

Immigration

Industrial Revolution and Immigration

- During the Industrial Revolution, the amount of goods produced in the United States increased tremendously
- This increase in production created a need for workers in factories.
- Immigrants to America filled this need.

Immigration from Europe

- Before 1880's most immigrants were from northern and western Europe
 - Germans were the biggest single group
 - Many became farmers in the mid-west
 - Irish
 - Many came because of the potato famine in Ireland.
 - Stayed in the cities where they arrived
- After 1880's millions of Catholics and Jews from southern and eastern Europe began arriving
 - Many came to fill factory jobs
 - Many came because of poor treatment in their country
 - Settled in neighborhoods in cities around other immigrants from their countries.

Immigrants from Asia

- About 300,000 Chinese came to the U.S. between 1849-1882
 - Many worked in California during the Gold Rush and helped build railroads
- Many Asians worked for low wages and went back home very "rich" because it was more than they could make at home

Why come to America?

- Democracy and freedom
- Opportunity for better life
 - Wages were very low in Asia
 - Population in Europe doubled
 - People needed food, homes, jobs
 - Not enough room in Europe
 - Famine in Europe
- Freedom of religion
 - European Jews were treated very poorly

Life in America

- New immigrants helped changed life in America
- Gave labor and inventions to the nation's economy
 - Customs enriched America's culture
- Are we a "melting pot" or a "salad bowl?"

Reaction to the Immigrants

- Many *Nativists* (native-born Americans) were against the new immigrants
 - worried that immigrants would take jobs from Americans
 - Saw differences in customs and religion as proof that immigrants weren't *real* Americans
 - Taking care of new immigrants cost tax payers money
 - Schooling
 - Extra city services
- Some people refused to hire immigrants
- Others became violent
 - KKK
 - White supremacy
 - Anti-Semitic
 - Used terror tactics to intimidate



American Party

- "Know-Nothings"
 - Anti-Catholic and anti-foreign
 - Called for cuts in immigration
- Know-Nothings bum down Irish church in Philadelphia



Racism and Prejudice

- Much of the reaction to immigrants was based on racism and prejudice
 - 1790 law said only whites could become naturalized citizens
 - Chinese Exclusion Act 1882 stopped Chinese from immigrating to the U.S.
- The truth is, of course, that immigrants often worked jobs that others would not take
- Immigrant customs and culture enriched American Society.