MORE PEOPLE HAVE MIGRATED TO THE UNITED STATES THAN TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.

Why have so many seen America as a “promised land”? Below are three topics that explore the promise the United States has offered to people who have migrated here, the opportunities and problems they found, and the factors that push or pull people to come here. Each topic is related to the HISTORY® program America: Promised Land. Use the resources provided to research one of these topics. While doing so, remember what you learned in class about historical truth. Draw conclusions about the topics based on evidence supported across multiple sources.

RESEARCH TOPIC 1

Why was America considered a “promised land” for many immigrants who came here? Provide examples of the political, economic, and religious opportunities America offered, as well as examples of how immigrants took advantage of these opportunities. Also, why was America not necessarily a promised land for others who came here—e.g., enslaved people and some Asian immigrants—as well as for Native Americans, who were already here? Describe actions (and reasons for them) that were taken to prevent certain groups from coming to the United States or, once they were here, prevented them from being treated as equals. Also look at the impact of the arrival of foreign-born people on established groups in this country—e.g., Native Americans.

RESOURCES

- View a basic timeline of some key U.S. immigration history dates here: digitalhistory.uh.edu/timelines/timelinetopics.cfm?ttopicid=7 and here: libertyellisfoundation.org/immigration-timeline.
- Learn about the history of immigration to the U.S. since 1965 by reading this article on History.com: history.com/topics/us-immigration-since-1965.
- Read about why America offers opportunity for immigrants: heritage.org/immigration/commentary/americas-immigration-opportunity.
- View a narrative of a slave and his journey to freedom: http://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/jackson/jackson.html.

EVALUATING RESOURCES

For each resource given, evaluate the materials’ reliability and accuracy by answering the following questions:

AUTHOR: Who created this resource? Is his or her point of view reliable?

PLACE AND TIME: When was this resource produced? How might that affect its meaning?

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE: What historical information would help you understand this resource?

AUDIENCE: Who was the original audience for this resource? Who is its audience today?

REASON: Why was this resource produced?

THE MAIN IDEA: What point is the resource trying to make?

SIGNIFICANCE: How does this resource relate to the research topic?

- Read about the Chinese Exclusion Act, which made it illegal for Chinese laborers to immigrate to the U.S.: oubdocuments.gov/doc.php?doc=47.
- Read about the Immigration Act of 1924, which limited immigration to the United States: digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smId=3&psid=1116 and view a related chart here: http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5078.
- Read about the effects of immigration on Native American peoples: loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/immigration/native_american.html.
- Read about Native Americans’ journey to U.S. citizenship: history.com/this-day-in-history/the-indian-citizenship-act.
**RESEARCH TOPIC 2**

What were some of the reasons that different foreign-born groups came to the United States, and what opportunities—and problems—did they discover once here? Describe some unique contributions that different groups of people have made to America.

**RESOURCES**

- Read about why different groups of foreign-born people came to the U.S. in the 19th century: loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/riseind/immgnts/.
- Read about how foreign-born people have made important contributions to America's economy and culture: linkedin.com/pulse/20140924234234-319891-america-land-of-opportunity-ovation-immigrants-and cato.org/publications/commentary/immigrants-have-enriched-american-culture-enhanced-our-influence-world.
- Learn how westward expansion contributed to immigration from foreign lands and migration across the country: history.com/topics/westward-expansion.
- Read about the contributions Native Americans have made to America: scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/native-american-contributions/.
- Read about Native Americans’ journey to U.S. citizenship: history.com/this-day-in-history/the-indian-citizenship-act.
- Read this article about the Great Migration of African-Americans—migrating within the United States: smithsonianmag.com/history/long-lasting-legacy-great-migration-180960118.
- View a selection of oral histories from immigrants who arrived in America through Ellis Island at nps.gov/elis/education/classrooms/oral-histories.htm. You can also search the larger collection at libertyellisfoundation.org/oral-history-library.

**RESEARCH TOPIC 3**

What are different factors that "push" or "pull" people to the United States? Select one group or one time period of migration (e.g., New World settlement, Quaker migration from England, Chinese migrant workers, 20th-century African-American migration, Vietnamese refugees, etc.). Describe the different reasons these people migrated to or within the United States and the different push-and-pull factors that contributed to this migration. Evaluate whether the push or the pull factors had the greater impact on the group, and why.

**RESOURCES**

- Read about the various reasons different groups came to America: https://sites.google.com/site/thenorthsite/early-immigration-in-the-u-s-1.
- Read this article about the Great Migration of African-Americans moving within the United States: smithsonianmag.com/history/long-lasting-legacy-great-migration-180960118.
- Watch the story of the first Americans to migrate to North America and South America: history.com/topics/native-american-history/native-american-cultures/videos/the-first-americans.
- Read about the westward expansion of the United States: history.com/topics/westward-expansion.
- Read this article on key facts about refugees coming to the U.S.: pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/01/30/key-facts-about-refugees-to-the-u-s/.