BUILDING A MORE PERFECT UNION PART II



NATIONAL

ENDOWMENT FOR THE

IUMANITIES







EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

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GUIDING QUESTION:

How did political and social attitudes toward immigration change between the 1920s and the 1960s?

OVERVIEW

In this lesson, students will use primary sources to examine how the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965 illustrated a shift in American attitudes toward immigration. Students will determine to what extent the Immigration Act of 1965 influenced ethnic and racial demographic changes in their community.

OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this activity, students will be able to:

- Analyze the different perspectives that influenced immigration law in American history;
- Examine primary sources related to the Immigration Act of 1924 to determine how the act restricted immigration to the United States;
- > Examine primary sources related to the Immigration Act of 1965 to determine how the act achieved the goals of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s by promoting more diverse and inclusive immigration from previously restricted parts of the world; and
- > Evaluate the effect of the Immigration Act of 1965 on demographic changes in modern-day America.

STANDARDS CONNECTIONS

CONNECTIONS TO COMMON CORE

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information
- > CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.7 Integrate quantitative or technical analysis (e.g., charts, research data) with qualitative analysis in print or digital text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.9 Compare and contrast treatments of the same topic in several primary and secondary sources.

CONNECTIONS TO C3 FRAMEWORK

- > D2.His.1.9-12. Evaluate how historical events and developments were shaped by unique circumstances of time and place as well as broader historical contexts.
- > D2.His.2.9-12. Analyze change and continuity in historical eras.

DOCUMENTS USED

PRIMARY SOURCES

Chart, No. 104.—Immigration Quotas Alloted and Quota Aliens Admitted, by Country of Birth, Years Ended June 30, 1925 to 1938, 1940 (page 103) U.S. Census Bureau https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/1940/ compendia/statab/61ed/1939-02.pdf Letter, President John F. Kennedy, Letter to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives on the Revision of Immigration Laws, July 23, 1963 (excerpt) The American Presidency Project, University of California at Santa Barbara

https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/letter-thepresident-the-senate-and-the-speaker-the-house-revisionthe-immigration-laws

Political cartoon, Gregg, *Whose U.S. is this anyway? The Fiery Cross* [Indianapolis, Indiana], May 9, 1924 Hoosier State Chronicles: Indiana's Digital Historic Newspaper Program

https://newspapers.library.in.gov/?a=d&d=FC19240509&e=-------en-20--1--txt-txIN------

Speech, Ellison DuRant Smith, *"Shut the Door": A Senator Speaks for Immigration Restriction*, April 9, 1924 (excerpt) History Matters, George Mason University <u>https://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5080</u>

Speech, President Lyndon Johnson, Remarks on Immigration Policy to a Group Interested in the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge Commemorative Stamp, September 18, 1964 (excerpt) The American Presidency Project, University of California at Santa Barbara

https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/241471

SECONDARY SOURCES

U.S. Census Bureau https://www.census.gov/data.html

TEACHER-CREATED MATERIALS

- > Primary Source Packet
- > Immigration Analysis Sheet
- > Immigration Analysis Sheet Answer Key

ACTIVITY PREPARATION

- > Organize students into groups of three or four students each.
- > Write the following terms on the board: restrictive, nativism, inclusive, and civil rights.
- > Make one copy of the Primary Source Packet for each group.
- Make one copy of the Immigration Analysis Sheet for each student.
- > Print one copy of the Immigration Analysis Sheet Answer Key for teacher use.

CONNECTIONS

This resource features several lessons that highlight how changing American attitudes have led to changes in the legal, political, and social fabric of the nation to create a more perfect union.

PROCEDURE

ACTIVITY ONE (15 MINUTES)

- > Ask students to define the following terms in their own words: restrictive, nativism, inclusive, and civil rights. Assist with vocabulary strategies or provide additional support as needed.
- > Ask students to explain the difference between restriction and inclusivity as it applies to immigration. What factors might influence the government to restrict immigration? What factors might influence the government to expand immigration?

ACTIVITY TWO (20 MINUTES)

- > Distribute one Primary Source Packet to each group.
- > Ask group members to chose either source A or B to complete the analysis questions.
- > Ask students to share their responses within their groups.
- > Distribute one Immigration Analysis Sheet to each student.
- > Ask students to work as a class to list the reasons why Americans in the 1920s wanted to restrict immigration. Ask students to draw from Sources A and B as well as their knowledge of the 1910s and early 1920s.
- Explain to students the actions taken by the U.S. government in the Emergency Quota Act of 1921 and the Immigration Act of 1924. Have students summarize these laws on their Immigration Analysis Sheet.
- Project the Chart, No. 104... to the class (students have a copy in their Immigration Analysis Sheet for annotation). Annotate the chart as students make observations. Help students analyze the chart. Ask students:
 - » What trends do you observe when you analyze this chart?
 - What do you notice when comparing the levels of immigrants coming from different regions of the world? Which parts of the world had the least number of immigrants? The most?
 - » How does the chart show the effects of the Immigration Act of 1924 on immigration levels from southern Europe, Asia, and Africa?
 - » Did all nations use their full quotas?
 - » What does this information tell us about the effects of these two laws?

- Explain to the class that they are going to "fast forward" to the 1960s. Ask group members to read and analyze sources C (from President John F. Kennedy) and D (from President Lyndon Johnson). Ask students to complete the analysis questions and share their responses with their group members.
- > Explain the changes brought about by the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965.

ASSESSMENT OPTIONS

Direct students to research their community's demographics using U.S. census data. Ask students to analyze the impact of these immigration policies on their communities. Students may present their findings in writing, as a short presentation, or in the format of a news broadcast.

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN THIS TOPIC MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN RESEARCHING THE FOLLOWING FOR AN NHD PROJECT

- > Know Nothing Party (1850s)
- > New York City Draft Riots (1863)
- > Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)
- > Tydings-McDuffie Act (1946)

To access a PDF containing all of the sources and materials to complete this lesson plan, go to:

NHD.ORG/250



RELATED RESOURCES

Closer Readings Commentary: Everything Your Students Need to Know About Immigration History <u>https://edsitement.neh.gov/closer-readings/everything-your-students-need-know-about-immigration-history</u>

Lesson Plan: The Statue of Liberty: Bringing "The New Colossus" to America <u>https://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plans/statue-liberty-bringing-new-colossus-america</u>

Media Resource: BackStory: The Melting Pot: Americans & Assimilation <u>https://edsitement.neh.gov/media-resources/backstory-melting-pot-americans-assimilation</u>

Media Resource: To Be a Citizen? The History of Becoming American <u>https://edsitement.neh.gov/media-resources/backstory-be-citizen-history-becoming-american</u>

PRIMARY SOURCE PACKET: SOURCE A

Political cartoon, Gregg, *Whose U.S. is this anyway? The Fiery Cross* [Indianapolis, Indiana], May 9, 1924 Hoosier State Chronicles: Indiana's Digital Historic Newspaper Program <u>https://newspapers.library.in.gov/?a=d&d=FC19240509&e=-----en-20--1--txt-txIN------</u>



Who is the author/artist of this cartoon? _____

When was it drawn? _____

PRIMARY SOURCE PACKET: SOURCE A (CON'T)

Who do you think is the target audience for the cartoon? Why do you think that?

Why was this cartoon drawn? What purpose does it serve?

How do the ideas presented in this cartoon affect certain groups? In what ways?

How does this cartoon help you understand the nativist perspective?

How do you think this cartoon affected how Americans saw immigration?

PRIMARY SOURCE PACKET: SOURCE B

Speech, Ellison DuRant Smith, *"Shut the Door": A Senator Speaks for Immigration Restriction*, April 9, 1924 (excerpt) History Matters, George Mason University <u>https://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5080</u>

"... I think we now have sufficient population in our country for us to shut the door and to breed up a pure, unadulterated American citizenship. I recognize that there is a dangerous lack of distinction between people of a certain nationality and the breed of the dog. Who is an American? Is he an immigrant from Italy? Is he an immigrant from Germany? If you were to go abroad and someone were to meet you and say, "I met a typical American," what would flash into your mind as a typical American, the typical representative of that new Nation? Would it be the son of an Italian immigrant, the son of a German immigrant, the son of any of the breeds from the Orient, the son of the denizens of Africa? We must not get our ethnological distinctions mixed up without anthropological distinctions. It is the breed of the dog in which I am interested. I would like for the Members of the Senate to read that book just recently published by Madison Grant, The Passing of a Great Race. Thank God we have in America perhaps the largest percentage of any country in the world of the pure, unadulterated Anglo-Saxon stock; certainly the greatest of any nation in the Nordic breed. It is for the preservation of that splendid stock that has characterized us that I would make this not an asylum for the oppressed of all countries, but a country to assimilate and perfect that splendid type of manhood that has made America the foremost Nation in her progress and in her power, and yet the youngest of all the nations. I myself believe that the preservation of her institutions depends upon us now taking counsel with our condition and our experience during the last World War.

Without offense, but with regard to the salvation of our own, let us shut the door and assimilate what we have, and let us breed pure American citizens and develop our own American resources. I am more in favor of that than I am of our quota proposition . . . "

Who is the author of the speech? _____

When was the speech given? _____

PRIMARY SOURCE PACKET: SOURCE B (CON'T)

Who do you think is the target audience for the speech? Why do you think that?

Why do you think this speech was given? What purpose does it serve?

How do the ideas presented in this speech affect certain groups?

How does this speech help you understand the nativist perspective?

PRIMARY SOURCE PACKET: SOURCE C

Letter, President John F. Kennedy, Letter to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives on the Revision of Immigration Laws, July 23, 1963 (excerpt) The American Presidency Project, University of California at Santa Barbara <u>https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/letter-the-president-the-senate-and-the-speaker-the-house-revision-the-immigration-laws</u>

"... Present legislation establishes a system of annual quotas to govern immigration from each country. Under this system, 156,700 quota immigrants are permitted to enter the United States each year. The system is based upon the national origins of the population of the United States in 1920. The use of the year 1920 is arbitrary. It rests upon the fact that this system was introduced in 1924 and the last prior census was in 1920. The use of a national origins system is without basis in either logic or reason. It neither satisfies a national need nor accomplishes an international purpose. In an age of interdependence among nations, such a system is an anachronism, for it discriminates among applicants for admission into the United States on the basis of accident of birth.

Because of the composition of our population in 1920, the system is heavily weighted in favor of immigration from northern Europe and severely limits immigration from southern and eastern Europe and from other parts of the world. An American citizen with a Greek father or mother must wait at least 18 months to bring his parents here to join him. A citizen whose married son or daughter, or brother or sister, is Italian cannot obtain a quota number for them for an even longer time. Meanwhile, many thousands of quota numbers are wasted because they are not wanted or needed by nationals of the countries to which they are assigned.

I recommend that there be substituted for the national origins system a formula governing immigration to the United States which takes into account (1) the skills of the immigrant and their relationship to our needs, (a) the family relationship between immigrants and persons already here, so that the reuniting of families is encouraged, and (3) the priority of registration. Present law grants a preference to immigrants with special skills, education or training. It also grants a preference to various relatives of United States citizens and lawfully resident aliens. But it does so only within a national origins quota. It should be modified so that those with the greatest ability to add to the national welfare, no matter where they were born, are granted the highest priority. The next priority should go to those who seek to be reunited with their relatives. As between applicants with equal claims the earliest registrant should be the first admitted. . ."

Who is the author of the speech? _____

When was the speech given? _____

PRIMARY SOURCE PACKET: SOURCE C (CON'T)

Who do you think is the target audience for the speech? Why do you think that?

Why do you think this speech was given? What purpose does it serve?

How do the ideas presented in this speech affect certain groups?

How does this speech help you to understand how attitudes toward immigration were changing?

PRIMARY SOURCE PACKET: SOURCE D

Remarks, President Lyndon Johnson, Remarks on Immigration Policy to a Group Interested in the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge Commemorative Stamp. September 18, 1964 (excerpt) The American Presidency Project, University of California at Santa Barbara <u>https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/241471</u>

"... We must have laws regarding immigration. Personally, I believe our laws should not say that the relatives of any Americans are not welcome to become Americans themselves. We are committed to eliminating discrimination in our society. I believe we should also eliminate discrimination in the laws relating to those who would join our society from abroad. The strength of our Nation has been built from many groups from many lands"

Who is the author of the speech? _____

When was the speech given? _____

Who do you think is the target audience for the speech? Why do you think that?

Why do you think this speech was given? What purpose does it serve?

PRIMARY SOURCE PACKET: SOURCE D (CON'T)

How do this speech's ideas affect certain groups?

How does this speech help you to understand how attitudes towards immigration were changing?

IMMIGRATION ANALYSIS SHEET

Synthesize: What were the arguments to restrict immigration in the 1920s? What factors in the 1910s and 1920s contributed to this point of view?

U.S. Government Action:

Emergency Quota Act (1921)	Immigration Act of 1924

IMMIGRATION ANALYSIS SHEET (CON'T)

Chart, No. 104.—Immigration Quotas Alloted and Quota Aliens Admitted, by Country of Birth, Years Ended June 30, 1925 to 1938, 1940 (page 103)

U.S. Census Bureau

https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/1940/compendia/statab/61ed/1939-02.pdf

IMMIGRATION

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No. 104.—Immigration Quotas Allotted and Quota Aliens Admitted, by Country of Birth: Years Ended June 30, 1925 to 1938

Vore.—The Immigration Act of 1921 limited the number of aliens admitted annually of any nationality subject to the quota law, to 3 per cent of the number of foreign-born persons of such nationality resident in continental United States as determined by the census of 1900; the population plan of the act of 1924, to 2 per cent according to the census of 1800. The national origins clause of the later act, which became effective July 1, 1929, provided that the quota of any nationality should be computed by applying to 160,000 the ratio between the calculated number of inhabitants in continental United States in 1920 owing their origin to the nationality concerned and the total inhabitants in the United States of all nationalities subject to the quota law. (For estimates of white population by countries of origin, celeu-lated as a basis for immigration quotas, see table 97, Statistical Abstract, 1932.) Under the act of 1924, the minimum quota is 100. Both immigrant and nonimmigrant aliens may appear in quota law sta-tistics, or aliens of both classes may not be counted against quotas at all NOTE

	Under	Under Immigration Act of 1924							
Country or region Act of 1921, annual	Immi- gration	Annual quota, 1925- 1929	Admit- ted, 1925- 1929, total	Annual quota, 1930 to 1938	Admitted				
					1930- 1934, total	1935	1936	1937	1938
All countries	357, 803	164, 687	761, 622	153, 774	229, 301	17, 207	18, 675	27, 762	42, 494
Europe	356, 081	161, 422	749, 911	150, 501	219, 544	16, 325	17, 732	26, 654	40, 754
Albania Austria ⁴ Belgium Bulgaria Czechoslovakia	288 7,342 1,563 302 14,357	100 785 512 100 3,073	472 4, 213 2, 652 509 14, 668	100 1, 413 1, 304 100 2, 874	$\begin{array}{r} 425\\ 2,478\\ 1,922\\ 186\\ 5,210\end{array}$	74 641 173 52 810	107 569 185 63 766	98 409 211 57 1, 519	106 (*) 278 106 2,853
Danzig, Free City of Denmark Estonia Finland France.	1,348	228 2, 789 124 471 3, 954	1,065 13,114 612 2,363 17,730	100 1, 181 116 569 3, 086	188 2,093 251 1,114 4,891	13 146 28 105 413	16 135 34 72 464	41 192 30 215 565	89 323 40 496 720
Germany ³ Greece Hungary Iroland (Eire) ⁴ Italy	5,747	δ1, 227 100 473 28, 567 3, 845	242, 363 737 2, 445 132, 715 18, 383	25, 957 307 869 17, 853 5, 802	44, 144 1, 119 2, 213 27, 528 14, 338	4, 801 324 300 301 2, 127	6, 073 347 515 367 2, 467	11, 127 370 730 447 2, 905	3 17, 868 351 902 1, 100 3, 428
Latvia Lithuania Luxomburg Netherlands Norway.	1, 540 2, 629 92 3, 607 12, 202	142 344 100 1,648 6,453	754 1, 828 495 7, 708 30, 335	236 386 100 3,153 2,377	460 1,104 150 4,379 4,258	49 100 12 244 208	60 151 5 245 197	114 221 10 347 330	154 397 18 391 518
Poland Portugal Rumania Soviet Union (Rus-	30, 977 2, 465 7, 419	5, 982 503 603	29, 000 2, 449 3, 783	6, 524 440 2 377	12, 313 1, 302 1, 920	1, 682 303 295	1, 250 275 282	1, 855 236 371	4, 218 323 407
sia) Spain	24, 405 912	2, 248 131	10, 018 805	² 2, 712 252	5,012 1,178	357 252	391 250	578 244	917 264
Sweden Switzerland Turkey United Kingdom 4 Yugoslavla Other Europe	2,654 77,342 6,426	9, 561 2, 081 100 34, 007 671 * 500	44, 849 9, 683 431 148, 660 3, 081 5 1, 991	3, 314 1, 707 226 65, 721 845 3 500	4,009 2,789 191 68,045 1,772 * 1,572	160 192 55 1,679 215 * 135	154 189 72 1, 638 291 * 102	303 312 48 2, 107 527 * 125	364 427 63 2, 636 852 5 145
Asia	1, 261 122	δ 1, 424 δ 1, 200	° 4, 627 ° 1, 667	⁵ 1, 423 ⁵ 1, 200	* 4, 849 * 754	* 393 * 81	6 399 6 77	6 467 6 100	* 886 * 115
lands. American colonies of	359	* 621	⁶ 1, 470	* 650	0 017	6 157 6 051	6 173 6 294	• 196	¢ 223
European countries		(5)	\$ 3, 647	(*)	\$ 3, 237	° 251	• 294	\$ 339	6 516

¹ Quota for 1924; revisions from 1922 or 1923 allotments for certain countries were made due to changes in houndarks or other adjustments. Quota immigrants admitted, 1922 to 1924, are as follows: 1922, 943,653; 1923, 335,460; 1924, 357,643. For admissions by countries see the 1934 and previous issues of the Statistical Abstract.
 ⁴ Quota for 1934 to 1038. The total quota for 1930 and 1931 was 153,714; for 1932 and 1633, 153,831; the Soviet Union's quota was 2,784 for 1930 and 1931, and 2,701 for 1932 and 1933; Rumania's, 295 prior to 1934. There were also changes in 1932 and 1933 for certain countries included in "Other Europe," Asia, and Pacific Islands.
 ⁴ Austract.
 ⁴ All Ireland included with Germany in 1638.
 ⁴ All Ireland included with United Kingdom prior to 1925; thereafter, Northern Ireland only.
 ⁴ Anamiq quotas for colonies, dependencies, or protectorates in "Other Europe," Asia, Africa, Pacific Islands, and Anterica are included in the annual quotas of the European countries to which they belong.
 ⁶ Includes quota immigrants born in colonies, dependencies, or protectorates of European countries. Source: Department of Labor. Immigration and Naturalization Service; Annual Report of Secretary and

Source: Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service; Annual Report of Secretary and mimeographed releases.

IMMIGRATION ANALYSIS SHEET (CON'T)

Who is the author of the act? _____

When was the act created?

Who do you think is the target audience? Why do you think that?

What do you notice when comparing the levels of immigrants coming from different regions of the world? Which parts of the world had the least number of immigrants? The most?

How does the chart show the effects of the Immigration Act of 1924 on immigration levels from southern Europe, Asia, and Africa?

IMMIGRATION ANALYSIS SHEET (CON'T)

Synthesize: What were the arguments that called for the revision of the immigration laws in the 1960s? What factors in the 1950s and 1960s contributed to this point of view?

U.S. Government Action:

Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 (Hart-Celler Act)

Did these trends affect the demographics of my state or community? In what ways? Use data available from the U.S. Census Bureau (census.gov/data.html) to support your analysis.

IMMIGRATION ANALYSIS SHEET ANSWER KEY

Synthesize: What were the arguments to restrict immigration in the 1920s? What factors in the 1910s and 1920s contributed to this point of view?

From Sources A and B:	Outside Information:
 Immigrants are trying to force their way into the U.S. The belief that the U.S. "belonged" to the people already living there Some immigrants are considered more or less desirable Racial and ethnic prejudice, stereotyping Reinforced white supremacy Believed limiting immigration would benefit the U.S. socially and economically 	 Immigration of a large number of people from Southern and Eastern Europe High unemployment after World War I Use of immigrant workers to break strikes Increased isolationism following World War I Rise in political rhetoric that is anti-immigration, antisemitic, anti-Catholic The resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s Russian Revolution (1917) Sacco and Vanzetti trial (1920) Great Migration Red Summer of 1919

U.S. Government Action:

Emergency Quota Act (1921)	Immigration Act of 1924
 The first law to place a limit on immigration Created a quota system to determine the numbers Immigration was limited to 3% of the residents in the 1910 census Gave much higher numbers to immigrants from Northern or Western Europe and much lower quotas to the rest of the world 	 Placed additional limits on immigration Immigration was limited to 2% of the residents in the 1890 census (further reduced immigration quotas from Eastern and Southern Europe) Created the U.S. Border Patrol Required immigrants to get visas at U.S. embassies or consulates before coming to the U.S.

IMMIGRATION ANALYSIS SHEET ANSWER KEY (CON'T)

Synthesize: What were the arguments to revise the immigration laws in the 1960s? What factors in the 1950s and 1960s contributed to this point of view?

From Sources C and D:	Outside Information:
 > The numbers are arbitrary, not based on logic > The world is more global and interconnected > It creates long wait times for family members > Many nations do not use their quotas > Desire to change the system to give preferences to skilled workers, people with family in the U.S. > The laws were discriminatory 	 An outgrowth of the Civil Rights Movement A push to remove discrimination from laws (Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965) Cold War tensions Increased globalization

U.S. Government Action:

Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 (Hart-Celler Act)

- > Ended the quota system
- > Gave preferences to skilled workers or workers in fields facing labor shortages, family members of U.S. citizens, and refugees

Did these trends affect the demographics of my state or community? In what ways? Use data available from the U.S. Census Bureau (census.gov/data.html) to support your analysis.

Answers will vary.