

# A Nation of Immigrants

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Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_ *Student Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ /20 \_\_\_\_ Per. \_\_\_\_

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Use the word bank to fill in the blanks below:

backgrounds  
decade

immigrants  
persecution

potato  
railroad

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***“...’Give me your tired, your poor  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free ...  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!’”***

Emma Lazarus, “*The New Colossus*,” 1883  
~ inscribed on the base of the statue of Liberty.

More than any other, the United States is a nation of \_\_\_\_\_.

From the first inhabitants of North America who came in a slow migration across a land bridge from Asia, people from around the globe have constantly joined those already here. Spanish explorers, Pilgrim settlers, French fur trappers, Africans brought as slaves, Irish fleeing hunger, Europeans heading for lives free from \_\_\_\_\_, Latin Americans and Asians looking for economic opportunity – all have arrived.

After the first few centuries, when the entire north American continent was rural and land in the territories was “there for the taking,” most immigrants stopped where they entered. They usually crowded into cities along the coasts, joining family members or others with similar \_\_\_\_\_.

By the mid-nineteenth century large groups of people began coming in waves. When the \_\_\_\_\_ crop failed in Ireland. In 1845, more than a million Irish landed over the next few years; in the 1850s, thousands of Chinese workers were recruited to help build the transcontinental

\_\_\_\_\_. As the Northeast became industrialized, many new arrivals went to towns with factories.

Before the end of the century, most immigrants were from northern Europe, but in the astonishing wave of 8 million that came in a single \_\_\_\_\_ between 1900 and 1910, most were from southern and eastern Europe. More recently, many hail from Asia and Latin America.

Often more people want to come than the government feels the country can accommodate, so gaining entry has not always been easy. Over the years, laws controlling immigration placed quotas or outright exclusions on groups from a particular nation or geographic area. Although the exclusions have not always been fair, America has been a haven from persecution, whether economic, political, or religious. And it is a place where it is possible to start life anew as an American.

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### **Questions ~**

1. Immigrants to North America, after Columbus, encountered which peoples?
2. Nowadays, immigrants tend to come from which geographic areas?
3. How can more immigrants be accommodated?
4. Where is the Statue of Liberty?
5. The Statue of Liberty is a gift from what country?

### **More ...**

- Underline one sentence in the worksheet above that best summarizes this topic.
- Circle any words that are new to you.
- Write a paragraph about how a historical event led to mass immigration to the USA.