

Lesson 26: The Great Wave of Immigration

What was life like for immigrants in the early 1900s?

Introduction

- In the early 1880s, a young American Jew named Emma Lazarus saw a boatload of Jewish immigrants who had just arrived in New York City.
- The Jews on the boat were fleeing a religious massacre in Russia.



Introduction

- Inspired by their suffering, Lazarus wrote a tribute poem in which the Statue of Liberty is a symbol of immigration and opportunity.
- The poem states,

*Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.*



Introduction

- Her words expressed the hopes of millions of people who made the journey to the United States during a great wave of immigration between 1880 and 1920.



Introduction

- Over those 40 years, more than 23 million immigrants arrived in the United States.
- Many were escaping poverty, political violence, and religious persecution, and others came seeking economic opportunity in a land of seemingly boundless promise.



Introduction

- Their languages, customs, music, and food made cities more diverse and exciting places.
- Yet many native-born Americans responded to the new arrivals with suspicion and prejudice.



Introduction

- People immigrate to the United States for various reasons. Some come here seeking better opportunities or to be with family. Others come here to escape turmoil in their native countries.



Introduction

- From 1880 to 1920, more than 23 million immigrants arrived in the United States.
- In this lesson, you will explore why different groups of immigrants came to the United States and what life was like for them when they arrived.



Vocabulary

- **Passport:** a document issued by a citizen's home government that identifies a person and permits travel to other countries
- **Nativism:** an attitude of resentment and superiority toward foreign-born people
- **Quota:** a limit based on numbers or proportions, such as the proportion of a country's population allowed to immigrate to the United States

Vocabulary

- **Refugee:** a person who flees his or her home or country to escape war, persecution, or other dangers
- **Assimilation:** the process by which immigrants or other newcomers acquire the attitudes, behaviors, and cultural patterns of the society around them
- **Pogrom:** an organized and violent persecution of a minority group