General World Cultures

Chapter 6- Settlers from other Lands

**plantation**- a large farm that grows a single crop

**prejudice**- judging people without knowing them

**discrimination**- treating some people worse than others because of prejudice

**ghetto**- a neighborhood where a particular ethnic group is forced to live because of prejudice

**quota**- a limited amount

**refugee**- a person who flees his or her home because of war, political danger, famine, or economic hardship

**multicultural**- involving many cultures mixed together

**The French and the English**

\* Some of the first European immigrants to America were French fur traders. The woods of North America were full of beavers, otters, and mink. French traders would get the furs from American Indians in exchange for European-made goods. The traders could then make money selling the furs in Europe.

Do you think that it is ethical to sell or trade furs of animals? Defend your answer.

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\* English settlers began arriving, too. Soon the French and English were arguing about who had the right to trade where. In 1754, war broke out between them. It was called the French and Indian War, because most of the American Indians sided with the French. The British won, and that is why English is now the main language in Canada and the United States.

\* A group of French settlers moved south. They migrated from a region in Canada called Acadia, which included what are today the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. These settlers ended up in Louisiana. Today, their descendants, called Cajuns, live in New Orleans.

**African Americans: Unwilling Immigrants**

\* The ancestors of most African Americans came to America as enslaved people. The first Africans that are known to have come to North America arrived in 1619. Early settlers in the American South started growing tobacco on **plantations**. The plantation owners bought Africans to do the work. Many Americans- mostly in the South, but also in the North- owned Africans as house servants.

\* Slavery in the United States was a terrible practice. It lasted until the Civil War of 1861 to 1865. After the war, African Americans were free. However, many African Americans were poor and had no political or economic power. They were treated with hatred and **prejudice** by former slave owners and others.

\* Many African Americans moved to cities in the north to get away from the hatred and to find jobs. Yet in the north, they experienced **discrimination**. Employers would not hire African Americans because of their skin color. They had a difficult time finding decent housing. They were forced to live in poor parts of town called **ghettos**.

\* Slavery never took hold in Canada, so Canada has fewer citizens descended from Africans than the United States does. Today, about 12 percent of the U.S. population is made up of African Americans. In recent years, African Americans have made gains, both socially and economically. African Americans can now be found in every profession. Still this group faces discrimination. In general, African Americans earn less than people of European descent, for example.

\* African Americans have deeply affected American culture. Their work helped to build the economy of the south. After the Civil War, many African Americans moved west and became cowboys.

\* African American folk tales, such as the Brer Rabbit stories, have become part of American folklore. We will now view them at the following site:

<http://americanfolklore.net/folklore/brer-rabbit/>

African Americans have also influenced the kind of English spoken in the United States. In addition, almost every form of music born in the United States has roots in African American culture. This includes jazz, blues, ragtime, soul, rock ‘n’ roll, and rap.

**The Hispanic Southwest**

\* In the 1800s, the U.S. was a growing nation. However, Mexico- founded by Spanish colonists- also was growing. The Spaniards already occupied the lands from Texas to California.

\* Nonetheless, settlers from the U.S. began moving into Texas until they outnumbered the Hispanics, or people of Spanish background. Texas broke away from Mexico in 1835. It joined the U.S. ten years later. In 1846, the U.S. went to war with Mexico and won. Many Hispanics thus ended up living within the borders of the United States.

\* The southwestern U.S. still shows Hispanic influence. In fact, we are seeing their influence in Illinois. Various foods, celebrations, etc. have become part of our culture. Many of the people have Mexican ancestors. Many speak Spanish- some, in fact, speak Spanish as their first language. Details such as arched doorways and red tile roofs give buildings a Spanish look. Mexican styles of cooking are very popular (burrito for Mr. Cutright!!)

**Germany and Scandinavia**

\* The most common ethnic background in the U.S. is is German. There was never a single wave of German immigration, but German immigrants cam year after year. Immigrants came from other parts of northern Europe, too. Many came from Scandinavia- the countries of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland.

\* These immigrants came for land. In America, immigrants did not need money to own a piece of wilderness. If they could work and fight for land, it was theirs. Germans settled in Pennsylvania and across the midwestern plains. The Scandinavians settled in the plains, too, but farther north.

\* The German and Scandinavian heritage of the Midwestern U.S. is everywhere. Hamburgers and hot dogs are versions of German food. So are mustard, sauerkraut, and potato salad. The Christmas tree is a custom from northern Europe. Santa Claus is based on a Scandinavian legend.

**Early Immigrants From Asia**

Chinese immigrants played a key role in developing the West. They helped build the railroads, and they also worked in mining towns. Chinese communities- some called “Chinatowns- developed in many cities. Today, Vancouver, Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York also have Chinatowns.

\* Early Asian immigrants faced a great deal of racial prejudice. Chinese immigrants were not allowed to become U.S. citizens. From 1882 to 1943, Chinese people were not even allowed to enter the U.S. Canada, too, outlawed Chinese immigration for a while.

\* The first wave of Japanese immigrants came to work for California’s farmers in the 1890s. The newcomers quickly began leasing and buying farmland.

\* They did so well that, in 1913, a California law barred Japanese immigrants from buying land. A national law in 1924 went further and banned all immigrants from Japan. However, the Japanese immigrants in the United States already had built a strong community.

\* After Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the U.S. entered World War II. Months later, about 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry, most of them citizens, were imprisoned in internment camps. The same thing happened in Canada. Those sent to the camps lost their property. After the war, the Japanese community rebuilt. In 1988, the U.S. government apologized to the Japanese people sent to camps and paid each one $20,000.

**Later European Immigrants**

\* Agreat wave of European immigration started around 1860. In the next 20 years, more than 7 million immigrants poured into the United States. In the 20 years after that. almost 9 million immigrants came to the United States. Between 1900 and 1920, over 14 million immigrants entered the United States. Why might a person want to come to the U.S.? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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\* Before the Civil War, immigrants had come to this region mainly for land. After the Civil War, they came for jobs. Often, immigrants left Europe because of the growing population and lack of jobs. Industry was booming in the U.S. The new immigrants had little trouble finding work in the U.S. What type of jobs do you think were available? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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We will now view an excerpt from another textbook regarding industry in the 1800s. <http://teachersites.schoolworld.com/webpages/TBurke1/files/20.1%20The%20Growth%20of%20Industry.pdf>

\* Jobs were often in cities, where steel mills, meatpacking plants, and the clothing industry needed workers. By 1910, immigrants made up more than half the residents of the 18 largest cities in the United States. Immigrants found others from their homelands and moved near them. Would you move away from New Lenox if you knew you might never see or hear from you friends again? Explain? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Would you consider moving to another country where they did not speak English?

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Within these cities, groups of immigrants spoke their native language and ate foods they knew from home.

\* Do you think life was easy for immigrants? What might have been difficult?

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Life was not easy for these new U.S. residents. The immigrants often lived in slums. The work they did was hard, and their hours were long. The workers were not well paid. Also, many of the newcomers faced prejudice. Most had come from Eastern Europe and Italy. Many were Catholic or Jewish At home, they had been workers or peasants. In America, the middle-class Protestant majority, mostly of Northern European ancestry, looked down on them.

We will now view a Power Point about other conditions in the 1800s/early 1900s.

\* The new immigrants began to improve their lives. They learned English. Parents sent their children to school so they could have a better future. Today, the descendants of these immigrants form a large part of the population of Canada and the United States. Let’s see how many different cultures and ethnicities we have in our class. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Most Recent Immigration Patterns**

\* For a long time, Canada and the U.S. welcomed immigrants. Both countries needed workers, farmers, ranchers, and miners. Immigrants tamed the wilderness and helped build cities.

\* However, the 1920s needed fewer workers. Prejudice was on the rise. Both the U.S. and Canada passed immigration laws that set **quotas** to limit immigrants of certain nationalities.

\* Today, both countries still limit immigration by using quotas. Immigration has not ended, however. After World War II, a flood of people poured out of Asia and Eastern Europe into North America.

*Complete the Percentage of U.S. Population Graph Study on page 79.*

\* Many immigrants came to Canada and the United States to get away from Communist rule, ethnic persecution, and economic problems. Many were **refugees**, looking for freedom and safety.

\* More refugees came after the Vietnam War ended in 1975. They came, by the hundreds of thousands, from such Southeast Asian Countries as Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

\* Many immigrants now come to the U.S. from Mexico, Central America, and South America. Some are refugees, some come to work on farms, and many come to the country illegally. People can be granted work or school visas. Some of these people stay in the U.S. after the visa expires and thus become illegal aliens. Citizens and government are not sure what to do with the illegal immigrants. It will be a troublesome issue for years to come.

\* Canada and the U.S. have always been **melting pots.** This is a place where people of all different cultures blend in to form a collective group. Therefore, we are **multicultural**. Most of the big cities have large immigrant communities. Chicago has a large Polish community. Toronto has a large number of Greeks. Vancouver has a great deal of Asians. Detroit has many Arabic people. All of the food, music, arts, and customs are around us (even though we might not realize it!)

*Complete the Geographer’s Tool Kit Using Pie Graphs on page 81.*