

Direct Teach

Reading Focus


- 2 What changes have occurred in U.S. immigration policy since the early 1800s?

Immigration Policy

Explain Why were some people in the 1800s unhappy about increased immigration? *Immigrants were willing to work for low wages and had different religious and cultural practices.*

Contrast How were the immigration laws passed in the 1920s different from the Immigration Act of 1990? *The laws of the 1920s set quotas based on immigrants' country of origin. The 1990 Act gave preference to immigrants based on family connections, job skills, and U.S. residence.*

Make Judgments Do you think immigration quotas are fair? Why or why not? *Answers will vary but should show students' understanding of the quota system and its goals.*

 Political Cartoons for Civics, Government, and Economics: Cartoon 1: Attitudes Toward Immigration

Linking to Today

The Plight of Refugees Many immigrants to the United States throughout history have been refugees trying to escape from trouble spots, the violence of war, and persecution by oppressive governments. UN officials put the total number of refugees in the world in 2015 at 21.3 million—more than half of whom came from three countries: Syria, Afghanistan, and Somalia.


Answers

Focus On *Possible answer: to set a model for a strong but limited presidency*

Reading Check (left) *early Americans and Native Americans, pp. 12–13; Spanish settlers, p. 13; British settlers, Germans, Dutch, Swedes, French, enslaved Africans, p. 14 (right) less focused on where people come from, and more concerned with details of individuals' situations*

the Hudson River, Swedes along the Delaware River, and the French in New York, Massachusetts, and South Carolina.

Many Africans came to the Americas, but unlike most other immigrants, most Africans had been captured and brought here as slaves. They and their children were forced to live in bondage for many years.

READING CHECK  **Categorizing** What groups settled in the Americas, and in what region did each group settle?

Immigration Policy

News about America spread quickly. For newcomers willing to work hard, America held the promise of a good life. It had abundant space, rich resources, and one precious resource: freedom. Over time, the British colonies grew, and beginning in 1775 they fought the American Revolution. This newly independent country became the United States of America. It was founded on a strong belief in human equality and the right to basic liberties.



FOCUS ON George Washington

(1732–1799)

George Washington was not an immigrant. But like many Americans, Washington's ancestors had come from another country. He was the great-grandson of British settlers in the American colonies.

Washington had an elementary school education, but he had a gift for mathematics. At 16, Washington was hired by Lord Fairfax, head of a powerful Virginia family, to survey Fairfax's property in the American wilderness.

In 1789, Washington was elected the first president of the United States. Washington's cautious, balanced, and strong leadership as president served as a model for future presidents. Washington helped build the foundations of a national government that has continued for more than two centuries.

Draw Conclusions Why do you think that George Washington was a cautious president?

14 CHAPTER 1


The United States attracted people from around the world. Europeans came by the tens of thousands, mainly to the East Coast of the United States. In the mid-1800s thousands of Chinese arrived on the West Coast.

These new immigrants worked in factories and farms across the country. Businesses welcomed the new laborers to their expanding enterprises. But not everyone was happy about the flood of immigrants. The newcomers were willing to work for low wages. That angered many American workers. Americans and immigrants clashed over religion and culture as well.

In the 1880s the U.S. Congress passed laws limiting immigration. For example, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 halted Chinese immigration to the United States. Other laws prevented Chinese Americans from becoming citizens or owning property.

Congress passed a broader set of laws in the 1920s. The laws established a **quota**, or a specific number, of immigrants from certain countries or regions who were allowed to enter the country each year. The annual quotas have changed from time to time since then.

Today, the Immigration Act of 1990 sets a total annual quota of immigrants at 675,000, starting in 1995. The law gives preference to three groups of people: (1) husbands, wives, and children of U.S. citizens; (2) people who have valuable job skills; and (3) aliens. **Aliens** are permanent residents of the United States who are still citizens of another country.

READING CHECK  **Analyzing** How has U.S. immigration policy changed over time?

Becoming a U.S. Citizen


Over the years, millions of immigrants have become U.S. citizens. Some citizens belong to families that have lived in the United States for many generations. Other Americans were born in foreign countries. All citizens, regardless of their heritage, have the same legal rights and responsibilities.

Collaborative Learning

At Level

Act Out Immigration Interviews

1. Lead the class in a discussion of the changes that have taken place in U.S. immigration policy since the 1800s.
2. Organize students into pairs. Ask members of each pair to take turns playing an immigrant applying for citizenship and an immigration official—both in the 1800s and today.
3. Ask volunteers to present their skits to the class. Have students point out differences between the two scenarios. **IS Interpersonal, Kinesthetic**

 Alternative Assessment Handbook: Rubric 33: Skits and Reader's Theater