

Waves of Immigration Inquiry

On the other side of this handout, you'll find a table from the Pew Research Center that summarizes data about three waves of immigration to the United States. Based on this table, we know who came to the U.S. and when they came, but we don't know why. Your task will be to **find, read, and take notes on two sources that help you understand *why* one nationality or ethnic group came to the U.S. when they did.** Try to find sources that give you multiple perspectives on the issue, for example, political, social, cultural, or economic factors that led them to immigrate to the U.S.

Make sure your information comes from a reputable source. There is a lot of information on the Internet, but not all of it is accurate, trustworthy or even serious. It is therefore always a good idea to be somewhat skeptical about the information your searches deliver. Remember: if it looks like it was created in the dark resources of someone's basement, it probably isn't too reliable. To determine the validity of the site, ask yourself:

- Who/what published the Website in question—and why?
- Was the site produced by a government agency (.gov), a school (.edu), a non-profit organization (.org) or for a for-profit commercial entity (.com)?
- Was the page put on the web to inform? persuade? parody or satirize? Does the site's purpose appear to provide objective information? (If there are a lot of ads on the page, the site's overall objectivity could be questionable.) Look for links to: "About us" or "Philosophy" or "Background" or "Biography"
- Is it possible to identify the article's author(s)? If so, are credentials provided?
- Is the site a primary source of information, such as a government agency, a medical journal or scientific publication, or a secondary or even tertiary source, such as a site that talks about other sites or articles? (Primary sources are always preferred.) Also look for evidence of bias in the text or the sources presented.
- What is the page's date? (In most cases, you want your information to be as current as possible.)
- Is it appropriate for your purpose?

I'd encourage you to begin your search at the LAUSD digital library. This can be accessed by going first the Grant High School website (granths.org), clicking on 'academics,' 'library,' and then 'LAUSD Digital Library.' ProQuest, EBSCO, Facts on File, and Gale Databases should be your first stops. Try out a variety of keyword searches. As we get further into this unit, we'll work more on this together; for now, experiment to find what works best.

TABLE 1

Sources of Immigration to the U.S., by Era

Era and country		Total	%
Modern Era (1965-2015)		58,525,000	100
	Mexico	16,275,000	28
	China*	3,175,000	5
	India	2,700,000	5
	Philippines	2,350,000	4
	Korea	1,725,000	3
	Vietnam	1,500,000	3
	Cuba	1,550,000	3
	El Salvador	1,500,000	3
	Former USSR	1,450,000	2
	Dominican Republic	1,325,000	2
Region totals	Latin America	29,750,000	51
	South/East Asia	14,700,000	25
	Europe, total	6,900,000	12
	Africa/Middle East	4,550,000	8
	Canada**	1,150,000	2
	All other	1,450,000	2
Southern/Eastern Europe Wave (1890-1919)		18,244,000	100
	Italy	3,764,000	21
	Austria-Hungary	3,690,000	20
	Russia & Poland	3,166,000	17
	United Kingdom	1,170,000	6
	Germany	1,082,000	6
	Ireland***	917,000	5
Region totals	Europe, total	16,134,000	88
	North/West Europe	4,757,000	26
	South/East Europe	11,377,000	62
	Canada	835,000	5
	Latin America	551,000	3
	South/East Asia	315,000	2
	Africa/Middle East	332,000	2
Other/Not specified	77,000	<0.5	
Northern Europe Wave (1840-1889)		14,314,000	100
	Germany	4,282,000	30
	Ireland***	3,209,000	22
	United Kingdom	2,586,000	18
	Norway-Sweden	883,000	6
Region totals	Europe, total	12,757,000	89
	North/West Europe	11,700,000	82
	South/East Europe	1,058,000	7
	Canada	1,034,000	7
	Latin America	101,000	1
	South/East Asia	293,000	2
	Africa/Middle East	5,000	<0.5
Other/Not specified	124,000	1	

Note: Population figures rounded to the nearest 25,000 for 1965-2015; nearest thousand for earlier waves. Data for 1965-2015 include legal and unauthorized immigrants; for 1840-1919, only legal admissions are included. *Includes Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macao. **Includes other North America. ***Includes Northern Ireland. Persons from Puerto Rico not included.

Source: For 1965-2015, Pew Research Center estimates based on adjusted census data; for 1840-1919, Office of Immigration Statistics, *Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, 2008, Table 2*

This is also →
sometimes
referred to as the
fourth wave of
immigration.

This is also →
sometimes
referred to as the
third wave, or
New Immigration.

This is also →
sometimes
referred to as the
second wave of
immigration.