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TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES

Information Literacy and Historical Primary Sources



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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES



Michael Apfeldorf

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Chat Raise Hand Q&A

Type here to search

12:01 PM
6/25/2021

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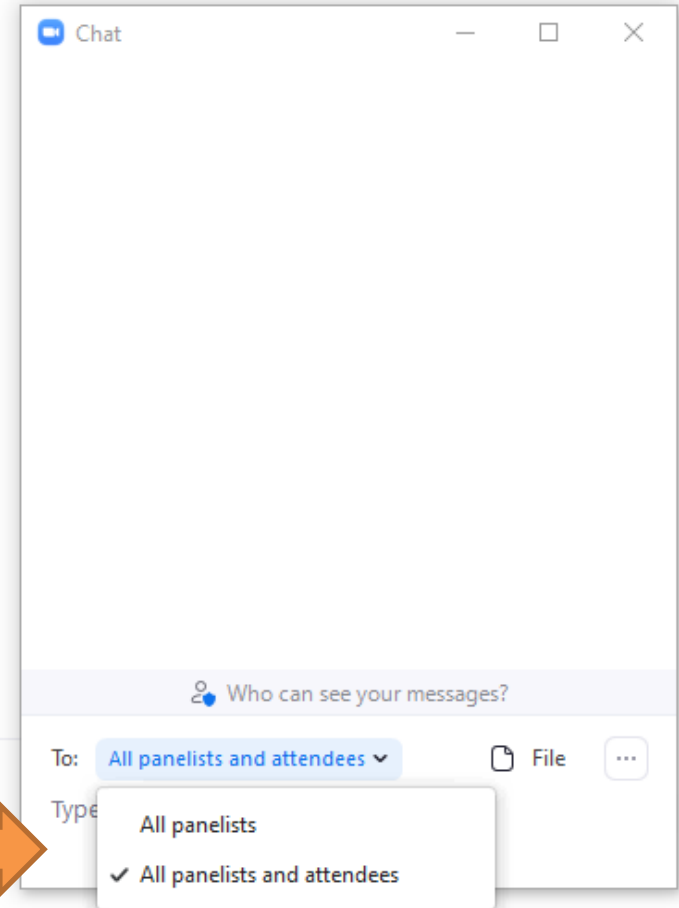
The image shows a Zoom webinar interface. At the top, there's a title bar with 'Zoom Webinar', a status bar indicating 'You are viewing Michael Apfeldorf's screen', and a 'View Options' dropdown menu. The main content area displays a slide from the 'LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES' series, featuring a large image of the United States Capitol dome. On the right side, there's a video thumbnail of Michael Apfeldorf. A yellow double-headed arrow points between the video thumbnail and the main content area. An orange arrow points from the text 'Select Standard' to the 'View' dropdown menu, which is open and shows three options: 'Standard', 'Side-by-side: Gallery', and 'Fullscreen'. The bottom of the screen shows the Zoom control bar with icons for 'Audio Settings', 'Chat', 'Raise Hand', and 'Q&A', along with a 'Leave' button. The Windows taskbar is visible at the very bottom, showing the search bar and system tray with the time '12:01 PM 6/25/2021'.

Zoom: introduce yourself in the chat

Please share:

- Your first name
- Where you're joining us from
- Why you're here

Please select **ALL PANELISTS AND ATTENDEES** in the to: box.



Objectives

- Practice information literacy skills with historical documents
- Reflect on applications to participants' teaching settings.

Information Literacy Focus Questions

Adapted from Stanford History Education Group

- What do I already believe? (**personal reflection**)
- Who is behind the information? (**sourcing**)
- What was happening at the time? (**contextualization**)
- What claims are being made? What evidence is offered? (**close reading**)
- What do other sources say? (**corroboration**)

Emigrants [i.e. Immigrants]
Landing at Ellis Island
(Thomas A. Edison, Inc., 1903)



00:10

02:38



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TEACHING WITH PRIMARY SOURCES

@TeachingLC







What are your thoughts on the topic of immigration? (personal reflection)

- What do I believe or know about this topic?
- How have I been personally affected by it?
- Where do my ideas come from?

Think about your students (personal reflection)

- Why is it important to help students identify their thoughts on a topic?
- And where their ideas come from?

Immigration Figures for 1903

best. dir

PUBLICATIONS OF THE IMMIGRATION RESTRICTION LEAGUE No. 38.

Immigration Figures for 1903.

(From data furnished by the Commissioner-General of Immigration.)

RECEIVED
DEC - 1 1903

Comparison of the Fiscal Years ending June 30, 1902 and 1903.

	1902.	1903.
Total immigration	648,743	857,046
Percentage of increase over 1902		32
Percentage of increase over 1901	33	76
Percentage of increase over 1899	108	175
Percentage of increase over 1898	183	274
Number debarred from entrance and returned within one year after landing	5,429	9,316
Per cent. debarred and returned	0.8	1.1
Number of illiterates over 14 years of age. [See Note 1.]	165,105	189,008
Per cent. of illiterate in total immigration over 14 years of age	28.7	25.0
Immigration from countries of Northern and Western Europe. [See Note 2.]	138,700	203,689
Per cent. of total immigration	21.4	23.8
Immigration from countries of Southern and Eastern Europe. [See Note 2.]	480,331	610,813
Per cent. of total immigration	74.0	71.3
Immigration from Asia	22,271	29,966
Per cent. of total immigration	3.4	3.5
Average money brought, in dollars	16	19
Per cent. of immigrants who have been in the United States before	9.5	8.9
Per cent. of total immigration having no occupation, including women and children	23.6	23.3
Per cent. of total immigration who were farm-laborers, laborers, or servants	60.6	57.3
Per cent. of total immigration destined for the four States of Ill., Mass., N.Y., and Pa.	67.8	65.4

NOTE 1.— Although the percentage of illiteracy shows an improvement this year over last, it should be remembered that these figures are based upon the manifests, which in turn are made up from the statements of the immigrants. One test recently made at New York showed that 17%

10

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What do you know about immigration in the early 20th century? (contextualization)

best dir

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10

Where can you go to get more context?

PRESENTATION

U.S. History Primary Source Timeline

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[U.S. History Primary Source Timeline](#)

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[The American Revolution, 1763 - 1783](#)

[The New Nation, 1783 - 1815](#)

[National Expansion and Reform, 1815 - 1880](#)

[Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861-1877](#)

[Rise of Industrial America, 1876-1900](#)

[Progressive Era to New Era, 1900-1929](#)

[Overview](#)

[Automobiles in the Progressive and New Eras](#)

[Cities During the Progressive Era](#)

[Conservation in the Progressive Era](#)

[Immigrants in the Progressive Era](#)

[← Previous Section](#)
[Conservation in the Progressive Era](#)

[Next Section →](#)
[Prohibition: A Case Study of Progressive Reform](#)

Immigrants in the Progressive Era



[New York, N.Y., immigrants' landing, Ellis Island]
Detroit Publishing Company

Between 1900 and 1915, more than 15 million immigrants arrived in the United States. That was about equal to the number of immigrants who had arrived in the previous 40 years combined. In 1910, three-fourths of New York City's population were either immigrants or first generation Americans (i.e. the sons and daughters of immigrants).

Not only were the numbers of immigrants swelling, the countries from which they came had changed dramatically as well. Unlike earlier immigrants, the majority of the newcomers after 1900 came from non-English speaking European countries. The principal source of immigrants was now southern and eastern Europe, especially Italy, Poland, and Russia, countries quite different in culture and language from the United States, and many immigrants had difficulty adjusting to life here.

At the same time, the United States had difficulty absorbing the immigrants. Most of the immigrants chose to settle in American cities, where jobs were located. As a result, the cities became ever more crowded. In addition, city services often failed to keep up with the flow of newcomers. Most of the

immigrants did find jobs, although they often worked in jobs that most native-born Americans would not take. Over time, however, many immigrants succeeded in improving their condition.

To find additional documents in [Loc.gov](#), search the collections using such terms as *immigration*, *immigrant*, or people from specific countries (e.g., *Polish*, *Irish*, or *Italian*).

“In the decades following the Civil War, the United States emerged as an industrial giant...The labor force that made industrialization possible was made up of millions of newly arrived immigrants...”

Rise of Industrial America: 1876-1900

“Unlike earlier immigrants, the majority of the newcomers after 1900 came from non-English speaking European countries...quite different in culture and language from the United States, and many immigrants had difficulty adjusting to life here. At the same time, the United States had difficulty absorbing the immigrants.”

Immigrants in the Progressive Era: 1900-1929

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sting

immigrants listed as able to read and write were, in fact, illiterate. The recent agitation for an educational test for immigrants has undoubtedly made the latter more disposed to assert their ability to read and write.

NOTE 2.—“Northern and Western Europe” includes the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Scandinavia, Belgium, Netherlands, and Switzerland.

“Southern and Eastern Europe” includes Austria-Hungary, Italy, Poland, Russia, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, and the Balkan States.

GENERAL REMARKS.—Immigration has reached the high-water mark during the past year, exceeding that of the largest previous year (1882) by nearly 70,000. It is gratifying to note an increase of over one-third in the proportion of those debarred and returned, and to testify to the great improvement in the efficiency of the service since the present Commissioner-General took office. Attempts are also being made to secure an adequate inspection on the frontiers of Canada and Mexico, and steps are being now taken to ascertain definitely the aliens in our penal and charitable institutions.

On the other hand, while there has been some increase in the immigration from Northern and Western Europe, the great proportion of immigration has come as usual from the less desirable races of Southern and Eastern Europe, and there has been a considerable influx of illiterate Japanese.

Hon. William Williams, Commissioner at New York, says in his report: “Without the proper execution of [the present laws] it is safe to say that thousands of additional aliens would have come here last year. But these laws do not reach a large body of immigrants who, while not of this class, are yet generally undesirable, because unintelligent, of low vitality, of poor physique, able to perform only the cheapest kind of manual labor, desirous of locating almost exclusively in the cities, by their competition tending to reduce the standard of living of the American wageworker, and unfitted mentally or morally for good citizenship. It would be quite impossible to accurately state what proportion of last year’s immigration should be classed as ‘undesirable.’ I believe that at least 200,000 (and probably more) aliens came here who, although they may be able to earn a living, yet are not wanted, will be of no benefit to the country, and will, on the contrary, be a detriment, because their presence will tend to lower our standards; and if these 200,000 persons could have been induced to stay at home, nobody, not even those clamoring for more labor, would have missed them. Their coming has been of benefit chiefly, if not only, to the transportation companies which brought them here.”

The largest elements in recent immigration were:

	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Southern Italian	65,639	84,346	115,704	152,915	196,117
Polish	28,466	46,938	43,617	69,620	82,343
Scandinavian	23,249	32,952	40,277	55,780	79,347
Hebrew	37,415	60,764	58,098	57,688	76,203
German	26,632	29,682	34,742	51,686	71,782
Irish	32,345	35,607	30,404	29,001	35,366
Slovak	15,838	29,243	29,343	36,934	34,427
Croatian and Slovenian	8,632	17,184	17,928	30,233	32,907

ILLITERACY.

Number of persons in each hundred immigrants over fourteen years of age who cannot write or cannot read and write their own language, from those races (*not nations*) which contributed upwards of 2,000 immigrants to the United States during any of the past four fiscal years:

WESTERN EUROPE.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Scandinavian	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.6
Scotch	—	1.2	1.2	1.2
Bohemian and Moravian	3.0	1.5	1.6	1.6
English	0.2	1.8	1.9	1.6
Irish	3.3	3.2	3.9	3.8
Finnish	2.7	2.2	1.4	2.2
French	3.9	3.9	4.8	3.8
German	5.8	4.1	5.4	4.6
Dutch and Flemish	9.6	7.8	7.6	6.9
Italian (North)	11.2	15.7	14.4	12.7
Average of above	4.2	5.6	4.4	3.9

EASTERN EUROPE (WITH SPAIN AND PORTUGAL).	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Spanish	—	—	—	8.9
Magyar	16.8	7.5	13.3	10.5
Roumanian	—	—	28.3	21.5
Slovak	27.9	30.7	25.9	21.6
Greek	17.1	25.9	30.0	27.7
Russian	—	—	—	31.9
Polish	31.2	37.5	38.4	32.1
Croatian and Slovenian	37.4	39.7	42.2	35.2
Bulgarian, Servian, Montenegrin	—	—	—	44.7
Lithuanian	31.7	49.8	54.1	46.6
Ruthenian	49.0	53.2	50.0	49.4
Italian (South)	54.6	59.1	56.4	51.4
Portuguese	59.9	63.8	71.6	73.2
Average of above	39.8	46.0	44.3	39.7

OTHER RACES.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Cuban	6.8	—	8.0	4.2
Chinese	—	6.9	—	12.9
Hebrew	22.9	23.6	28.6	26.5
Japanese	8.9	6.7	1.2	27.0
African (black)	—	—	—	32.5
Syrian	55.9	56.1	51.0	53.8

What claims are being made?

What evidence is provided to support those claims?

(close reading)

[T]he great proportion of immigration has come as usual from the less desirable races of Southern and Eastern Europe, and there has been a considerable influx of illiterate Japanese.

Williams, Commissioner at New York, says in his report: “[Immigration laws] do not reach a large body of immigrants who...are yet generally undesirable, because unintelligent, of low vitality, of poor physique, able to perform only the cheapest kind of manual labor...

“by their competition tending to reduce the standard of living of the American wageworker, and unfitted mentally or morally for good citizenship.” (p. 2)

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Bulgarian, Servian, Montenegrin	—	—	—	44.7
Lithuanian	31.7	49.8	54.1	46.6
Ruthenian	49.0	53.2	50.0	49.4
Italian (South)	54.6	59.1	56.4	51.4
Portuguese	59.9	63.8	71.6	73.2
Average of above	39.8	46.0	44.3	39.7

Where does information come from? (sourcing)

For publications and membership in the Immigration Restriction League address Prescott F. Hall, Secretary, Fiske Building, Boston. The dues for membership are as follows: For *annual* membership, one dollar, payable in advance upon admission and upon January 1st of each year; for *life* membership, ten dollars, payable upon admission, life members being exempt from annual dues.

The League is a strictly non-partisan and non-sectarian organization, with members from all parts of the United States. It advocates a stricter regulation of immigration, but not the exclusion of any immigrants whose character and standards fit them to become citizens.

3 M—1103 E.

Information Literacy Focus Questions

- What do I already believe? (personal reflection)
- Who is behind the information? (sourcing)
- What was happening at the time? (contextualization)
- What claims are being made? What evidence is offered? (close reading)
- What do other sources say? (corroboration)

What do other sources say?

Searching for additional information from the Library's collections might:

- Corroborate facts
- Present different perspectives
- Identify larger contexts or related issues
- What more?

Read and evaluate

Lewiston evening teller. [Idaho], Dec. 31, 1903

The Alien Bugbear

(New York Sun.)

' It is very true, as Mr. Andrew Carnegie said on Sunday, in discussing the immigration question, that it is the language a man speaks rather than the country from which he comes that determines his race. **Whatever** may be the tongue of the immigrant, he becomes an American as soon as he learns to speak our language.

Source

Context

Claims/
Evidence

Nor has the illiteracy which the advocates of the restriction of immigration would make a ground for exclusion proved a serious disqualification for naturalization and citizenship. A very great part of the Irish immigrants who came in the period when the flood of Irish immigration was at its height were poor and they were illiterate; yet now the percentage of illiteracy among the Irish race in this country is insignificant.

The arguments for the restriction of immigration now used are not at all novel or peculiar to any present condition. All of them were put forward

Lewiston evening teller. [volume], December 31, 1903, Page 4, Image 4

About [Lewiston evening teller. \[volume\]](#) ([Lewiston, Idaho](#)) 1903-1911

Image provided by: Idaho State Historical Society



Image: 4 of 8.

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Issues All Issues

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This is not mere theory. It is a fact proved in the examples of millions of immigrants. That the new speech is acquired rapidly is demonstrated in the steadily diminishing demand for newspapers printed in foreign languages. When, for instance, the great German immigration was pouring in, the cir-

Pere Marquette wreck, die-
ing, making the total death
two. Several others are still in a
cal condition.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 31.—
Alton Railway Felton, this
nied any knowledge of the
Alton to the Union Pacific.

BERLIN, Dec. 30.—Leopold, prince
regent of Bavaria in the place of his
mad brother, King Otto, was taken
suddenly and dangerously ill, today.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—A cable-
gram from Rear Admiral Lambertson,
says the Detroit has been sent to San
Domingo. The remainder of the ships
join the North Atlantic squadron at
Culebra, today.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31.—The
gunboat Bennington that sailed for
Panama today is a convoy for torpedo
destroyers Jones and Doble.



About Lewiston evening teller. [volume] (Lewiston, Idaho) 1903-1911

Lewiston, Idaho (1903-1911)

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Title:

Lewiston evening teller. [volume] : (Lewiston, Idaho) 1903-1911

Alternative Titles:

- Evening teller

Place of publication:

Lewiston, Idaho

Geographic coverage:

- Lewiston, Nez Perce, Idaho | View more titles from this: [City](#) [County](#), [State](#)

Publisher:

Teller Pub. Co.

Dates of publication:

1903-1911

Description:

- 1st year, no. 1 (Oct. 23, 1903)-2nd year, no. 223 (Oct. 29, 1904) ; 30th year, no. 1 (Jan. 1906)-
- Ceased with July 18, 1911 issue.

Frequency:

Daily (except Sun.)

Language:

- English

Subjects:

- Idaho--Lewiston.--fast--(OCoLC)fst01217687
- Lewiston (Idaho)--Newspapers.

Notes:



Lewiston evening teller. [volume] October 26, 1903 , Image 1

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[First Issue](#) | [Last Issue](#)

The Teller, Lewiston Teller, Lewiston Evening Teller, Lewiston Daily Teller, The Lewiston Teller, Lewiston Evening Teller and Lewiston Inter-State News

Lewiston, Idaho, originated as a northern mining and trading community along a steamboat route from Portland and was named Idaho's territorial capital in 1863. However, it did not hold that distinction for very long. By 1864, Lewiston began to decline, while the new southern settlement of Boise, located at the junction of the Oregon Trail and key mining routes, began to thrive. In the December 1864 legislative session, Idaho's Governor Caleb Lyon signed a capital relocation bill. In response, the citizens of Lewiston threatened to detain Lyon in Lewiston as well as confiscate the territorial archives and seal. The governor, fearing for his life, abandoned his position,

Pause to think

Revisit your earlier reflection.

How might your previously stated views on immigration have affected your reading of these documents?

What do other sources say?

Searching for additional information from the Library's collections might:

- Corroborate facts
- Present different perspectives
- Identify larger contexts or related issues
- What more?

Related Resources

Part of

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To help your students analyze these primary sources, get a graphic organizer and guides.

PRIMARY SOURCE SET

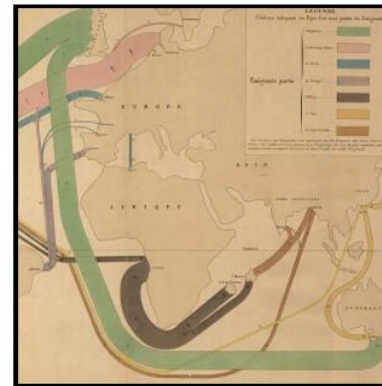
Immigration Challenges for New Americans

Jump to: [Teacher's Guide](#)



Emigrant Map to North America

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1858 Global Emigration Map

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Goodbye to Old Ireland!

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Steerage Passengers Taking Life Easy on an Ocean Liner America

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View of Ellis Island, N.Y.

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Emigrants Landing at Ellis Island

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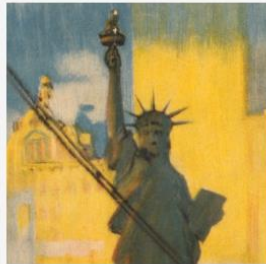
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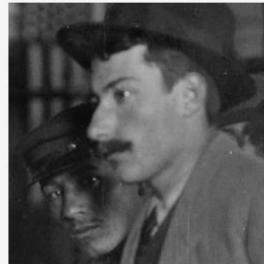
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- Legislation 17,000
- Periodical 8,997
- Manuscript/Mixed Material 3,279
- Web Page 2,807
- Book/Printed Material 2,477
- Notated Music 1,369
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- Map 17
- Personal Narrative 6
- Software, E-Resource 4

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WEB PAGE
Overview - Immigration - Themed Resources

Trace the immigrant experience and study contributions by immigrant Americans through historic film clips; images of Ellis Island, Angel Island and immigrant groups; presentations, letters and manuscripts.



WEB PAGE
Immigrant Arrivals: A Guide To Published Sources: Bibliographies & Guides - Local History & Genealogy Reading ...

Bibliography of Library of Congress materials related to immigrant arrivals in the United States



LEGISLATION
Congress.gov

U.S. Congress legislation, Congressional Record debates, Members of Congress, legislative process educational resources presented by the Library of Congress



BOOK

BOOK/PRINTED MATERIAL
Immigration

"Presidential candidate Donald Trump's recent proposals to devote large amounts of federal spending into deporting all undocumented immigrants and to build a wall between the United States and Mexico are only two...

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Immigrants in the Progressive Era



[New York, N.Y., immigrants' landing, Ellis Island]
[Detroit Publishing Company](#)

Between 1900 and 1915, more than 15 million immigrants arrived in the United States. That was about equal to the number of immigrants who had arrived in the previous 40 years combined. In 1910, three-fourths of New York City's population were either immigrants or first generation Americans (i.e. the sons and daughters of immigrants).

Not only were the numbers of immigrants swelling, the countries from which they came had changed dramatically as well. Unlike earlier immigrants, the majority of the newcomers after 1900 came from non-English speaking European countries. The principal source of immigrants was now southern and eastern Europe, especially Italy, Poland, and Russia, countries quite different in culture and language from the United States, and many immigrants had difficulty adjusting to life here.

At the same time, the United States had difficulty absorbing the immigrants. Most of the immigrants chose to settle in American cities, where jobs were located. As a result, the cities became ever more crowded. In addition, city services often failed to keep up with the flow of newcomers. Most of the

immigrants did find jobs, although they often worked in jobs that most native-born Americans would not take. Over time, however, many immigrants succeeded in improving their condition.

To find additional documents in [Loc.gov](#), search the collections using such terms as *immigration*, *immigrant*, or people from specific countries (e.g., *Polish*, *Irish*, or *Italian*).

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ANNOUNCING
The Last Word
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El Jardin Immigration Company
Opens three high class Citrus Farms
Adjacent Near the City
of Brownsville

Jardin Terrace
Palm Park Subdivision
Rio Vista Gardens
Comprising Fifteen Hundred Acres of the
Best Fruit and Truck Land in
the entire Valley
Tracts to Suit—From 2 to 20 Acres
Home Office 900 Elizabeth Street
Brownsville, Texas. Phone 723
El Jardin Immigration Company
Owners and Developers C. L. Joney, Manager

[Brownsville herald. \[volume\] \(Brownsville, Tex.\), September 16, 1923, Section Two, Page 1, Image 7](#)

OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE

Washington, Feb. 2.—Everett True, the well-known humorist, has just published a new cartoon in the Washington Post. It is a series of three panels. In the first, a man in a top hat and a woman are talking. In the second, the man is shouting. In the third, the man is shouting and the woman is looking on.

[The day book. \[volume\] \(Chicago, Ill.\), February 02, 1917, LAST EDITION, Image 11](#)

"PICTURE BRIDES" ANOTHER BIG PROBLEM IN CALIFORNIA JAPANESE AGITATION

The arrival of a picture bride in America. Picture brides and green imported just as they were leaving the steamer after their had identified each other by means of photographs. He was trying to control his face when the photographer pressed the bulb.

San Francisco, Cal., April 15.—The arrival of the picture bride of Japan at the Hotel California, San Francisco, today has caused a great deal of interest. The bride, who had come from Osaka, Japan, was met by her husband at the hotel.

[The day book. \[volume\] \(Chicago, Ill.\), April 15, 1913, Image 28](#)

The Jewish Outlook

Published by the Jewish Community Center of Denver, Colorado

[The Jewish outlook. \(Denver, Colo.\), November 30, 1906, Image 1](#)

Reliable Information Regarding
PASSPORTS
H. Matson's Business and Citizens Want to Make it as Convenient as Possible for You to Visit Our City and for Your Guide—Secure Public Reliable Information Regarding the New Passport Regulations Promptly Effective
APRIL 15, 1926

The Sunday Star
HOLDING the ALIEN in CHECK
Report Just Made Public Shows That, for the First Time in History, the Number of Immigrants Exceeded the Number of Emigrants for the First Fiscal Year—Immigrants in Excess of 100,000—The Spirit of Protection

To the Active and Progressive Citizens
OF THE PARISH OF
ST. LANDRY
MEETING ... at the request of the Louisiana Immigration League, Monday, February 12th, as a day to be devoted to expounding English branches of The Louisiana Immigration League
is every French in the Parish.
You will, therefore, all who are interested in any of the questions
**MORE LABOR, MORE CAPITAL,
MORE GOOD IMMIGRATION**

OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE

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Think about your students

- What do I already believe? (personal reflection)
- Who is behind the information? (sourcing)
- What was happening at the time? (contextualization)
- What claims are being made? What evidence is offered? (close reading)
- What do other sources say? (corroboration)

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- Stacie Moats: smoats@loc.gov
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