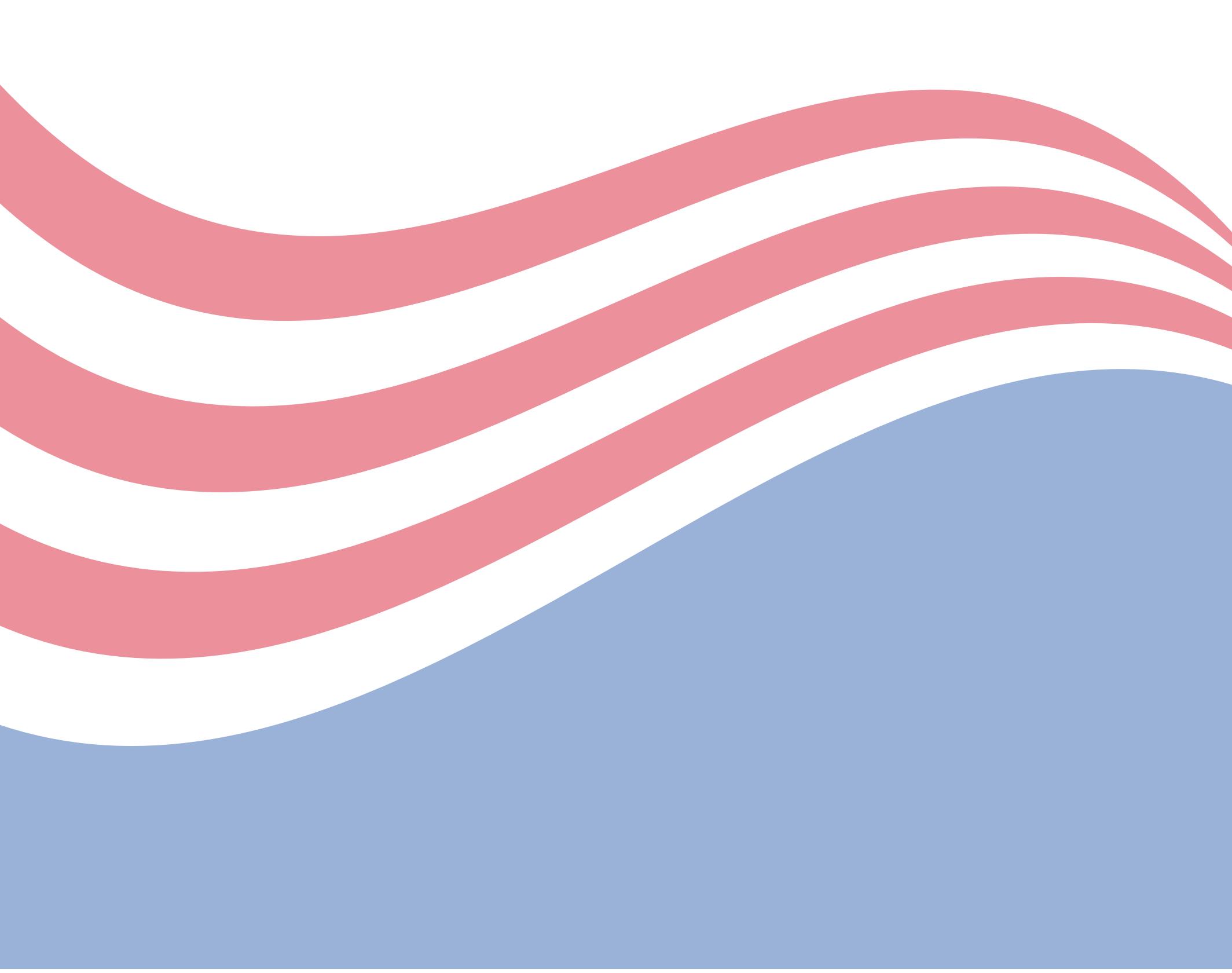


Immigrants Who Built America



Written by Robert E. Slavin and Richard Gifford





Immigrants Who Built America



Written by Robert E. Slavin and Richard Gifford

Immigrants Who Built America

© 2014 Success for All Foundation. All rights reserved.

ISBN: 9780976785095

Developers: Robert E. Slavin, Kate Conway, Alli Hoge, Richard Gifford, Wendy Fitchett

Editors: Janet Wisner, Marti Gastineau

Designer: Michael Hummel

Image Credits:

123RF.com

Creative Commons Attribution–3.0 Unported: Luigi Novi (Cuban Day parade, pg. 21)

Library of Congress

morguefile.com

Shutterstock.com: Andreas Juergensmeier, bonchan, Christopher Parypa, Gary Ives, gosphotodesign, Keith Murphy, Kobby Dagan, Olinchuk, Rafael Ramirez Lee, Rena Schild, Roxana Bashyrova, SeanPavonePhoto, spirit of america, Stuart Monk, Vlad G, Warren Goldswain



The mission of the Success for All Foundation is to develop and disseminate research-proven educational programs to ensure that all students, from all backgrounds, achieve at the highest academic levels.

These programs were originally developed at Johns Hopkins University.

300 E. Joppa Road, Suite 500, Baltimore, MD 21286

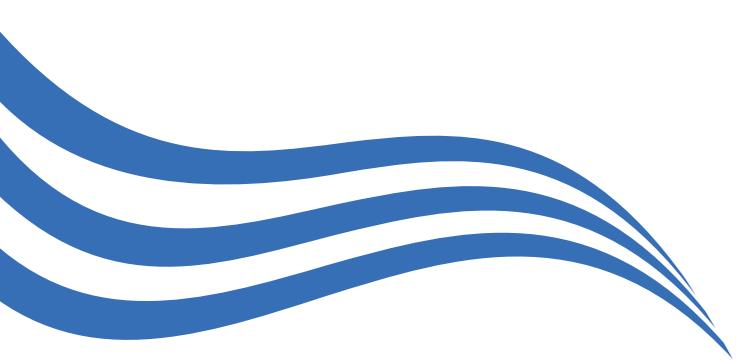
PHONE: (800) 548-4998 FAX: (410) 324-4444 E-MAIL: sfainfo@successforall.org WEBSITE: www.successforall.org



Table of Contents

Introduction	2
British Immigrants	4
African Americans	7
German Immigrants.....	11
Irish Immigrants	13
Chinese Immigrants.....	15
Japanese Immigrants	17
Jewish Immigrants.....	19
Hispanic Immigrants	21
Swedish and Norwegian Immigrants	23
The Great Immigration of 1900 to 1930: Italian, Greek, Polish, and Other Immigrants	24
Immigrant Life	26
Immigrants Today	27





Introduction

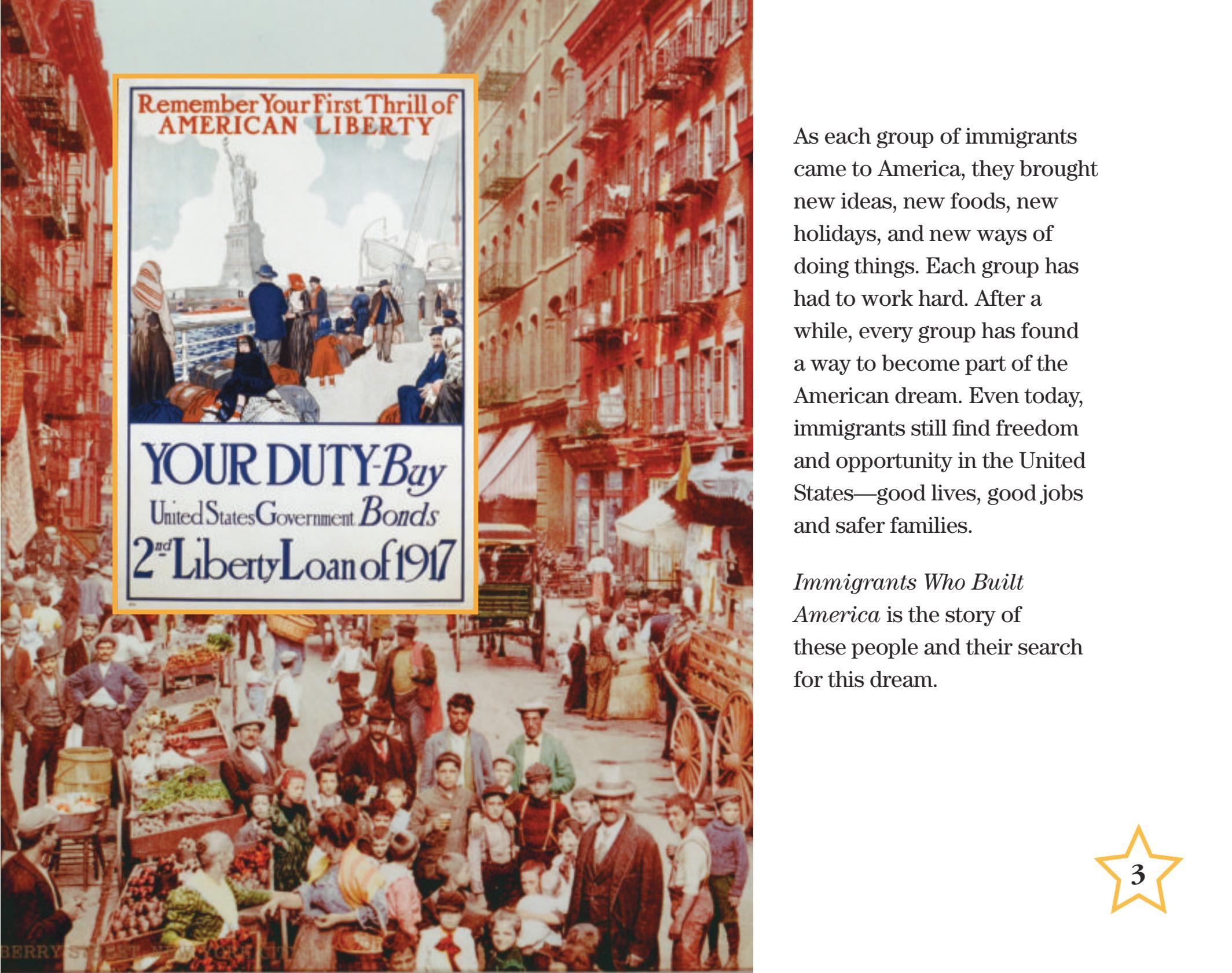
The Statue of Liberty sits in New York Harbor. Over the years, it has greeted millions of people as they have arrived in America. This statue and the words on the base of the statue are powerful **symbols**. They show that the United States is a nation of **immigrants**, people from other countries who have come here for a chance at a better life.

**“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning
to breathe free...”**

These words appear on the base of the Statue of Liberty.



Immigrants have made their way to America for many reasons. Some came hoping to find land or jobs. Some came for freedom. Some came to escape **oppression** in other places. Many Americans came as slaves.

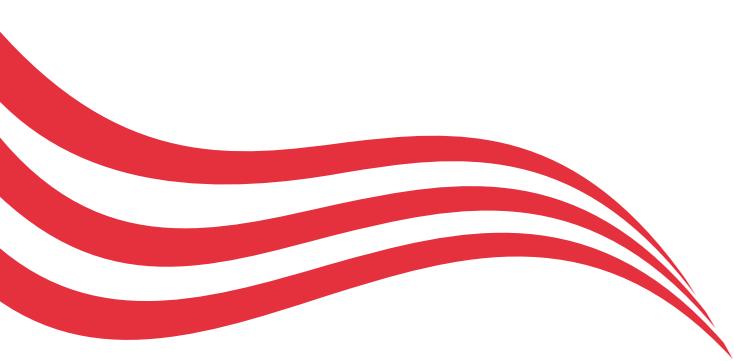


Remember Your First Thrill of
AMERICAN LIBERTY

YOUR DUTY—Buy
United States Government Bonds
2nd Liberty Loan of 1917

As each group of immigrants came to America, they brought new ideas, new foods, new holidays, and new ways of doing things. Each group has had to work hard. After a while, every group has found a way to become part of the American dream. Even today, immigrants still find freedom and opportunity in the United States—good lives, good jobs and safer families.

Immigrants Who Built America is the story of these people and their search for this dream.



British Immigrants

People from Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales) formed the largest group of early immigrants.



English explorers sailed to America. They traveled up and down the East Coast. Their mission was to investigate the New World. They found that America was a rich land. It had **fertile** soil and lots of fresh water. **Game** was everywhere. America would be a great place to start **colonies**. The first successful English colony was Jamestown. It was built in Virginia. The English then built settlements along the coast. People from Great Britain flocked to them.



Reenactment of the first landing at Jamestown

Some settlers came to start farms. Some came looking for gold. They did not find any, so the colonists tried growing tobacco. They had better luck with tobacco. Huge plantations were built to grow this **cash crop**. Some plantation owners became rich.

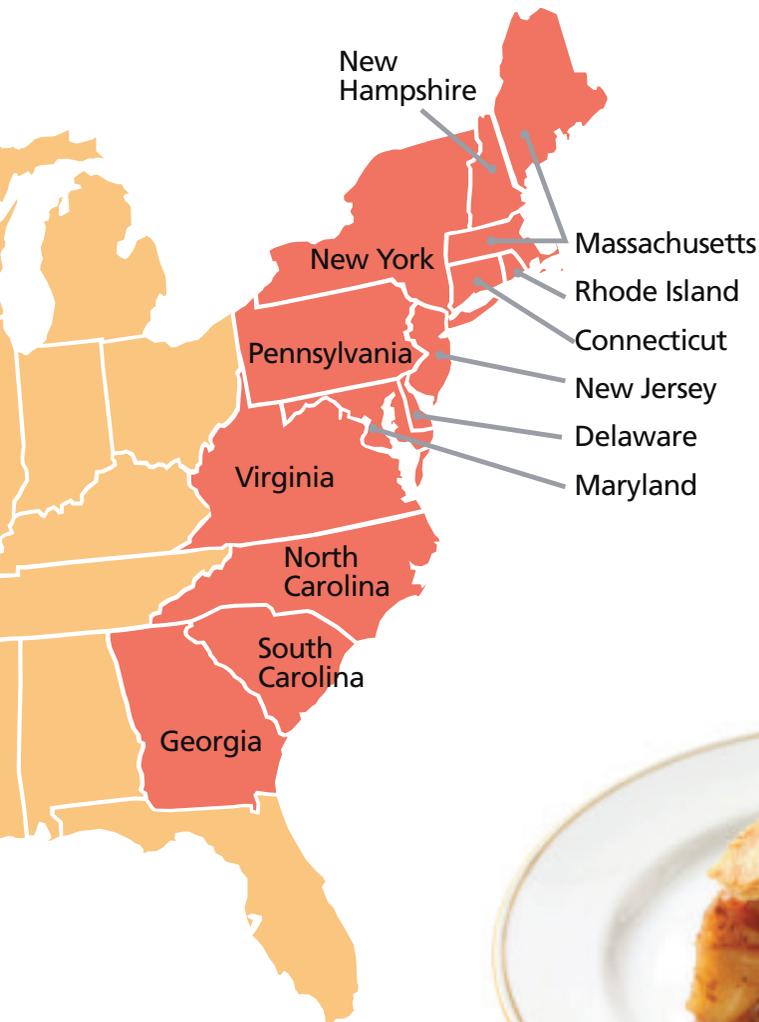


People were needed to work in the tobacco fields. At first, poor people from Britain came as **indentured servants**. They would work for someone else for a period of years and then become free farmers.

Other British immigrants came looking for freedom of religion. One such group was the Puritans. They could not practice their religion in England, so the Puritans built settlements in the New England. In this new land, they could worship as they wanted.



The original Thirteen
British Colonies



British colonies became the first states in the United States. For this reason, our language, and many of our foods, holidays, laws, and government bodies are the same or similar to British **traditions**. The most commonly spoken language in the United States is English. Most American foods, such as apple pie, have English roots. Most original laws in the United States come from English laws.



Fun Fact: Many cities in the United States are named after places in England. New York is named after the English city of York, and Boston was a city on the east coast of England before it was a city in the New England region of the United States.

African Americans

America had a lot of land and a lot of farms. However, there were too few workers, so slaves were taken from Africa. The slaves did not come with the dream of a better life. They were forced to leave their homes. Slaves were sent across the ocean in ships with horrible conditions. Many of them died. When they got to America, they were sold. The slaves had to work under **brutal** conditions. They did not get paid for their work. They could get married and have children, but their children were slaves too. An owner could break up slave families and sell husbands, wives, or children.



There were slaves in all parts of America, but most slaves lived in the South. After the American Revolution, slavery was outlawed in the North. It was still legal in the South. After the Civil War, slaves were freed in all areas of the United States. However, most former slaves had to stay on farms in the South. They were very poor. They were not treated equally.

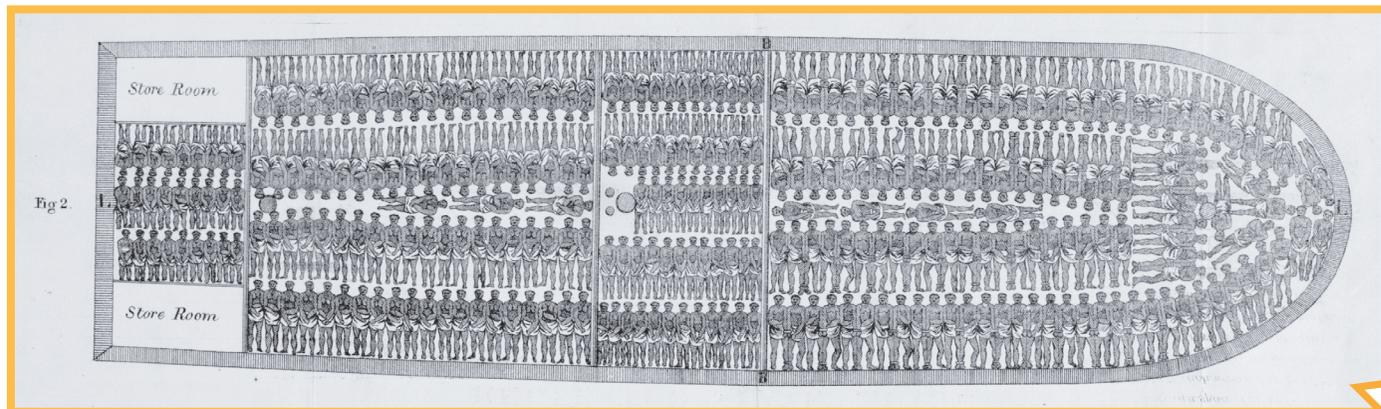


Diagram of people crowded into a slave ship



Wherever they lived, African Americans suffered unfair treatment. This treatment was particularly bad in the southern states. African Americans faced **segregation** in the South. They were often kept apart from whites. They could not work in the same jobs as whites. African Americans had to go to their own schools, shop in their own stores, and play in their own parks. African Americans were also not able to vote in some states.

In the early 1900s, large numbers of African Americans moved to northern cities, such as New York, Detroit, Baltimore, and Philadelphia, to get better-paying jobs in the factories. There was prejudice and segregation in the North too, but there was far less than in the South. During World War I, the 1920s, and World War II, a need for workers in the North attracted millions of African Americans seeking a better life.

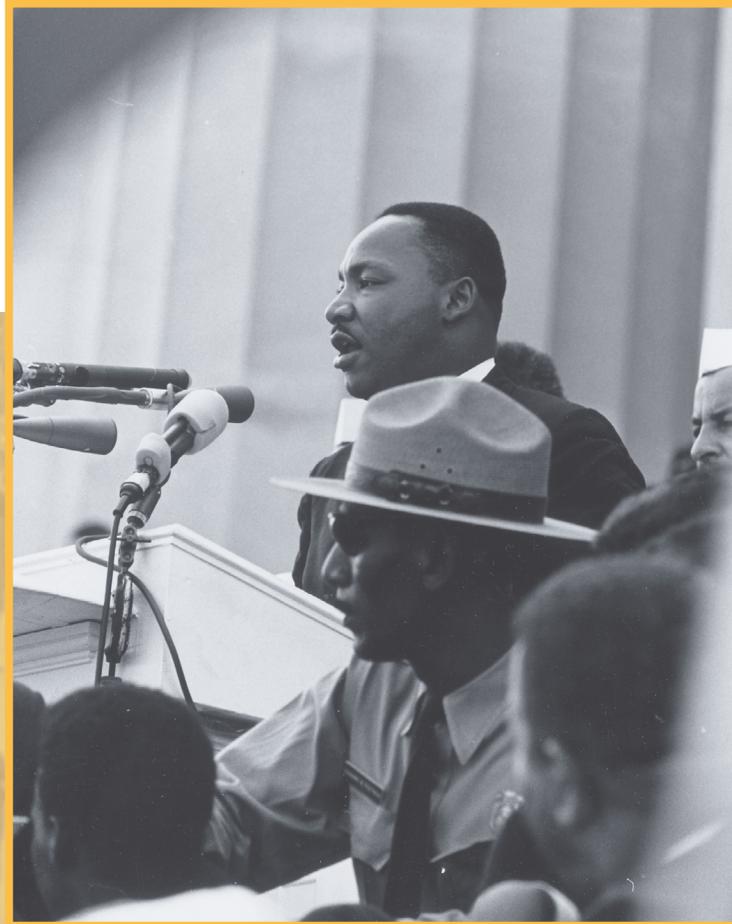
Throughout the first half of the 1900s, any passenger train traveling from New York to the South would go through a strange ritual. African Americans and white passengers could sit together from New York to Washington, but in Washington, they had to go to separate train cars—all in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol, our greatest symbol of democracy and equality!



Men waiting at a segregated train station, 1938

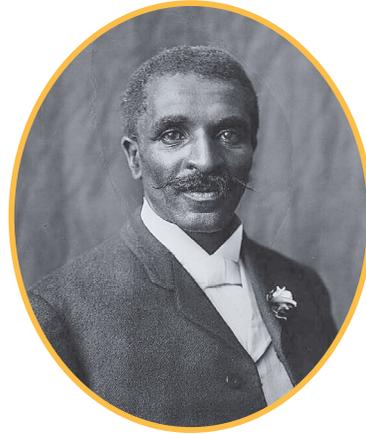


Many African Americans—and members of other races—fought against these unjust laws. They fought for their **civil rights**. Led by heroes such as Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis, they marched, protested, and organized. Finally, new laws were passed. It became illegal to treat people differently because of the color of their skin.



Martin Luther King Jr. speaking at the March on Washington, 1963

African Americans have made great contributions to America. Benjamin Banneker helped design Washington, D.C. George Washington Carver was born as a slave, but he went on to make important discoveries in science. Jazz traces its roots back to music made by slaves. It has spread around the world. Scott Joplin, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Miles Davis are all famous African American musicians and composers. Toni Morrison, who won several awards including the Nobel Prize for Literature and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, is a famous African American author.



Scientist George Washington Carver

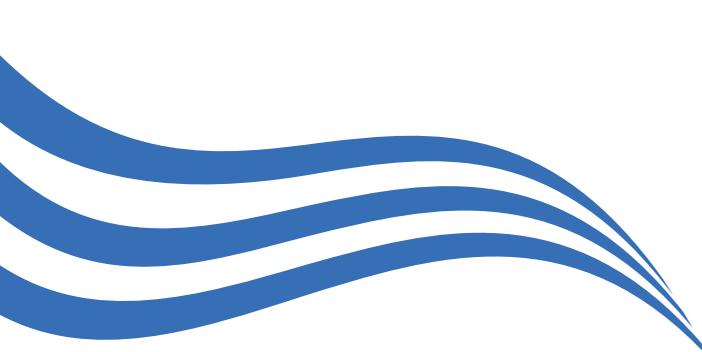
In 2008, Barack Obama was elected our first African American president.



President Barack Obama, inaugurated on January 20, 2009



Writer Toni Morrison presented with a Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama



German Immigrants

Many Germans came to America in the early days. Most of them wanted to buy land to farm. It was hard to buy land in Germany. Some Germans paid for their trip by working as indentured servants.

At first, most of the early Germans settled in the eastern colonies. Over time, they spread across America. Thousands of Germans settled in Texas. They built whole towns, like New Braunfels. It was named after a city in Germany.



At first, many Germans kept speaking German. They even published newspapers in German. Then World War I began. The United States fought against Germany. Speaking German was frowned upon. In some places, it was even banned.



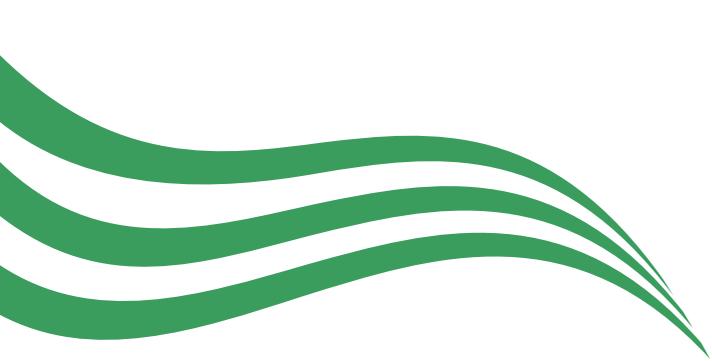
An anti-German sign in Chicago during World War I.

German Americans have made many contributions to this country. They started the first kindergartens. *Kindergarten* is a German word that means children's garden. Foods such as hot dogs and hamburgers have German origins. The Studebaker brothers built many of the wagons used by settlers to travel west. These German brothers also started a company that built some of the first cars in the United States.



Kindergarten means children's garden in German.





Irish Immigrants

People from Ireland were also some of the first to move to America. Many of them were farmers. They were looking for land. Some of the Irish also paid their way by working as indentured servants.

In the 1800s, millions of Irish **fled** to America. They were trying to escape a great **famine**. People in Ireland were starving. Close to a million people died. This wave of Irish moved mostly to cities in the east. Many of them faced **discrimination** from Americans who were already there.



Immigrant monument in Ireland

J. H. JOHNSON, Song Publisher, 7 N. Tenth St., Philadelphia.

NO IRISH NEED APPLY.

Written and sung by Miss KATHLEEN O'NEIL.

WANTED.—A smart active girl t. do the general housework of a large family, one who can cook, clean plates, and get up fine linen, preferred.
N. B.—No Irish need apply. *London Times Newspaper, Feb. 1862.*

I'm a simple Irish girl, and I'm looking for a place,
I've felt the grip of poverty, but sure that's no disgrace,
I'll be long before I get one, tho' indeed it's hard I try,
For I read in each advertisement, "No Irish need apply."
Alas! for my poor country, which I never will deny,
How they insult us when they write, "No Irish need apply."

Now I wonder what's the reason that the fortune-favored few,
Should throw on us that dirty slur, and treat us—as they do,
Sure they all know Paddy's heart is warm, and willing in his hand,
They rule us, yet we may not earn a living in their land,
O, to their sister country, how can they bread deny,
By sending forth this cruel line, "No Irish need apply."

Sure I did not do the like when they anchor'd on our shore,
For Irish hospitality there's no need to deplore,
And every door is open to the weary stranger still,
Pat would give his last Potato, yes, and give it with a will,
Nor whisky, which he prizes so, in any case deny,
Then wherefore do they always write, "No Irish need apply."

Now what have they against us, sure the world knows Paddy's brave,
For he's helped to fight their battles, both on land and on the wave,
At the storming of Sebastopol, and beneath an Indian sky,
Pat raised his head, for their General said, "All Irish might apply."
Do you mind Lieutenant Vasey, when he raised the battle cry?
Then are they not ashamed to write, "No Irish need apply!"

Then they can't deny us genius, with "Sheridan"—"Tom Moore!"
The late lamented "Catharine Hays," and Sam Lover to the fore,—
Altho' they may laugh at our "Balls," they cannot but admit,
That Pat is always sensible and has a ready wit,—
And if they ask for Beauty, what can beat their nice black eye?
Then is it not a shame to write, "No Irish need apply!"

Och! the French must loudly crow to find we're slighted thus,
For they can ne'er forget the blow that was dealt by one of us,
If the Iron Duke of Wellington had never drawn his sword,
They might have had "Napoleon Sance" with their beef, upon my word,
They think now of their hero, dead; his name will never die,
Where will they get another such if "No Irish need apply!"

Ah! but now I'm in the land of the "Glorious and Free,"
And proud I am to own it, a country dear to me,
I can see by your kind faces, that you will not deny,
A place in your hearts for Kathleen, where "All Irish may apply."
Then long may the Union flourish, and ever may it be,
A pattern to the world, and the "Home of Liberty!"

J. H. JOHNSON, Stationer & Printer, 7 N. 10th St., Phila.



The Irish worked hard. Many worked on building the railroads. Some Irish took jobs as police. Others worked in city government. Irish Americans even became mayors. A number of American presidents have Irish roots. These include Andrew Jackson, John F. Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan.



John F. Kennedy



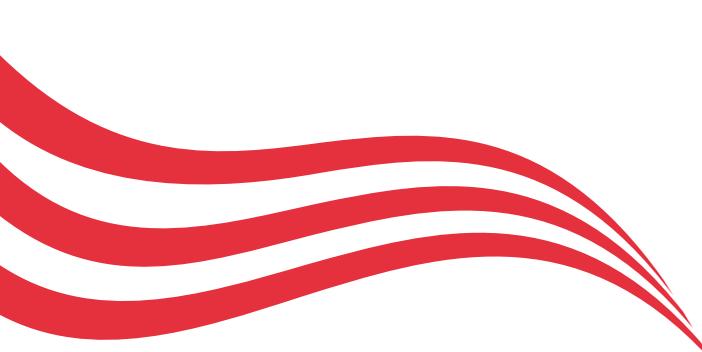
Andrew Jackson



The Irish have a proud history in America. On St. Patrick's Day, you can see them showing their shamrock pride!



Fun Fact: The shamrock, or three-leaf clover, is considered an Irish symbol.



Chinese Immigrants

Hundreds of thousands of Chinese also came to America in the 1800s. Many of them were **lured** by stories of gold in California. Most of them learned that it was hard to find enough gold to live on.

The Chinese were far from home. They were in a strange land. The people spoke a strange language. The Chinese also faced much discrimination. It was hard to find jobs. However, they had to work to survive.



The first Chinese telephone operator in San Francisco



At this time, the railroad was being built across America. Many Chinese men went to work building this railroad. They worked in harsh conditions. Their pay was very low. Hundreds of Chinese workers died working on the railroad. However, this work served as a first step in a new life.

Other Chinese immigrants started businesses. Shops, restaurants, and laundries sprang up wherever the Chinese settled. Sometimes they would work and live together in one part of a town or city. These areas came to be called Chinatowns. Today you can still visit Chinatowns in many large cities.

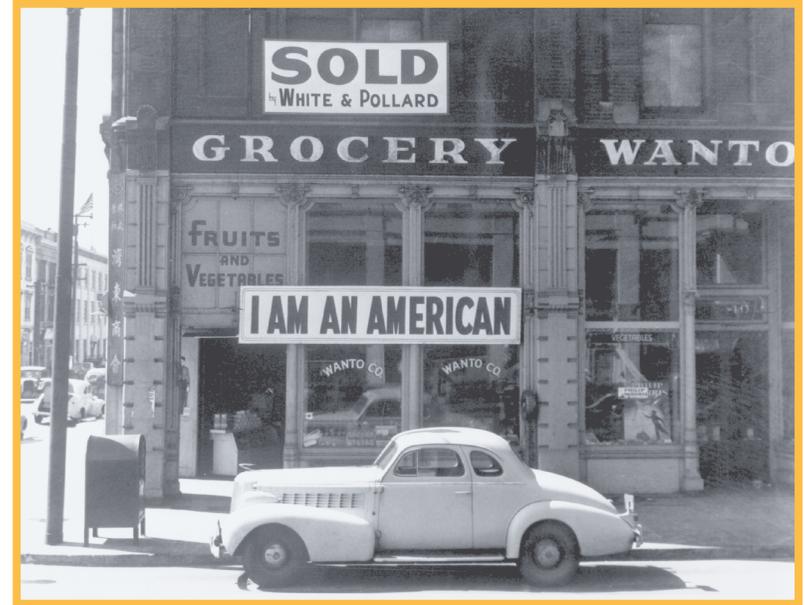


Chinese men working on the railroad in California, 1882



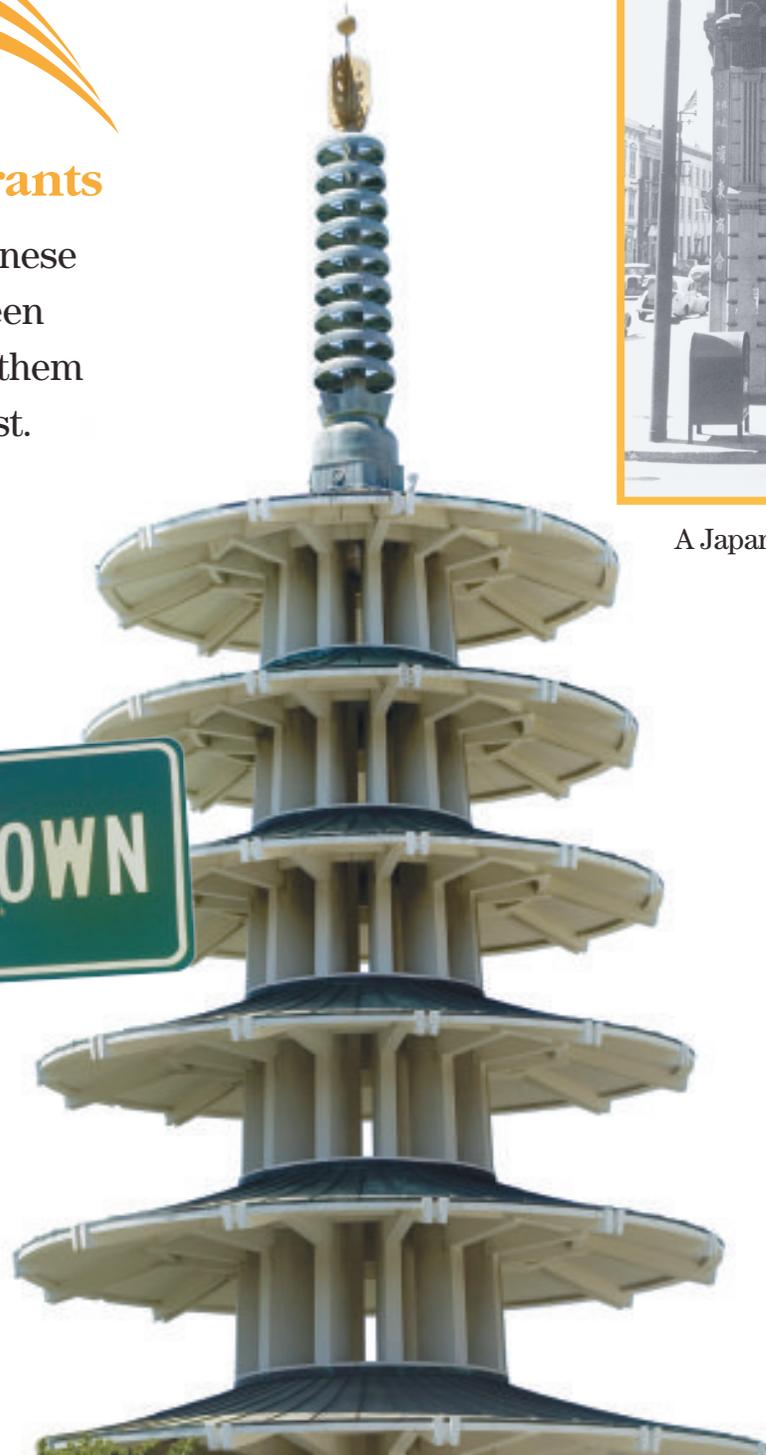
Japanese Immigrants

More than 200,000 Japanese came to America between 1860 and 1940. Most of them moved to the West Coast. Some also settled in Hawaii. They often found jobs on fruit and vegetable farms.



A Japanese American's store during World War II

Sometimes American laws were unfair to the Japanese. Many Japanese could not become citizens. They could not even own property. Many became farmers or started small businesses. They were able to buy homes. They often listed their children as the owners of their homes because children born in the United States were U.S. citizens.

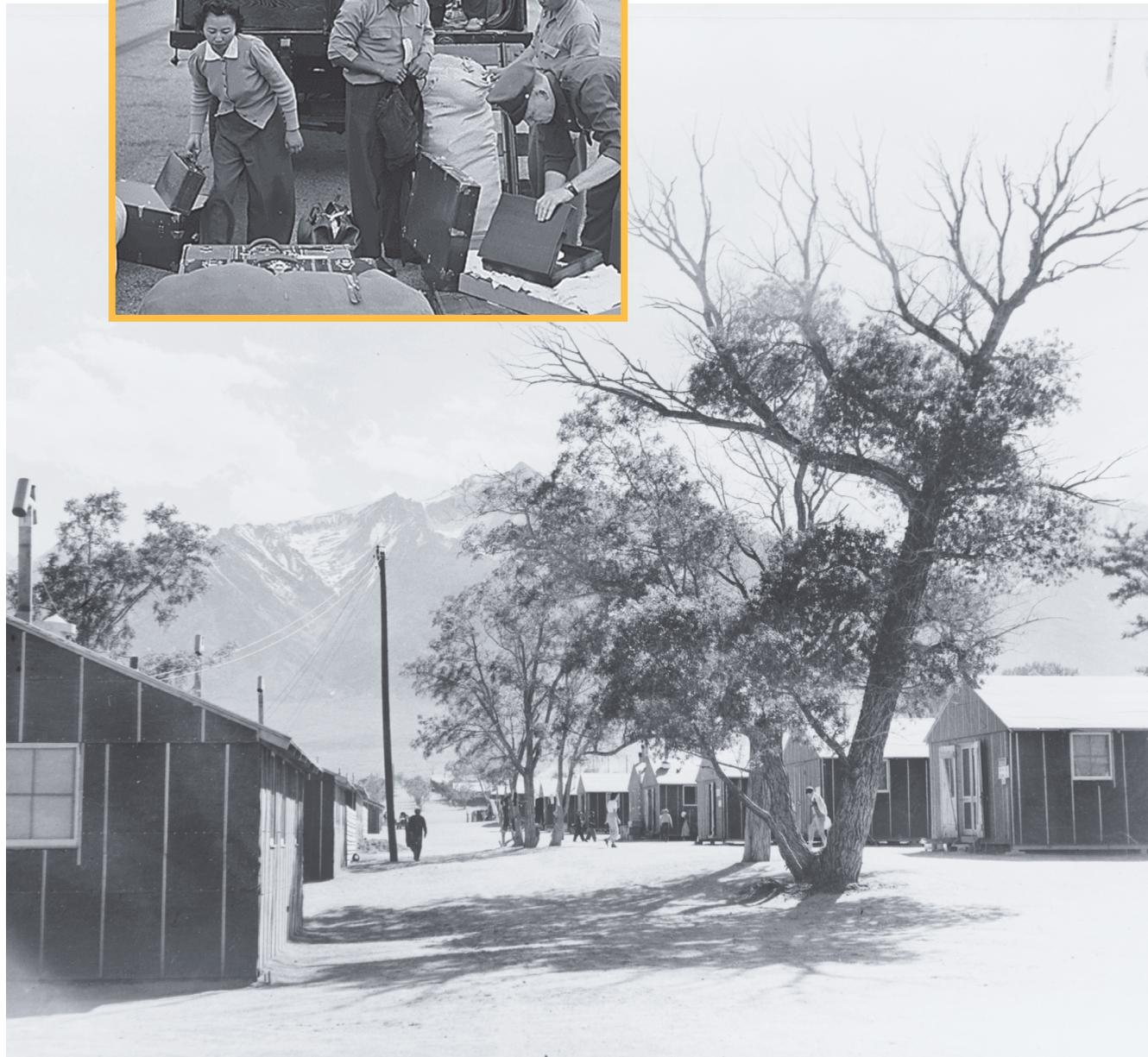


In 1941, tragedy struck. Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. America entered World War II. More than 100,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans were rounded up. They were forced to leave their homes. They had to move to camps. Life in the camps was harsh. Japanese families lived in **barracks**. Their housing did not have plumbing or kitchens. They slept on cots.

The Japanese were able to leave the camps in 1945. They returned home. Many Japanese found that they had lost their farms, businesses, and homes. The U.S. government later paid many of them money to try to make up for these losses.



Japanese Americans leaving their homes during World War II



Barracks at a relocation camp in California

Jewish Immigrants

In 1654, a small number of Jews landed in New Amsterdam. This area is now called New York City. Jews did not come in large numbers until the 1800s. Many fled poor treatment in Europe.



Many Jews came from Germany. Jews also came from Poland, Russia, and other European countries. They tended to settle in the big cities of the east. Some Jews worked in factories. Others started small businesses. During the 1930s and 1940s, more Jews came. They were trying to escape the Nazis.

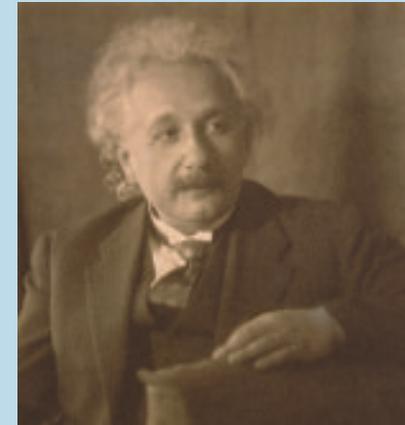


Some Jews who left Europe to get away from discrimination found unfair treatment in America. They could not hold certain jobs or buy property in some places. There were colleges that limited the number of Jews who could attend.

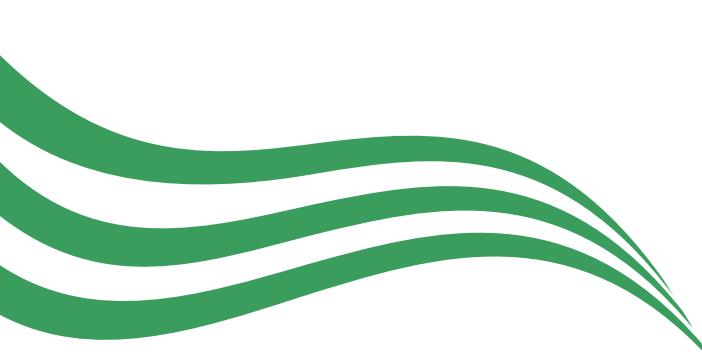
A busy Jewish neighborhood in New York City, c. 1909



However, Jewish immigrants and their children also found success in America. Jews played a major role in the early days of Hollywood and the film industry. There were important Jewish scientists, like Albert Einstein, judges, and professors. Today, the Jewish community in America is strong and stable.



Spotlight: Like thousands of other Jews, Albert Einstein fled Europe because of the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany. In 1933, Einstein settled in the United States. He was the most famous scientist of his time. He created and discovered many important theories. Einstein's theories led to the development of the atomic bomb, which helped the U.S. defeat the Japanese during World War II.



Hispanic Immigrants

Spanish explorers came to America long ago. They traveled through the Southwest during the 1500s because they were looking for gold. The Spanish built settlements across the region. Many more Hispanics came from Mexico in the 1900s. Others came from Cuba and South America. Puerto Rico is an island owned by the United States. Many people have moved from there to the mainland. In the 1980s, thousands of people came from Central America to the United States. Many were fleeing wars.

Cuban Day parade in New Jersey

Hispanic Americans have overcome many challenges. They have faced unfair treatment. They have had to fight for their rights.

San Juan, Puerto Rico



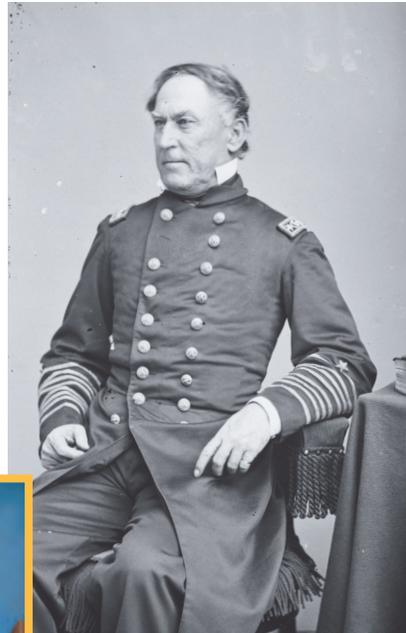
Hispanics are the largest group of new immigrants in the United States. They work on farms. They work in factories. They work in every kind of job. There are Hispanic astronauts. Franklin Díaz flew on the space shuttle many times. Ellen Ochoa was the first female Hispanic astronaut.

Franklin Ramón
Chang Díaz, astronaut

Ellen Ochoa,
first Hispanic
female astronaut



Today Hispanics live in all parts of America. They are an important thread in the American quilt.

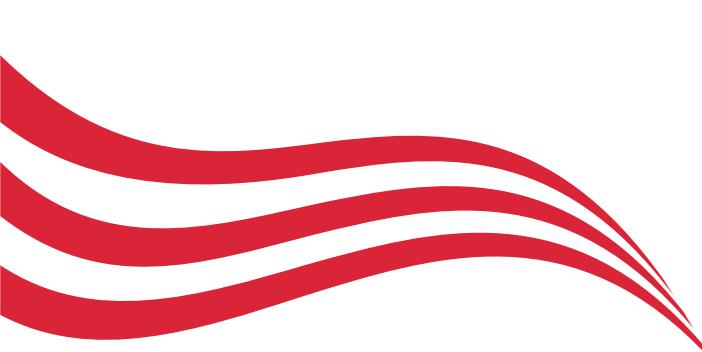


Admiral David Farragut,
first Hispanic Admiral
for the U.S. in 1800s

Political Power: Today many Hispanics hold political office. Julian Castro was elected mayor of San Antonio in 2009. In 2010, Nevada elected Brian Sandoval as governor. Sonia Sotomayor became the first Hispanic justice on the Supreme Court in 2009.



U.S. Supreme Court Justice
Sonia Sotomayor



Swedish and Norwegian Immigrants

More than a million people from Norway and Sweden have come to America. Many came to farm this country's rich soil. They were able to find cheap land to farm. Others came to work in America's factories. Some came for religious reasons.

Immigrants from Sweden and Norway faced less discrimination than many other groups. They often looked like the Americans in the places where they settled. However, they still had to work very hard to make new lives in America.

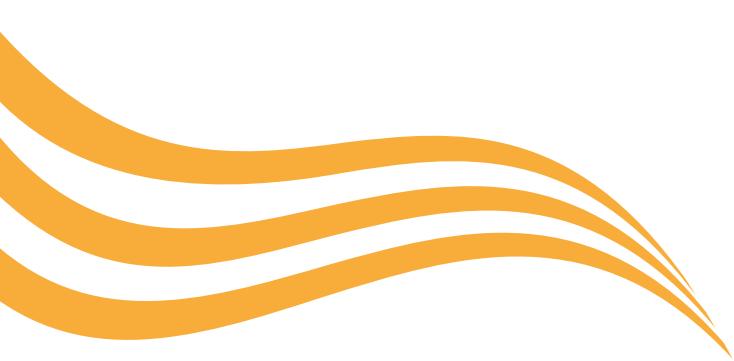


Charles Lindbergh



There have been many important Norwegian Americans and Swedish Americans. For example, Charles Lindbergh's family was from Sweden. He was the first person to fly across the Atlantic Ocean without stopping.

Conrad Hilton's father came to America from Norway. Conrad started the Hilton hotel chain. These hotels can be found all across the country.



The Great Immigration of 1900 to 1930: Italian, Greek, Polish, and Other Immigrants

The time of greatest immigration to America was from 1900 to 1930. The country was growing fast. There were plenty of jobs. People came from all over Europe. Many came from Italy and Greece. Some came from Poland and other countries in Eastern Europe.



Actual baggage at Ellis Island
from time of great immigration

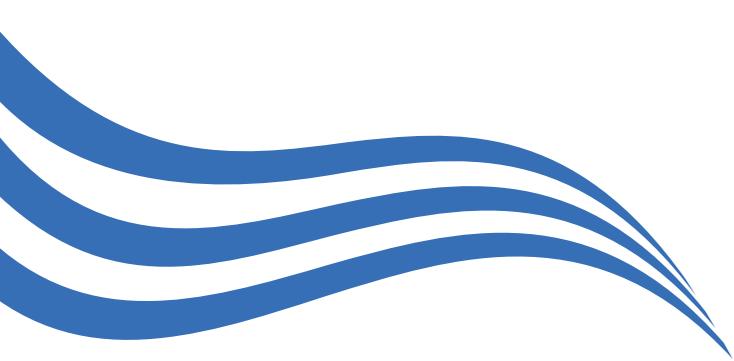


Immigrants landing at Ellis Island, 1902

During this time, most immigrants arrived in New York. They would pass the Statue of Liberty on their way to Ellis Island. Some of the new immigrants stayed in New York. Others spread out across the country. Many ended up working in factories and mines in small towns or big cities.

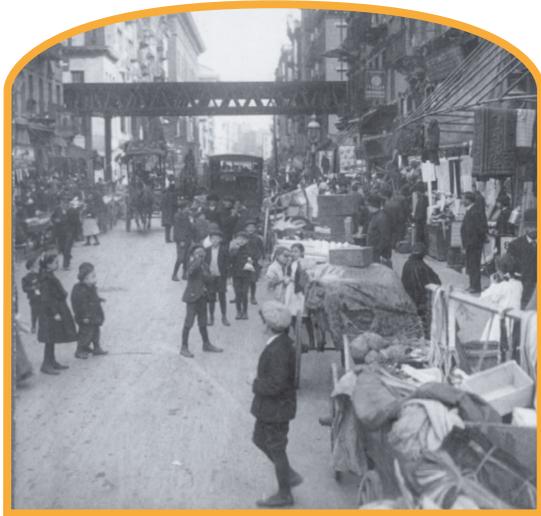
New immigrants were often met by aid societies. The aid workers spoke their language. They were people who knew their ways. They helped new arrivals find a place to live and a job. They helped immigrant children get into school. They taught English. Life was hard for the new immigrants. However, they got by with the help of friends and relatives who had come earlier.





Immigrant Life

The immigrant story often follows a pattern. The first people to arrive are very poor. They have problems learning English. They have to learn how to fit in. Other Americans may not make them feel welcome.



Immigrant neighborhood in New York, c. 1907

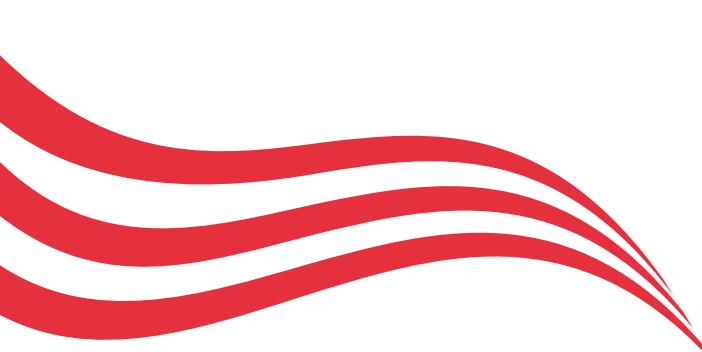


Polish immigrants working on a berry farm, 1909

Their children go to school in America. They learn English when they are young. They learn how to live in America. These young people keep their family memories from the old country, but they are Americans. They usually get better educations than their parents. They get better jobs.

Immigrants often wrote letters back to their friends and family, telling them how good life was in America. This caused more and more people from the old country to want to come to America too.

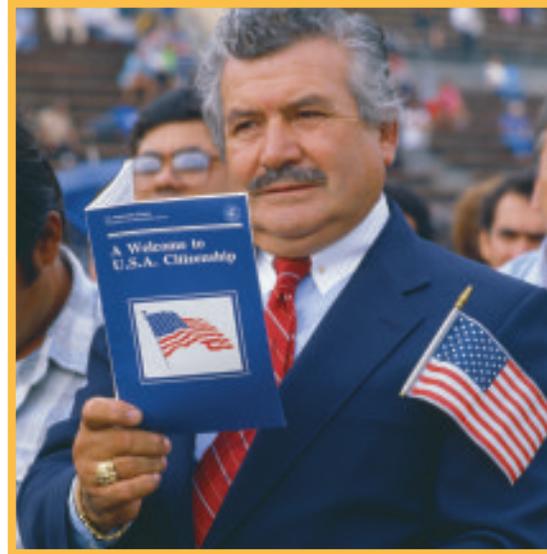
Immigrants can have hard lives. However, they give their children a chance to reach the American Dream.



Immigrants Today

People still want to come to America from all over the world. Like the immigrants before them, they want to come for freedom. They want to come for better jobs. They want to come for a better life for their children.

However, it can take many years to be able to come to America. The United States limits how many immigrants come here each year. Once they are here, it can take many more years to become citizens. Still, they keep coming.



Immigrants enrich America in every way. They help build our homes. They help grow our crops. They start new businesses. They bring new ideas and new energy. They do not take America for granted. They make every part of life in America better.



Glossary

barracks: Simple, temporary buildings that people live in.

brutal: Harsh and severe.

cash crop: A crop grown to sell for money.

civil rights: The basic rights of citizens (Example: the right to vote or to fair treatment).

colonies: Early settlements in North America.

discrimination: Unfair treatment of a group of people.

famine: An extreme shortage of food.

fertile: Good for growing crops.

fled: Ran away from.

game: Animals hunted for food.

immigrants: People settling in another country.

indentured servants: People who work in exchange for transportation or other non-money rewards.

lured: Attracted.

oppression: Harm done by a government to a group of people in its country.

segregation: Forced separation of groups of people.

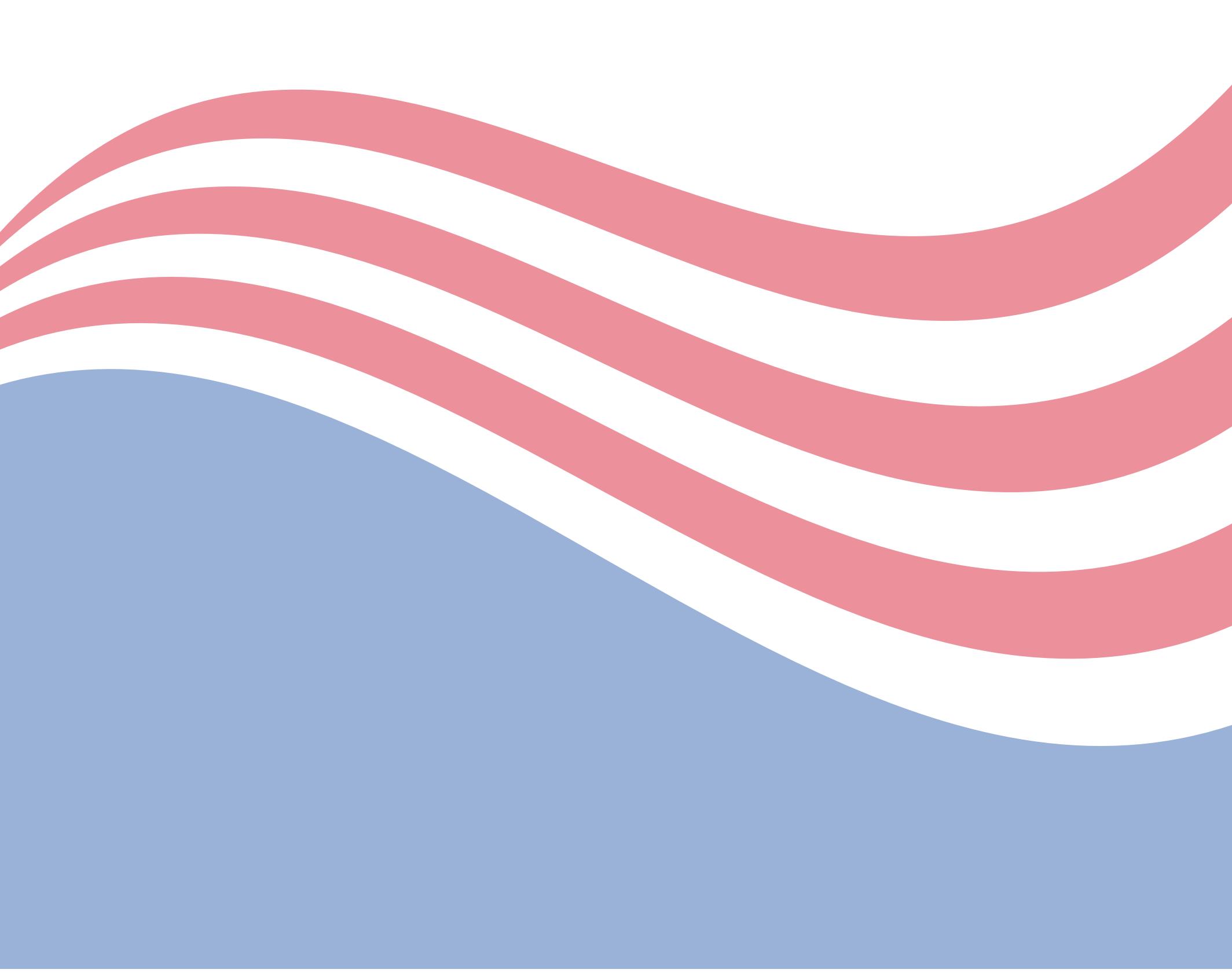
symbols: Things, such as flags, that stand for something else.

traditions: Behaviors or beliefs handed down from generation to generation.

Index

Africa.....	7	Cuba.....	21	Irish immigrants.....	13
African American(s).....	7	East Coast.....	4	Italian immigrants.....	24
American Dream.....	3, 26	Einstein, Albert.....	20	Italy.....	24
American Revolution.....	7	Ellis Island.....	24, 25	Jackson, Andrew.....	14
Boston.....	6	England.....	4, 5, 6	Jamestown.....	4
British immigrants.....	4	Europe.....	19, 20, 24	Japanese immigrants.....	17
California.....	15	European.....	19	jazz.....	10
Carver, George Washington.....	10	famine.....	13	Jewish immigrants.....	19
cash crop.....	4	German immigrants.....	11	Kennedy, John F.....	14
Central America.....	21	Germany.....	11, 19	kindergarten.....	12
Chinatown.....	16	gold.....	4, 15, 21	King, Martin Luther Jr.....	9
Chinese immigrants.....	15	Great Britain.....	4	Lewis, John.....	9
civil rights.....	9	Great Immigration.....	24	Mexico.....	21
Civil War.....	7	Hispanic immigrants.....	21	Morrison, Toni.....	10
colonies.....	4, 11	immigrants.....	2	Nazi Party.....	20
colonists.....	4	indentured servants.....	5, 11, 13	Nazis.....	19
colony.....	4	Ireland.....	13	New Amsterdam.....	19

New Braunfels	11	St. Patrick's Day	14	tobacco	4, 5
New England	5, 6	San Francisco	15	Virginia.....	4
New World.....	4	Scotland	4	Wales	4
New York City.....	6, 19, 25	segregation.....	8	West Coast.....	17
Norway	23	settlement(s).....	4, 21	World War I.....	8, 11
Norwegian immigrants.....	23	shamrock	14	World War II.....	8, 18, 20
Obama, Barack.....	10	slavery	7	York.....	6
plantation(s)	4	slaves.....	2, 7, 10		
Poland.....	19, 24	South America	21		
Polish immigrants.....	24	Southwest	21		
Puerto Rico.....	21	Spanish explorers.....	21		
Puritans.....	5	Statue of Liberty.....	2, 25		
railroad	14, 16	Studebaker	12		
Reagan, Ronald	14	Sweden	23		
religion.....	5	Swedish immigrants.....	23		
Russia	19	Texas	11		




Success for All
FOUNDATION®



25837
CCG0220