

# STEP INTO AMERICAN HISTORY ACTIVITY 17



## Cultural Exposition

Simulation Sheet 1

**Directions:** In this simulation, you will examine the experiences of the people who migrated to the United States from 1865 to 1900. To help you prepare, read the background information. Then answer the questions that follow.

### Background Information

From 1865 to 1900, approximately 14 million people immigrated to the United States, mostly from Europe and Asia. They transformed the country from a population that was overwhelmingly Protestant and white to a mixture of diverse backgrounds, values, and traditions. As in the past, immigrants from Germany, Great Britain, and Ireland continued to arrive in large numbers. However, they were joined by Eastern and Southern Europeans as well: Italians, Greeks, Poles, Slovaks, Russians, Armenians, Scandinavians, and Jews. Most Asian immigrants during this period were Chinese.

Many Americans feared that these new immigrants were bringing “political radicalism”—anarchism and socialism—with them. They also had a deep distrust of non-Protestant religions, particularly Catholicism. This led to a rise in nativism—a deep dislike of foreigners by native-born citizens. They called for the government to limit immigration. In the western part of the country, prejudice against the Chinese was strong. Anti-Chinese hostility and riots occurred in many western states.

The new immigrants forever changed the fabric of American society. People of various groups began to interact with one another. As a result, ideas, technologies, food, music, and more were borrowed and adapted.

1. How many immigrants arrived in the United States from 1865 to 1900? From where did they come?

---



---



---

2. What is nativism and how did it affect the lives of the newly arrived immigrants in the United States?

---



---



---

# STEP INTO AMERICAN HISTORY ACTIVITY 17



## Cultural Exposition

Simulation Sheet 2

**Directions:** "All the Nations are Welcome to the World's Columbian Exposition!" So stated a large sign welcoming people to the 1893 Chicago World's Fair—also known as the Columbian Exposition. More than 44 countries of the world set up model villages highlighting their countries' people, places, and technology. You are to set up a similar display highlighting an immigrant group to America. Complete the following worksheet as you prepare to display and present your immigrant group's experiences in America. Then, as a group, decide what format your display will take.

**Immigrant group:** \_\_\_\_\_

Characteristics and Customs

---

---

---

Where They Settled

---

Political Involvement

---

Cultural Contributions

---

---

Opposition Encountered

---

---

Notable Group Members

---

---

## Answer Key

### Step into American History Activity 17: Cultural Exposition 1

1. Approximately 14 million people immigrated to the United States from 1865 to 1900, mostly from Europe and Asia. Large numbers of German, British, and Irish immigrants were joined by Italians, Greeks, Poles, Slovaks, Russians, Armenians, Scandinavians, and Jews. Most Asian immigrants during this period were Chinese.

2. Nativism is a deep dislike of foreigners by native-born citizens. Nativist sentiment caused many native-born Americans to call for limits on immigration. In some areas, immigrants suffered violence at the hands of nativist groups.