Inquiry: Understanding Migration Past and Present

What was the impact, and what are the legacies, of late 19th century and early 20th-century immigration to the United States on the country and immigrants and their families?

Pre-Inquiry Staging Activity: Moving Stories

You might consider preparing students for this inquiry with the Moving Stories mini-unit that is available on the composer and share my lesson websites. https://composereducation.org/research-library/elements/1471

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supporting Question 1</th>
<th>Supporting Question 2</th>
<th>Supporting Question 3</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What did people experience as they moved from one place to another and how did borders impact their lives?</td>
<td></td>
<td>What were conditions like in the new land and how did they help or hinder inclusion?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Use the following thinking routines to engage with the featured sources:
- People, Parts, and Systems
- Same-Different-Gain
- Who benefits?
- Three Whys

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For additional resources visit [www.reimaginingmigration.org](http://www.reimaginingmigration.org) or find us on social media.
In addition, note whether the migrants in the stories had choices about moving and if so, how much power they had to make those choices.

Prepare a 5-minute presentation for a member of your congressional delegation to better understand why immigrants leave their homes to inform their positions on migration policy today.

Prepare a 5-minute presentation for a member of your congressional delegation to better understand the impact of borders to inform their positions on migration policy today.

Prepare a 5-minute presentation for a member of your congressional delegation to better understand how the conditions in a new community shape experiences of migration in order to inform their positions today.

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**Featured Sources**

- [https://reimaginingmigration.org/life-before-migration/](https://reimaginingmigration.org/life-before-migration/)
  Select at least 5 sources from this collection. Make sure selections include stories across time, choose some across borders, and choose some stories of internal migration.

- [https://reimaginingmigration.org/the-journey/](https://reimaginingmigration.org/the-journey/)
  Select at least 5 sources from this collection. Make sure selections include stories across time, choose some across borders, and choose some stories of internal migration.

- [https://reimaginingmigration.org/the-ecology-of-adjustment/](https://reimaginingmigration.org/the-ecology-of-adjustment/)
  Select at least 5 sources from this collection. Make sure selections include stories across time, choose some across borders, and choose some stories of internal migration.

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**Argument**

Bringing together what you have learned from the three mini-inquiries, prepare a 4-page Understanding Migration brief. You can use images, infographics, graphic novel techniques, and text. As with the previous performance tasks, imagine your audience as a member of your congressional delegation. This brief should answer the question: What was the impact and what are the legacies of histories of migration on the US as a whole and immigrants themselves?

**Extension**

Prepare a multimedia version of your brief – a podcast, brief, graphic novel/essay, slide show or use the inquiry model we outlined above to explore one particular migration story, the migration of an individual or of a group within a historical moment.

Based on your understanding of migration in the past, create a plan to better welcome and integrate newcomers in your community today. What would you want to see happen? Who would you want to see be involved? You might use the following thinking routines to flesh out your ideas and plan your presentation. [https://reimaginingmigration.org/thinking-routines-taking-action/](https://reimaginingmigration.org/thinking-routines-taking-action/)

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