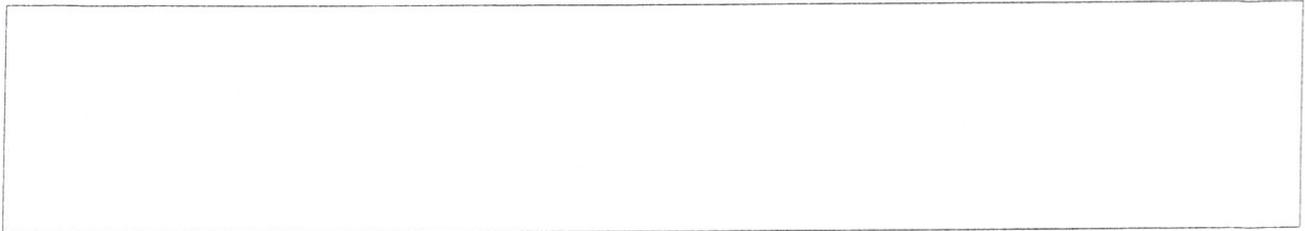
Notable Immigrants or ancestry

Hope to Find

## Why Russian Immigrants Came to America

### Home Country/Destination

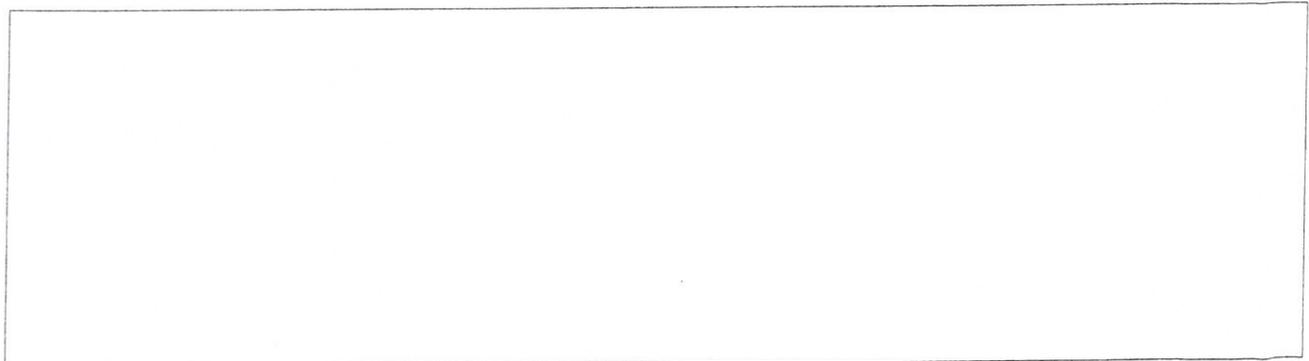
For many years the former Soviet Union controlled the lives and governments of several Eastern European and Asian countries. It was hard for any citizen to leave in search of a better life in another country. Countries such as Russia, Yugoslavia, and Ukraine finally got the chance to make their own plans for their citizens. Sometimes the change was peaceful. In other countries civil war broke out and life was very dangerous. In Washington large numbers of Eastern European immigrants live in Seattle, Spokane, and the Tri-Cities.



### Time frame and key events in home country

People left the Soviet empire in the late 1800's to find religious and political freedom. After the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 many artists and creative people also came to the west. These immigrants were known as "White Russians". Scientist and artists searched wanted freedom of expression. After World War II (1940's) it was almost impossible to leave the Soviet Union for opportunities or experiences.

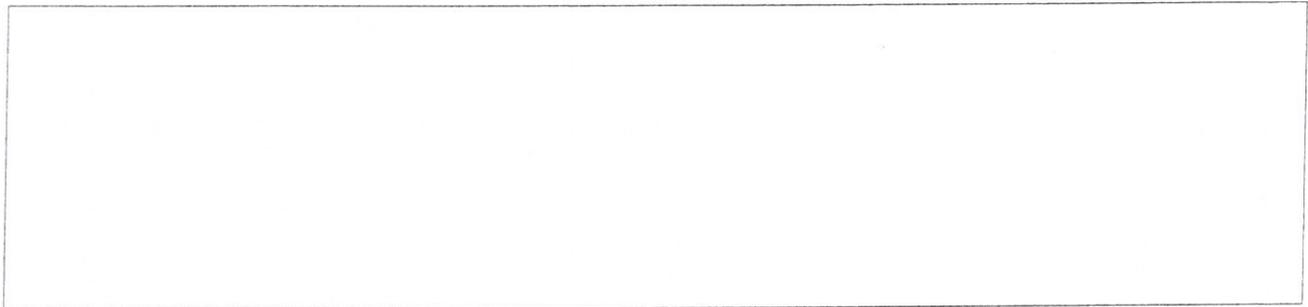
In the 1970's a new openness called *détente* forced the Soviet officials to relax their plan and let some dissidents, or people who disagreed with the government, leave the country. Even more people were allowed to leave in the late 1980's. Almost a half a million people came to the United States between 1990 and 1999. By 2000 almost 2 million Americans were of Russian ancestry.



### What did they hope to find?

The early immigrants (1840-1917) often came to the U.S. in search of religious or political freedoms. In their home country it might be against the law to attend church or speak out against the government. They could be put in jail or killed. Many wanted to come to the United States where the right to say what you think is protected, even if you disagree with the people in power.

In the 1970's with *détente* the Soviet government allowed more freedoms and some people who disagreed with the government were allowed to leave. In 1989 Soviet control ended over its neighbors. In Yugoslavia a civil war broke out when the people could not decide how their independent country should look. Cities were bombed and families left in search of peace.

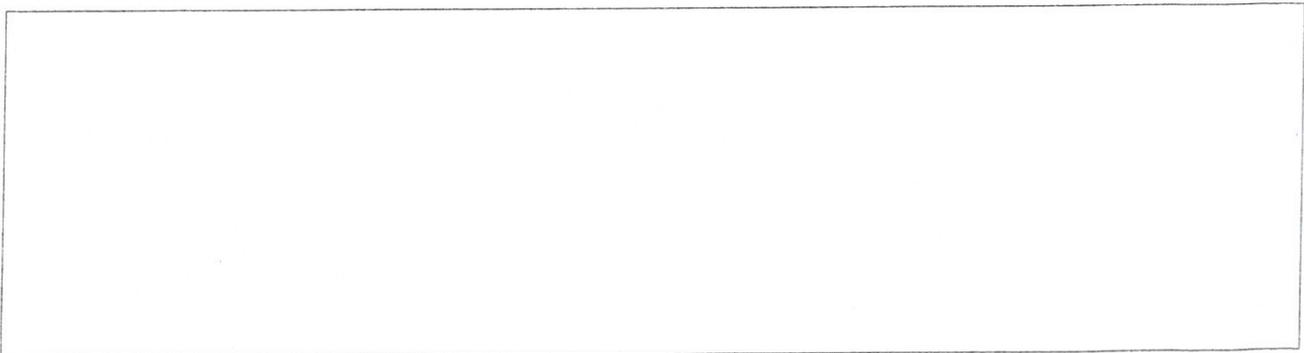


### Notable immigrants of Soviet or Eastern European Ancestry

Mikhail Baryshnikov was a famous dancer who defected, or left, to go to the west. He left his home country to be sure he had the freedom to be creative through dance and live his life as he wished.

Aleksander Solzenitzin was an author who went to prison and later lived in exile in the U.S. because he disagreed with the Soviet government.

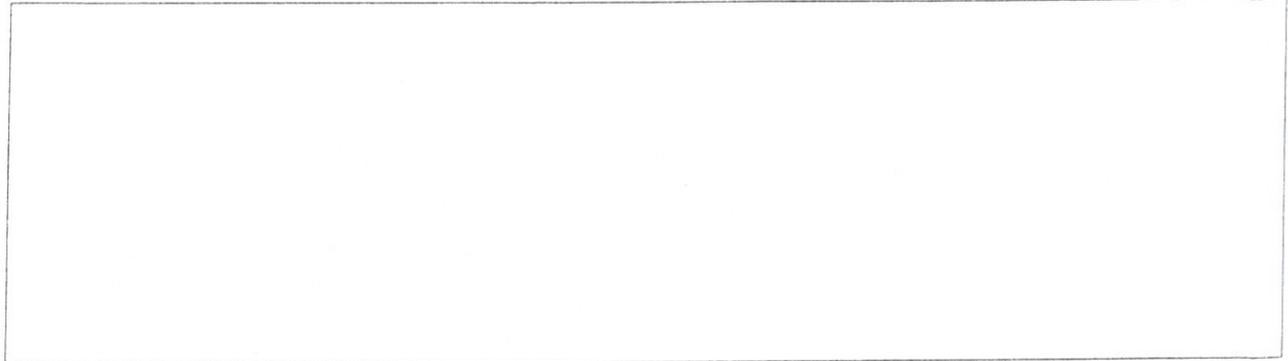
Vida Zuljevic is teacher in Pasco who left Yugoslavia during the civil war in the 1990's. Her family lived in refugee camps for several years until they found safety in the U.S. Zuljevic speaks several languages but did not know English when she arrived. She has earned three college degrees and is the author of a book of poems about her family's experiences.



## Why Vietnamese Immigrants Came to America

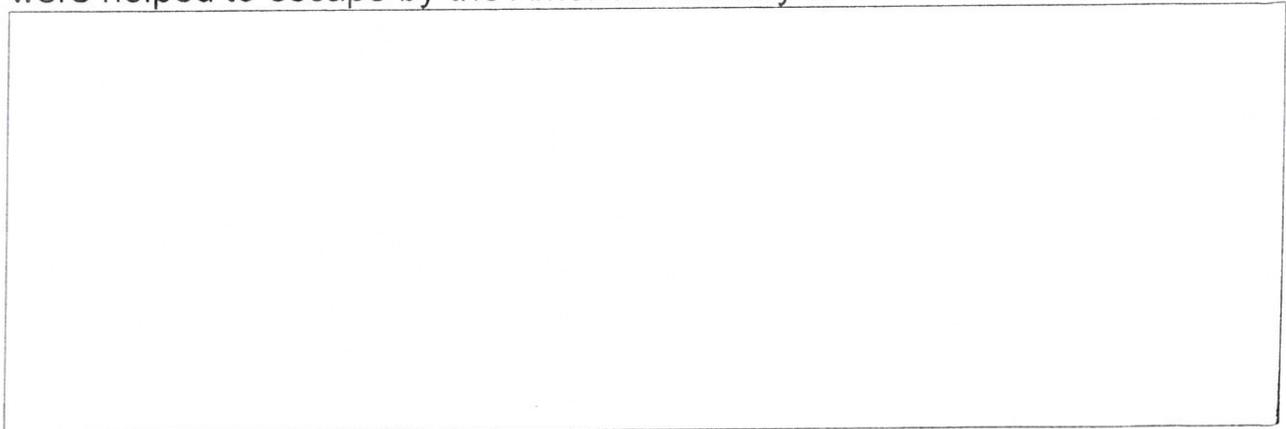
### Home Country/Destination

The Asian country of Vietnam was once divided into two parts. Even though people in both countries spoke Vietnamese and shared many traditions, a war began in 1955 when the North wanted the South to join them under communist rule. The United States supported the South and fought against the communist take over. After the war many Vietnamese came to cities in the U.S. such as Los Angeles, Seattle, and New Orleans.



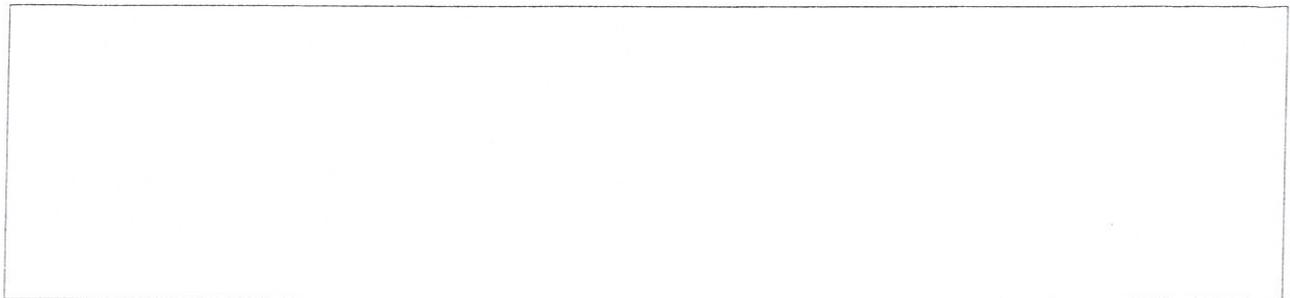
### Time frame and key events in home country

In Vietnam the thick jungle, rough land, and soldiers who hid in villages made it hard to identify and fight the enemy. By the time the war ended in 1975 58,000 American soldiers had died. Over 10 million people in Vietnam had lost their homes, businesses and jobs. The North won the war and brought communist rule to all of Vietnam. Many Vietnamese did not want to live under the communists so they tried to leave the country. Some traveled to refugee camps in nearby countries on small boats with many other people. These became known as the "boat people". Others crossed the borders or were helped to escape by the American military at the end of the war.



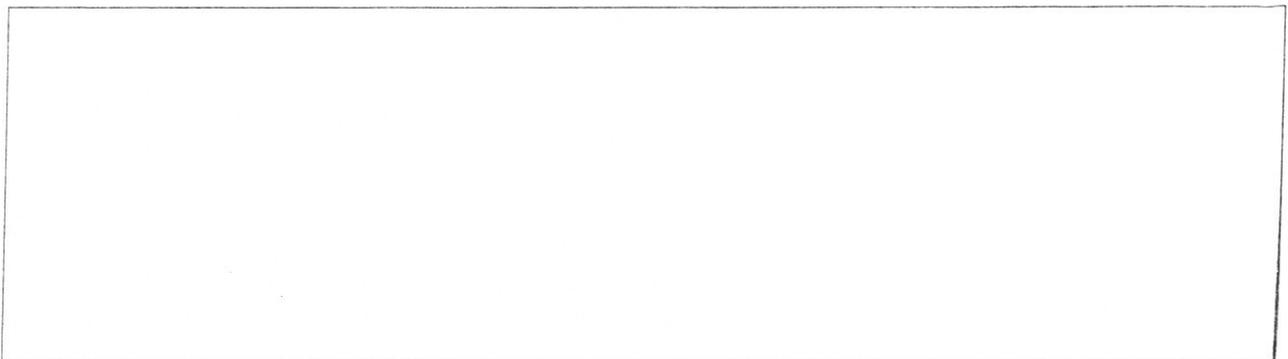
### **What did they hope to find?**

When the war ended many Vietnamese were afraid they would be punished because they had helped the Americans or the South Vietnamese Army. Others did not want to live under communist rule where there was no freedom of choice about jobs, school, business or religion. Many Americans were very generous and gave housing, food, and clothing to the new immigrants when they arrived in the United States. Some immigrants found jobs that were the same as they had in Vietnam like fishing and farming. Others worked hard in low paying jobs to send their children to college because they knew that education was important. Today Los Angeles has over 200,000 Vietnamese-Americans who live in "Little Saigon", a neighborhood named after the capital of their former country.



### **Notable Immigrants of Vietnamese Ancestry**

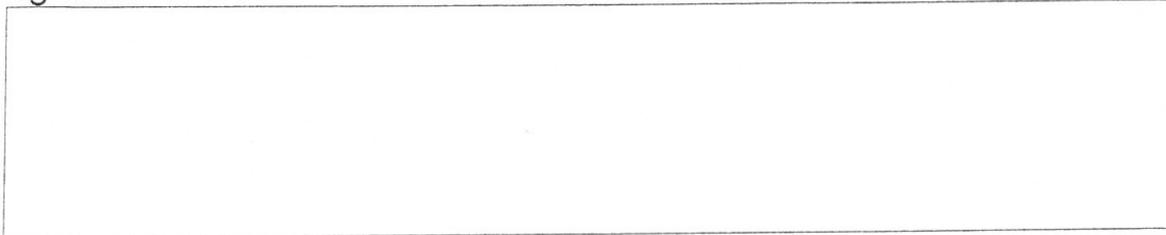
Since 1990 the number of Vietnamese people in the U.S. has doubled. Today there are now about 1.2 million Vietnamese people helping to make America successful. Many have become leaders in science, business, and education. Dr. Peter Tran is a veterinarian and Dr. An Hang was a scientist for Washington State University in Prosser for almost 30 years. They have helped many family members from Vietnam find a better life in Washington. Eugene Trinh is a NASA astronaut and was the first Vietnamese-American to travel in space. Joseph Cao of Louisiana was the first person born in Vietnam to be elected to the United States Congress.



## Why Mexican Americans Came to America

### Home Country/Destination

Mexico and the United States are part of North America and share a common border. Most Mexican immigrants travel across the southern border of the U.S. and enter through the southwestern states to cities like Houston, Los Angeles and New York. In Washington many immigrants live in the agricultural areas of the state.

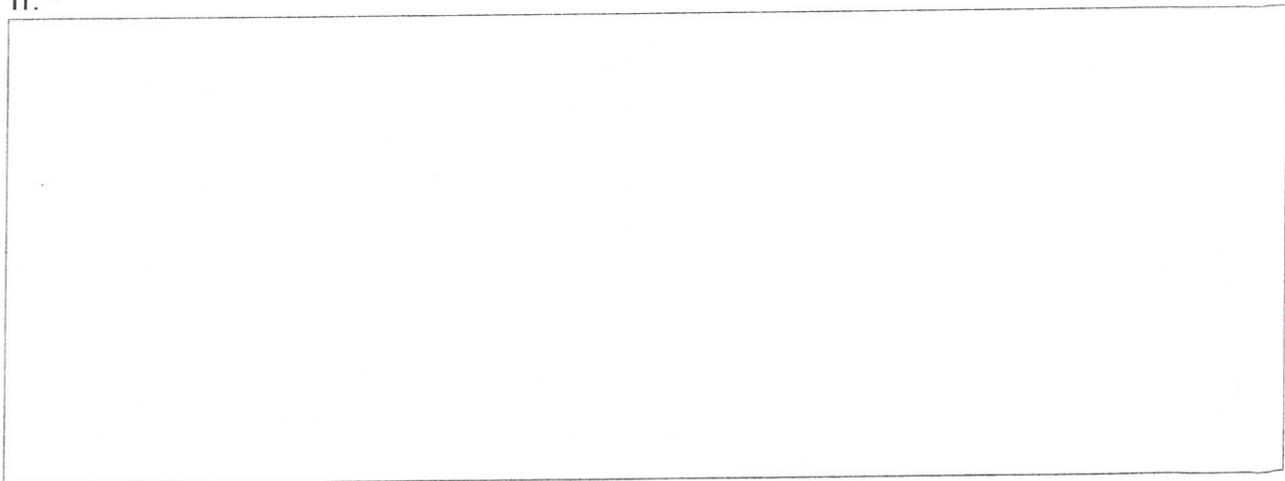


### Time frame and key events in home country

Mexico and the United States fought the Mexican-American War in 1846-48. At the end of the war the U.S. got land from Mexico that includes part of 8 states (California, Nevada, Utah, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Wyoming). Many Mexicans who lived there decided to stay in the United States and became citizens.

Porfirio Diaz was the leader of Mexico from 1884 – 1911. He helped the country grow by building railroads and businesses, but he treated poor people badly. In 1910 Pancho Villa led a revolution to end the rule of Diaz and thousands of people crossed the border into the United States.

During World War II (1940-1945) the government started the *bracero* program that allowed about five million workers to come to the U.S. to work on farms and build railroads. Many stayed after the war and became citizens. Over 300,000 Mexican Americans also served in the military during World War II.



### What did they hope to find?

At the end of the Mexican-American War many Mexicans decided stay on their land even though it was now part of the United States. The land and their homes they had there were important to them. They became U.S. citizens and helped to develop the western states.

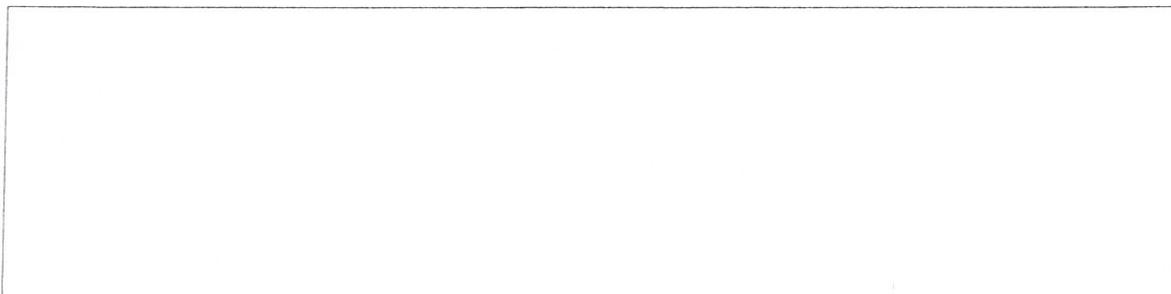
In Mexico under Diaz there was no education for the poor. Many people had to start working when they were very young. During the revolution many people lost their farms and homes. With no way to earn money they traveled north to the U.S. for jobs.

The *braceros* helped the U.S. during World War II when many American men were serving in the military and the country needed workers. Today only a small number of immigrants are allowed to come to the U.S. legally each year. Others choose to make the dangerous trip across the border illegally in search of a better life.



### Notable Immigrants of Mexican Ancestry

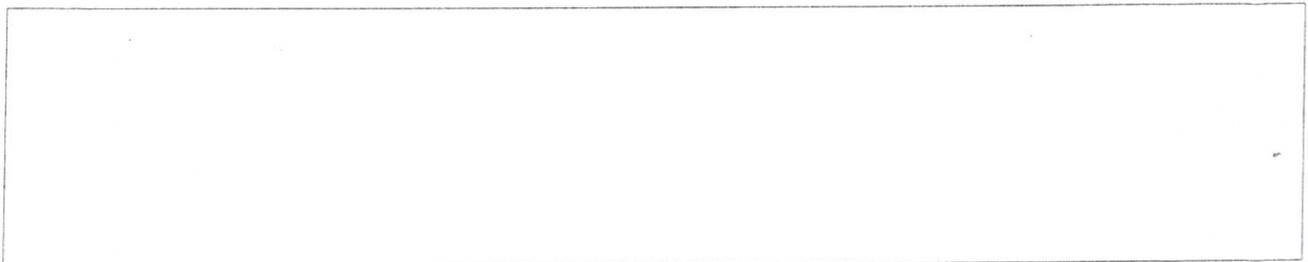
Today over 20 million Americans can trace their family roots to Mexico. Cesar Chavez was born in Arizona. He and his family became migrant workers after they lost their farm in the Great Depression of the 1930's. Later in his life Chavez helped farm workers build a union to protect their rights. To many he is a hero because he made their lives better. Jose Hernandez is a former migrant worker and the son of immigrants from Michoacán. Hernandez became an astronaut. Bill Richardson became governor of New Mexico in 2003. Singers Selena and Linda Ronstadt made records in both English and Spanish and entertained millions of people.



## Why Sudanese Immigrants Came to America

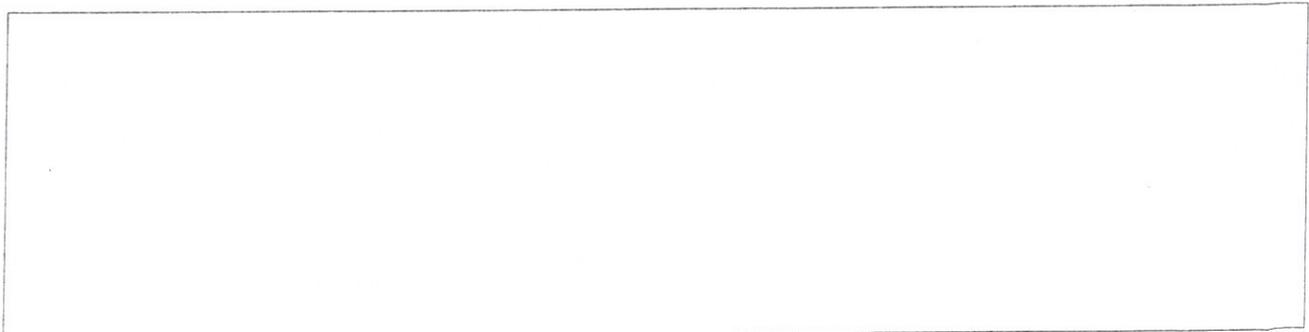
### Home Country/Destination

Sudan, the largest country in Africa, has been independent since 1956 but has had two civil wars. The Sudanese people in the Northern part of the country are mostly Muslim and speak Arabic, and in the south and west, the black African Sudanese speak English. The United Nations has helped provide food and shelter for the Sudanese people in their own country. The U.N. also helped support those who have left their country. Many spent time in refugee camps and finally made their way to the United States. Many refugees now live in cities such as New York, Omaha (Nebraska), and Seattle and Tri-Cities (Washington).



### Time frame and key events in home country

Since 1983 the northern and southern people of Sudan have been fighting. This civil war has made everyday living very difficult. Money spent on the war left little money for food, education, and jobs for the people of Sudan. Very dry weather, or a drought, has made it hard for farmers to grow enough food. Over 4 and a half million people have died and another nine million had to leave their homes and live in refugee camps. Life in the camps was hard and many people became sick. Parents and children were often separated. Sometimes it was years before they knew if other family members were still alive. In 2003 refugees from Sudan first started to come to the United States in large numbers.



### **What did they hope to find?**

In Sudan schools and books were destroyed in the war and many teachers were killed. Children who lost their parents had to take care of themselves. Even if a school in their village was open, they probably could not go. Only 10% of women and girls in Sudan can read and about half of all the Sudanese people have been able to attend school. The people of Sudan faced starvation, were hunted by soldiers on 'death squads' and had dangerous lives in refugee camps. Those who came to the United States wanted a life of peace, to be allowed to practice their religion, and to receive an education.



### **Notable Immigrants of Sudanese Ancestry**

Most Sudanese immigrants have come to the United States in only the last 8 or 9 years. Many of these "lost boys" were younger than 15 when they first arrived. As they grew into men they learned English, attended college, and now lead the fight for human rights. Machot Lat attended high school in Seattle and the University of Washington. He started a community support organization in Seattle to help other Sudanese refugees. Lat said it was hard for him to learn English and his organization now helps other young Sudanese immigrants be successful in school. Manute Bol played basketball in the NBA for 10 years. He was able to help support charities in Sudan with his earnings as a professional athlete.

