

Chapter 20 – Immigrants and Urban Life



Section Notes

- 1 [A New Wave of Immigration](#)
- 2 [The Growth of Cities](#)
- 3 [City Life](#)



Video

[The Impact of Immigrants on the United States](#)



Quick Facts

[Tenement Life](#)
[Chapter 20 Visual Summary](#)



Maps

[Coming to America](#)



Images

[Shifting Patterns of Immigration](#)
[Primary Source: Chicago, 1900](#)
[Frederick Law Olmstead](#)
[Hull House Children](#)



Previous



Next



Main Menu



Exit

A New Wave of Immigration

The Big Idea

A new wave of immigration in the late 1800s brought large numbers of immigrants to the United States.

Main Ideas

- U.S. immigration patterns changed during the late 1800s as new immigrants arrived from Europe, Asia, and Mexico.
- Immigrants worked hard to adjust to life in the United States.
- Some Americans opposed immigration and worked to restrict it.



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

Main Idea 1:

U.S. immigration patterns changed during the late 1800s as new immigrants arrived from Europe, Asia, and Mexico.

Old Immigrants

- Arrived before 1880s
- Mostly from Britain, Germany, Ireland, and Scandinavia
- Mostly Protestants, but some Roman Catholics
- Many were skilled workers.
- Some settled in rural areas and became farmers.

New Immigrants

- Came after 1880
- From southern and eastern Europe; included Czechs, Greeks, Hungarians, Italians, Poles, Russians, and Slovaks
- Diverse cultures and religious backgrounds.
- Wanted job opportunities in cities



Journey to America

Immigrants faced a difficult journey, usually traveling in **steerage**, the area below the ship's deck.



New arrivals had to go to immigration processing centers run by state and local governments.



Officials in processing centers interviewed immigrants to determine whether to let them enter the country.



Some immigrants were kept at processing centers for weeks or months while officials investigated their families.



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

Immigration Centers

East Coast

- Ellis Island in New York Harbor was the busiest East Coast center.
- Opened in 1892
- Millions of immigrants came through its center over the next 40 years.
- Less than 2% of arrivals were denied entrance into the country.

West Coast

- Angel Island near San Francisco
- Opened in 1910
- Entrance for many Chinese immigrants
- By law, only Chinese whose fathers were U.S. citizens were allowed into the country.

South

- El Paso, Texas had the main processing center for immigrants from Mexico.
- Most settled in the Southwest.
- Found work in construction, steel mills, mines, and on large commercial farms



Main Idea 2: Immigrants worked hard to adjust to life in the United States.

- Many immigrants moved into neighborhoods with others from the same country.
 - They could hear their own language, eat familiar foods, and keep their customs.
- Business owners often helped new arrivals by offering credit and loans.
- Some communities formed **benevolent societies** to help immigrants in cases of sickness, unemployment, or death.
- Many immigrants lived in **tenements**—poorly built, overcrowded apartments.



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

Immigrant Workers

- Many immigrants were farmers in their homelands, but had to find jobs in cities in the United States.
- Had to take low-paying, unskilled jobs in garment or steel factories and construction
- Some worked long hours for little pay in small shops or mills called **sweatshops**.
- Immigrants with appropriate skills sometimes found work in a wide range of occupations.
- Others saved, shared, or borrowed money to open small businesses.
- Some Mexican immigrants worked on large commercial farms in Arizona, Texas, and California.



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

Main Idea 3:

Some Americans opposed immigration and worked to restrict it.

- Anti-immigrant feelings grew with increases in immigration.
 - Some unions feared immigrants would take away jobs.
- Americans called nativists held racial and ethnic prejudices.
 - Thought new immigrants would not learn American customs, which might harm American society
 - Some were violent toward immigrants.
 - Some nativists advocated laws limiting immigration.
- Congress passed the **Chinese Exclusion Act** in 1882.
- Later laws were passed restricting convicts, immigrants with certain diseases, and those likely to need public assistance from entering the country.



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

The Growth of Cities

The Big Idea

American cities experienced dramatic expansion and change in the late 1800s.

Main Ideas

- Both immigrants and native-born Americans moved to growing urban areas in record numbers in the late 1800s and early 1900s.
- New technology and ideas helped cities change and adapt to rapid population growth.



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

Main Idea 1:

Both immigrants and native-born Americans moved to growing urban areas in record numbers in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

- Immigrants and native-born Americans moved to cities in the late 1800s, causing rapid urban growth.
- By 1900
 - About 40 percent of Americans lived in urban areas
 - New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Boston, and Baltimore all had populations of over half a million
 - 35+ cities had populations of greater than 100,000



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

Factors of Urban Growth

- New immigrants
- Families from rural areas
 - Farm equipment began replacing workers in the countryside
 - Came to cities in search of work
- African Americans from the rural South
 - Hoping to escape discrimination
 - Looking for better educational and economic opportunities
- Railroads
 - Cities at major railroad connection points, such as Chicago, became central hubs of opportunity.



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

Main Idea 2:

New technology and ideas helped cities change and adapt to rapid population growth.

- Cities faces many challenges with the demands of rising populations
 - Needed more building space for homes and businesses
 - Needed less crowding on streets



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

Building Skyscrapers

- Typical city buildings in the mid-1800s were only five stories tall.
 - Building size was limited because the building materials were either too weak or too heavy.
- American steel industry rose in the late 1800s.
 - Mills could produce tons of inexpensive, strong steel.
- Architects began using steel beams in their designs.
 - Could design multistory buildings called skyscrapers by using the beams to make sturdy frames
- Invention of the safety elevator by Elisha Otis in the 1850s helped make skyscrapers practical.



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

Getting Around

- **Mass transit** was public transportation designed to move lots of people.
 - Elevated trains, subways, electric trolleys
- Many middle-class Americans moved to **suburbs** outside cities.



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

New Ideas

- Development of **mass culture**, or leisure and cultural activities shared by many 
- There was a growth in mass communication through newspapers. Publishers like **Joseph Pulitzer** and **William Randolph Hearst** made popular innovations in their newspapers, like color comics. 
- Giant retail shops, or **department stores**, appeared in city centers. 
- Emergence of world fairs and public entertainments, like amusement parks 
- City dwellers became aware of the need for open public spaces, and parks were designed. Landscape architect **Frederick Law Olmsted** became nationally famous for his work. 



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

City Life

The Big Idea

The rapid growth of cities in the late 1800s created both challenges and opportunities.

Main Ideas

- Crowded urban areas faced a variety of social problems.
- People worked to improve the quality of life in U.S. cities.



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

Main Idea 1: Crowded urban areas faces a variety of social problems.

- Urban problems rose as populations grew.
 - Shortages of affordable housing
 - Sanitation problems
 - Water pollution
 - Overcrowding
 - Disease and health problems
 - Air pollution



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

Tenement Life

- Journalist and photographer **Jacob Riis** exposed the horrible conditions in New York tenements in his book *How the Other Half Lives*.
- Shortages of affordable housing forced families to squeeze into tiny tenement apartments.
 - Many people were forced to live in small spaces.
 - Few or no windows to let in fresh air and sunshine
 - Indoor plumbing scarce
 - Diseases like cholera, tuberculosis, and influenza spread quickly in these crowded neighborhoods.



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

Main Idea 2: People worked to improve the quality of life in U.S. cities.

- Many private organizations stepped in to help the poor.
- Reformer Lawrence Veiller led an effort to improve tenement conditions through the Charity Organization Society.
 - Helped to get the 1901 New York State Tenement House Act passed
- Some individuals set up **settlement houses**, or neighborhood centers in poor areas that offered education, recreation, and social activities.



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

Settlement Houses

- One of the most famous settlement houses was **Hull House**
 - Founded in Chicago in 1889 by reformers **Jane Addams** and Ellen Gates Starr
- **Florence Kelley**, a reformer at Hull House, visited sweatshops and wrote about the problems there.
 - Convinced lawmakers to take action and in 1893, Illinois passed a law to limit working hours for women and to prevent child-labor
 - Became Illinois's chief factory inspector and helped to enforce the law
- Settlement houses continued to provide programs and services through the 1900s.



Previous



Next



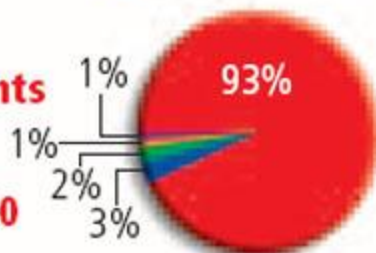
Chapter
Menu



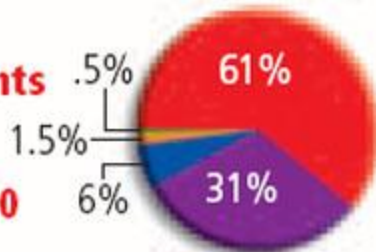
Exit

Shifting Patterns of Immigration

Where Immigrants Came From, 1840–1860



Where Immigrants Came From, 1880–1900



- Northern and western Europe
- Eastern and southern Europe
- North and South America
- Asia
- All other areas

During the late 1800s the places people came from began to change. The charts above show the percentages of people who moved from different places. The total number of immigrants reached a peak in the 1880s, when about 5 million people came to the United States.

By how much did the percentage of immigrants from northern and western Europe change from 1840 to 1900?



Previous



Next



Chapter Menu



Exit

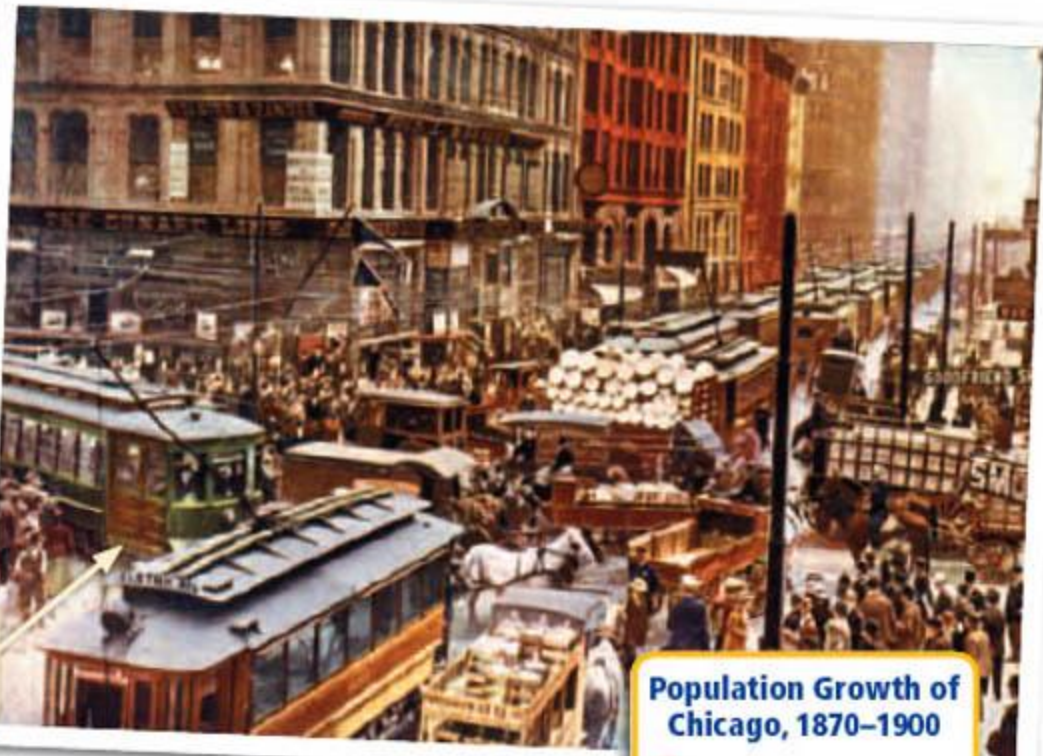
Primary Source

POSTCARD

Chicago, 1900

Postcards like this one were one way people shared the experience of visiting or living in a big city like Chicago. This scene shows a bustling street corner at which modern transportation like streetcars mingle with horse-drawn carts.

Streetcars move large numbers of people through the crowded cities.

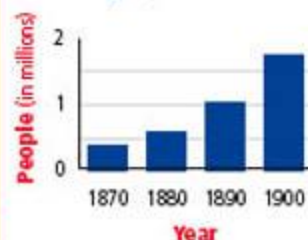


ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES

What changes does this picture show taking place in cities at the time?

Population Growth of Chicago, 1870–1900



Frederick Law Olmsted

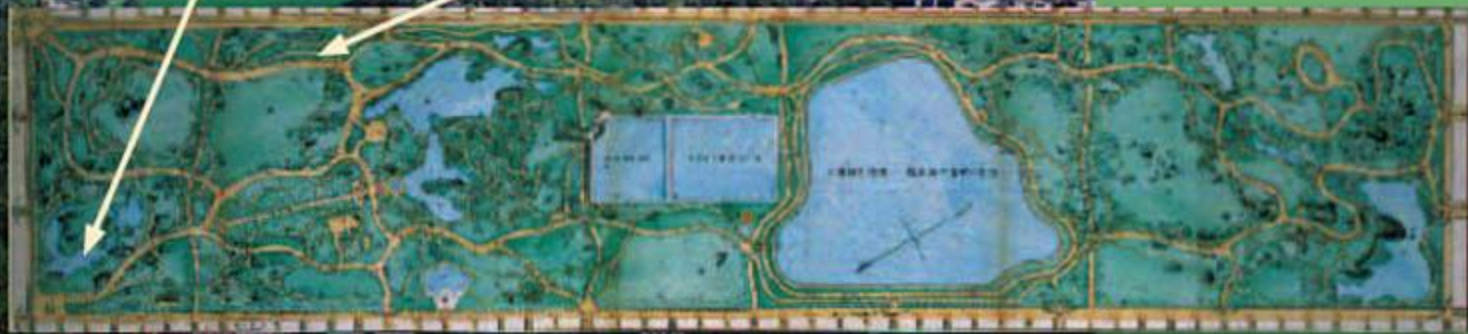
CONNECT TO THE ARTS

Frederick Law Olmsted designed Central Park to serve as a place where New York City residents could relax, exercise, and enjoy nature. Olmsted included areas for horseback riding, ice-skating, boating, and baseball. The Children's District was designed as a place where parents could bring children to stay cool in the summer.

Why do you think a city dweller might be attracted to Central Park?

Olmsted intentionally placed the Pond near busy streets, hoping that it would attract walkers.

People can walk, ride, or rollerskate on the many trails through Central Park.



644



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu

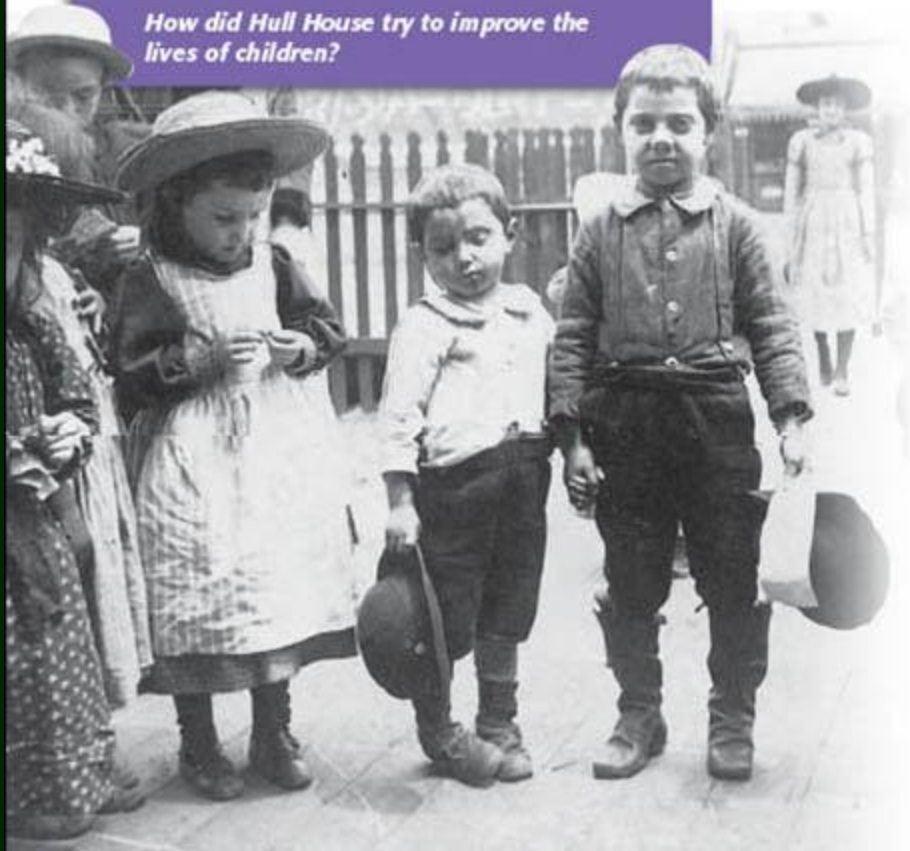


Exit

Hull House

Neighborhood children attended kindergarten at Hull House. Their parents typically had low-paying jobs, and many were children of immigrants. Children like these had few other options for education.

How did Hull House try to improve the lives of children?



Previous



Next

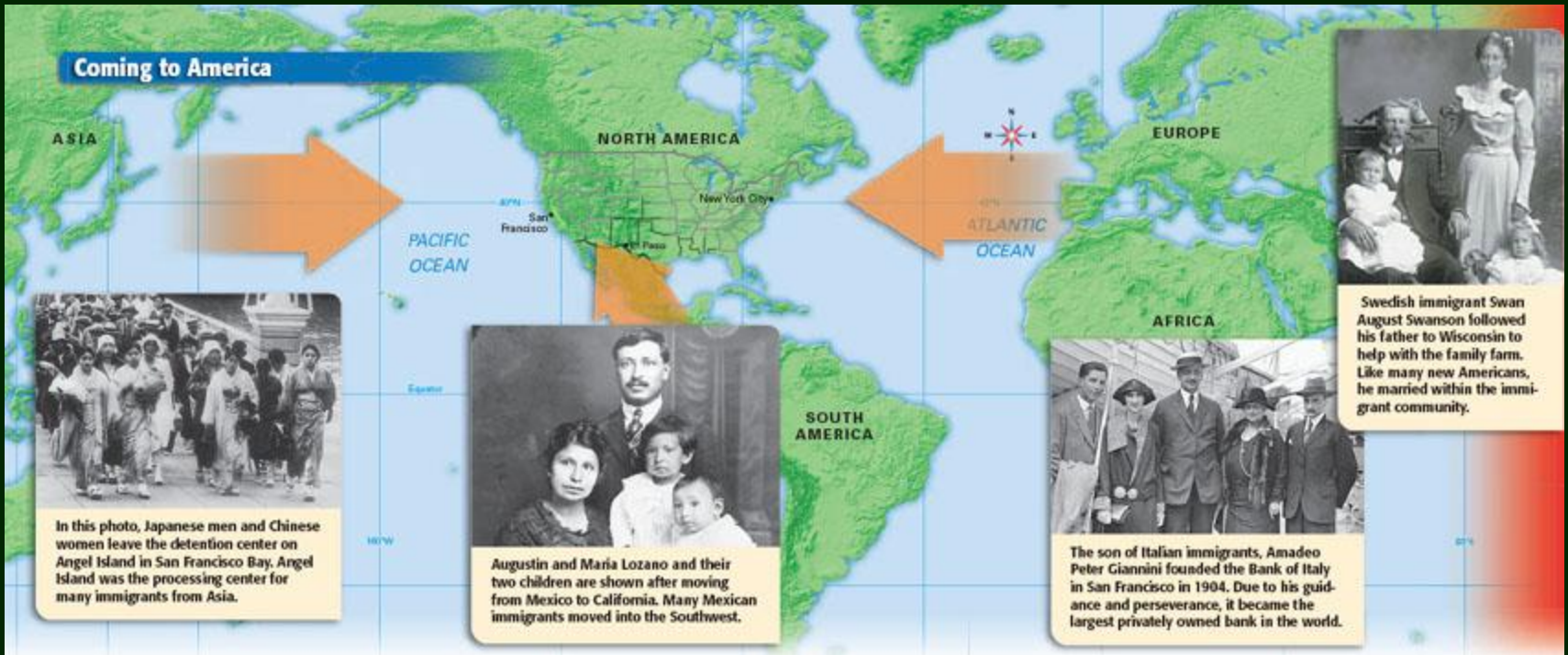


Chapter
Menu



Exit

Coming to America



In this photo, Japanese men and Chinese women leave the detention center on Angel Island in San Francisco Bay. Angel Island was the processing center for many immigrants from Asia.



Augustin and Maria Lozano and their two children are shown after moving from Mexico to California. Many Mexican immigrants moved into the Southwest.



The son of Italian immigrants, Amadeo Peter Giannini founded the Bank of Italy in San Francisco in 1904. Due to his guidance and perseverance, it became the largest privately owned bank in the world.



Swedish immigrant Swan August Swanson followed his father to Wisconsin to help with the family farm. Like many new Americans, he married within the immigrant community.



Tenement Life

QUICK
FACTS

Causes

- Overcrowding
- Unsafe buildings
- Unsanitary conditions
- Scarce running water
- Poor ventilation

Effects

- Diseases such as tuberculosis and cholera
- High child death rates
- Fire
- Crime



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit

Visual Summary



Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.



People Arrived

- New immigrants, mostly from southern and eastern Europe
- Came for new opportunities and better lives
- Mostly found jobs in cities
- Faced opposition from some Americans.

Cities Grew

- Massive urban growth
- New technologies emerged—skyscrapers and mass transit.
- New urban culture

Problems Developed

- Overcrowded tenements
- Unsanitary conditions



Previous



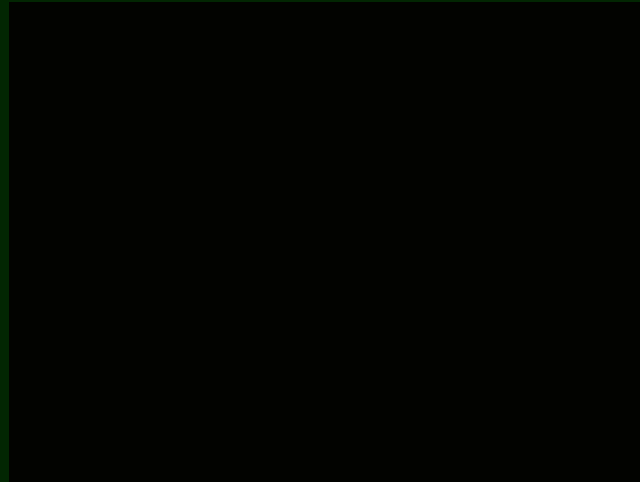
Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit



Click window above to start playing.



Previous



Next



Chapter
Menu



Exit