



## Important Dates or Events

Choose from among the following dates and government acts. Define the act and describe its impact on immigration to the United States. Explain the immediate effects and the long-term consequences:

- 1790 - Naturalization Act
- 1862 - Homestead Act
- 1882 - Chinese Expulsion Act
- 1924 - Immigration Act of 1924
- 1948 - Displaced Persons Act
- 1952 - Immigration and Nationality Act (aka: McCarran-Walter Act)
- 1965 - Immigration Act of 1965
- 1980 - Refugee Act
- 1986 - Immigration Reform and Control Act
- 1990 - Immigration Act of 1990
- 1996 - Immigration and Welfare Reform Act
- 2001 - U.S. Patriot Act

Compare and contrast the three major immigration acts – choose two or evaluate all three:

- Immigration Act of 1924
- Immigration Act of 1965
- Immigration Act of 1990

Explain the act that was passed in 1882, and its repeal in 1940. Describe the purpose and goals of the act, and the reasons for repealing it.

- Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882
- Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1940

Explain the procedures for immigrating to the United States at different time periods. Describe the step-by-step process followed by an immigrant as he/she entered the United States at Ellis Island in New York or Angel Island in San Francisco. Compare the process to a present-day immigrant arriving at an international airport terminal.

Explain the meanings of **immigration** and **migration**. Compare them and describe the similarities and differences. Describe the situations that led to one or the other, and compare early movement to present-day movement.



Choose immigration or migration trends from one of the following time periods:

late 1700s – early 1800s  
early 1800s – late 1800s  
late 1800s – early 1900s  
early 1900s – late 1900s

Compare and contrast the trends to present day trends of immigration or migration.

Research the major reasons for immigration or migration. Compare the reasons from the past to the present. Some possible reasons may include:

religious hatred  
religious violence  
economic hardship  
political oppression  
social oppression  
medical necessity

Research organizations that have helped ethnic people to adjust to life in a new country. Many organizations began during the major waves of immigration. Some have begun as a result of modern-day necessity. Possible types of groups may include:

credit unions  
fraternal organizations  
cultural organizations  
faith-based groups  
the ACLU

Write to the organization to learn about its goals, purpose, procedures, location, membership, activities, and other important information.

Define the terms: **refugee** and **asylum**.

Research the reasons for present-day immigrants who are seeking asylum. Describe the procedures they must follow in order to be given asylum here. Define the types of asylum that may be sought.

Explain about refugees and the hardships they face in their own countries, and the difficulties they face when they arrive in the United States.



Historically, there have been major national or international events that have increased immigration to the United States. Choose from one of them, or find another event, which led to an increase in the numbers of immigrants to our country or migrants to particular regions.

Some important events may include:

Irish Potato Famine  
California Gold Rush  
World War I  
World War II

Other possibilities may include:

disasters – hurricanes, typhoons, floods, droughts,  
earthquakes, famine  
wars – especially civil wars  
government coups, dictatorships, reigns of terror  
ethnic cleansing  
medical disasters – plagues, contagions