The Increase of Immigration

Immigration, the movement of people into a country, increased dramatically in the decades prior to the Civil War. Where did most of the immigrants come from? Where did they choose to settle?

During the 1830s, a steady flow of immigrants arrived in the United States at a rate of about 60,000 a year. However, during the 1840s, that number tripled and then quadrupled in the 1850s. The vast majority of these new arrivals came from Ireland and Germany.

Words to watch for:

influx exodus

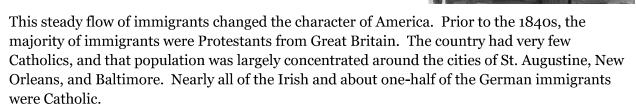
blight famine

In the Northeast, American manufacturers welcomed this influx of immigrants as many of them were willing to work extremely long hours for very little pay. The largest group of immigrants during this era came from Ireland. Between 1846 and 1860, more than 1.5 million people left the Emerald Isle and arrived in the United States.

The exodus of people from Ireland was brought on by the Irish Potato Famine. Ireland experienced a terrible outbreak of potato blight during the 1840s. The disease destroyed nearly all of the potato crops during that decade. The residents of that tiny island, who were under British rule at the time, suffered immensely. Close to 2 million perished from starvation and hunger-related diseases. Millions of others left Ireland, with most heading west to make America their new home. As the majority of these immigrants could not afford land, they settled in large cities and took up jobs in factories. Others helped build the nation's railroads and canals as the transportation revolution took hold.

America's second-largest group of immigrants during this era came from Germany. Some headed to the New World in search of land and opportunity, while others fled their home after a failed democratic revolution in 1848.

Between 1848 and 1860, more than 1 million people left German lands and settled in the United States. While most Irish immigrants were too poor to purchase land in America, many Germans prospered as farmers. German immigrants tended to found their own communities, and extensive networks were established to assist Germans who arrived in the country. Some settled in eastern states, but the majority moved to the Midwest or settled in the western territories.



Aside from their religion, these new Americans also brought with them their music, customs, holidays, and food. Many aspects of Irish and German culture filtered their way into the fabric of American society, further enriching the already diverse cultural landscape of America.

Guided Reading: Fill in the blanks below to create complete sentences.				
1. During the 1840s, the number of immigrants into the US tripled and then in the 1850s.				
2. In the Northeast, Americanimmigrants.	welcomed this influx of			
3. Between 1846 and 1860, more than Emerald Isle and arrived in the United States.	people left the			
4. Ireland experienced a terrible outbreak of potato during the 1840s.				
5. The Irish people, who were undersuffered immensely.	at the time,			
6. Irish immigrants also helped build the nation'sas the transportation revolution took hold.				
7. America's second-largest group of immigrants during	this era came from			
8. Between 1848 and 1860, more thanlands and settled in the United States.	people left German			
9. German immigrants tended to found their own				
10. Nearly all of the Irish and about one-half of the Germ	nan immigrants were			

Name____

Multiple Choice: Select the choice that completes the statement or answers the question.				
1	Where did the vast majority come from?	of	immigrants, around the mid-19th Century,	
	Great Britain and Ireland		Ireland and Germany Ireland and Italy	
2 a. b.	What event helped to spark the British conquest of Ireland a failed revolution in 1848	a n c. d.	nass migration of Irish to the United States? the St. Patrick's Day Massacre the Irish Potato Famine	
a. b. c.	Which of the following state Most settled in large cities. Most became farmers. Most settled in the Midwest. Most settled in the western territoric		nts is true of most Irish immigrants?	
	How many Germans came t	o A	merica between 1848 and 1860?	
	around 500,000 just under 1 million	c. d.	just over 1 million more than 2 million	
5 Which of the following statements is <u>NOT</u> true of German immigrants? a. German immigrants tended to found their own communities. b. Extensive networks were established to assist Germans who arrived in the country. c. Most were too poor to purchase their own land. d. The majority moved to the Midwest or settled in the western territories. Vocabulary: Match each word with its correct definition. Consider how the word is used in the lesson. This might help you define each term. Use a dictionary to help if necessary.				
	New World		blight	
	influx exodus	e.	famine	
6	extreme scarcity of food			
7	a name used for the majorit the Americas	y of	Earth's Western Hemisphere, specifically	
8	a plant disease, especially of and smuts	ne o	caused by fungi such as mildews, rusts,	
9	a mass departure of people,	esp	pecially emigrants	
10	an arrival or entry of large n	um	bers of people	

Name____

Summarize: Answer the following questions in the space provided. Attempt to respond in a complete sentence for each question. Be sure to use correct capitalization and punctuation!

- 1. Who tended to settle in American cities?
- 2. What event led to a large number of Germans immigrating to America?
- 3. When was the Irish Potato Famine?
- 4. Where did most German immigrants settle?
- 5. Why did German immigrants prosper more than the typical Irish immigrant?
- 6. How many Germans immigrated to the US between 1848 and 1860?

Student Response: Write a paragraph addressing the questions raised below. A thorough response should consist of three to five complete sentences.

7. In this lesson, you learned about the massive influx of Irish and German immigrants into the US during the mid-19th Century. In what ways were Irish and German immigrants similar? In what ways were they different?