



# **Immigration:** **online resources** **for our** **National** **Conversation**



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### **Becoming American: The Chinese Experience**

Bill Moyers - PBS

<http://www.pbs.org/becomingamerican/>

Eyewitness accounts offer insights into the experiences of Chinese immigrants. There's also an online quiz and a timeline that covers the period from 1800-2000, complete with video clips.

#### **Don't Miss!**

Be sure to check out the 50-page Educator's Guide listed under the Resources section.

### **Blackstone: A Case Study in Immigration**

National Park Service

<http://www.nps.gov/blac/>

People sometimes refer to New England's Blackstone River Valley as the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution, and a significant part of its history revolves around the thousands of immigrants who came to work in its mills and factories. The National Park Service has created a website that will fill you in on much of the story.

#### **Don't Miss!**

Go to the For Teachers section, select the Curriculum Materials link, then go to Immigration Lesson Plan, and you

will come to Blackstone: A Case Study in Immigration, a PDF document with 23 pages of good stuff. (And if all else fails, just type the title into your search engine.)

### **Center for Immigration Studies**

<http://www.cis.org/>

The Center for Immigration Studies is "an independent, non-partisan, non-profit research organization founded in 1985" that is "devoted exclusively to research and policy analysis of the economic, social, demographic, fiscal, and other impacts of immigration on the United States." Its stated mission is "to expand the base of public knowledge and understanding of the need for an immigration policy that gives first concern to the broad national interest. The Center is animated by a pro-immigrant, low-immigration vision which seeks fewer immigrants but a warmer welcome for those admitted."

#### **Don't Miss!**

The Backgrounders/Reports section contains dozens of articles that offer varied perspectives on a broad range of immigration issues.

## Communities & Banking

### Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Communities & Banking, a free quarterly publication from the Federal Bank of Boston, focuses on low- and moderate-income issues in New England and often features articles related to immigration. For a free subscription send an email to [bostonfed.publications@bos.frb.org](mailto:bostonfed.publications@bos.frb.org), or read C&B online at <http://www.bos.frb.org/commdev/c&b/index.htm>

#### Don't Miss!

"Why Boomers Need Immigrants," Summer 2008.

### Counting on Immigration: Its Impact on the Massachusetts Economy

WBUR - National Public Radio

<http://www.wbur.org/news/local/immigration>

A five-part series produced by one of Boston's public radio stations looks at immigration as "an economic engine in the state of Massachusetts." Segments include changing demographics, immigrant entrepreneurs, undocumented immigrants in the underground economy, the difficulties of cutting ties to home, and a roundtable discussion of what part immigration should play in the economic strategy of Massachusetts. You can either listen to the audio or read the transcripts of each segment.

#### Don't Miss!

The Web Extras section includes photos, an essay, and interactive charts and graphs.

## Destination America

<http://www.pbs.org/destinationamerica>

This site contains background materials from the PBS special that examined why immigrants have come to America: Freedom to worship, freedom from oppression, freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom to create.

#### Don't Miss!

Be sure to check out the collection of compelling personal stories. The Teacher's Guide and the interactive quiz are also worth a look.

### EH.Net Encyclopedia: Immigration to the United States

Raymond L. Cohn, Illinois State University

<http://eh.net/encyclopedia/article/cohn.immigration.us>

EH.Net was created in 1993 to assist economists, historians, and other social scientists through the use of electronic communication and information technology. But even if you are "none of the above," you should check out "Immigration to the United States," by Raymond L. Cohn, of Illinois State University. Professor Cohn's article discusses (1) the basic data sources available, (2) the variation in the volume over time, (3) the reasons immigration occurred, (4) nativism and U.S. immigration policy, (5) the characteristics of the immigrant stream, (6) the effects on the United States economy, and (7) the experience of immigrants in the U.S. labor market.

#### Don't Miss!

Two sections address immigration's economic effects.

## eJournal USA

<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa.html>

This online publication is produced by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Information Programs.

#### Don't Miss!

Entries from the eJournal archives:

- **Irish Immigrants in the United States**  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/0208/ijse/kenny.htm>
- **Immigrants Joining the Mainstream**  
<http://www.america.gov/publications/ejournalusa.html#0208>
- **The United States in 2005: Who We Are Today**  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itsv/1204/ijse/ijse1204.htm>

### French Canadian Emigration to the United States, 1840-1930

Claude Belanger, Marianopolis College

<http://faculty.marianopolis.edu/c.belanger/QuebecHistory/readings/leaving.htm>

These days, Americans on the left and on the right threaten to move to Canada whenever they're unhappy with health care, foreign policy, or almost any other aspect of American life. But there was a time when Canadians came to the U.S. in large numbers to look for work.

#### Don't Miss!

Lots of links will take you to charts and illustrations that are well worth a look.

## Historical Atlas of Massachusetts

Richard Wilkie and Jack Tager

<http://www.geo.umass.edu/faculty/wilkie/Wilkie/maps.html>

We should keep a special place in our hearts for those who put their intellectual property online for all to share. The *Historical Atlas of Massachusetts* isn't limited to immigration, but it does contain a few maps/graphics on the topic and is certainly worth a virtual excursion.

#### Don't Miss!

A map/graphic entitled "Boston's North and Ethnic Change, 1880-1925" will give you quick insight into the dynamics of immigration and the evolution of an urban neighborhood.

## Historical Census Browser

<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus>

If you're looking for a site that has historical census data and is easy to navigate, this site, operated by the University of Virginia, is the one. Go to the Ethnicity/Race/Place of Birth section for historical census data, 1790-1960. You can even map some of it.

### Don't Miss!

Check out the links to further historical census resources.

### Immigration . . .

Library of Congress

[http://lcweb2.loc.gov/learn/features/immig/immigration\\_set2.html](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/learn/features/immig/immigration_set2.html)

Primary source materials, prints, and photographs provide an excellent introduction to the American immigration story. And if you've never visited the Library of Congress website, you're in for a treat.

### Don't Miss!

The Resources section has teacher-tested lesson plans and a direct link to the LOC Prints and Photographs Online Collection (see page 10, "Ambivalence Over Immigration is Nothing New"). Also be sure to check out the Potluck section, which has dozens of recipes from around the world – everything from breakfast to special treats. And another section on the LOC website, From Haven to Home, focuses on 350 years of Jewish life in America, with direct links to some fascinating primary source documents. <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/haventohome/haven-century.html>

### Immigration in America

<http://www.americanheritage.com/immigration>

Online articles, links to blogs on the immigration debate, and recommendations for further reading.

### Don't Miss!

A slideshow features images of immigration in American history. One thing that remains constant across the years is the mixture of hope and trepidation on the faces of the immigrants, regardless of where they're from.

### Immigration to the United States, 1789-1930

Harvard University Library

<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/immigration>

The internet can get you into Harvard, or at least partly into the Harvard University Library via the Open Collections Program. Immigration to the United States, 1789-1930, is "a web-based collection of selected historical materials from Harvard's libraries, archives, and museums that documents voluntary immigration to the U.S. from the signing of the Constitution to the onset of the Great Depression."

### Don't Miss!

The interactive timeline has dozens of entries, many of which feature links to primary source materials such as an online copy of *How the Other Half Lives*, by Jacob Riis. And be sure to click on the link for The Naturalization Act of 1791, if only to see that it was once possible to write federal legislation that fit on a single page.

### Mass Moments

Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities

<http://www.massmoments.org/>

Even if you don't live in Massachusetts, your life has been influenced by the state's history. Mass Moments, created by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, features an extensive archive of pivotal occurrences in Massachusetts history, and a number of them are related to immigration.

### Don't Miss!

- **Chinese Workers Arrive in North Adams, June 13, 1870**

<http://www.massmoments.org/moment.cfm?mid=191>

In 1870, 75 young men from China were brought to North Adams to replace striking shoe workers. Things did not end well.

- **Bread and Roses Strike Begins, January 12, 1912**

<http://www.massmoments.org/moment.cfm?mid=16>

Few believed that a coalition of immigrants could organize a successful strike. But they did, and they managed to win. . . sort of. Ultimately, the factory owners moved their operations to other states.

- **Flu Epidemic Begins in Boston, August 27, 1918**

<http://www.massmoments.org/moment.cfm?mid=249>

The flu epidemic of 1918 killed 50-100 million people worldwide. It also created panic and led to some bizarre theories as to its cause: The health commissioner of Denver blamed that city's Italian immigrants.

- **Ku Klux Klan Rallies in Worcester, October 19, 1924**

<http://www.massmoments.org/moment.cfm?mid=302>

You wouldn't think of Worcester, Massachusetts as a hotbed of Klan activity. In fact, it's one of New England's more diverse cities. But in the 1920s, an





Digital Vision, Getty Images

influx of immigrants had created a degree of ethnic tension in many parts of New England.

- **Massachusetts Executes Sacco and Vanzetti, August 23, 1927**  
<http://www.massmoments.org/moment.cfm?mid=245>  
Immigration fears may have had an impact.

## The New Americans

Independent Lens

<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/newamericans/index.html>

The program follows immigrants and refugees as they leave their homes and families behind and learn what it means to be new Americans in the 21st century.

### Don't Miss!

The 13-question Immigration Myths & Realities Quiz looks at some of the perceptions and misperceptions regarding immigration and its effects on American society. And the Cultural Riches section is just plain fun, especially The New Americans Cookbook, and the Music section, which features Nigerian legend King Sunny Ade and explores the Bollywood phenomenon.

## NOW on PBS: American Immigration History

<http://www.pbs.org/now/society/immhistory.html>

Contains segments on the immigration debate, immigration history, and a brief but interesting Resources section.

### Don't Miss!

The Voices section features interviews with citizens of Perry, Iowa giving their opinions on how they feel immigrants are affecting their town and what makes a person American.

## Pew Research Center

<http://www.pewresearch.org>

### U.S. Population Projections: 2005-2050

The Pew Research Center describes itself as a “nonpartisan ‘fact tank’ that provides information on the issues, attitudes, and trends shaping America and the world.” Just go to its homepage, type “immigration” in the site search box, and you’ll see a listing for dozens of articles and studies.

### Don't Miss!

Pew Hispanic Center features interactive maps and data bases that provide a wealth of information on Latino demographics and settlement patterns.

## Tenement Museum

<http://www.tenement.org/>

The museum is located in a former tenement on Manhattan’s Lower East Side. Built in 1863, it was home to more than 7,000 immigrants over the years. Six of the former apartments have been restored, and since 1992 the museum has been teaching visitors about the immigrant experience.

### Don't Miss!

The website’s Education section has lesson plans for elementary, middle and high school students. The Play section will take you on a virtual tour of the tenement.

## U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov>

Today’s U.S. Census does far more than count heads, and the Census Bureau’s website is a goldmine of historical and current data on immigration.

### Don't Miss!

The United States Foreign-Born Population section has reports, data tables, multi-media slide shows, and more. <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/foreign/index.html>

## U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

<http://www.uscis.gov>

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is the government agency that oversees lawful immigration to the United States of America.

### Don't Miss!

Go to Education & Resources, and check out the “Immigration Legal History” section, which provides an overview of U.S. immigration legislation from 1790-1996. And if you think it’s easy to become a U.S. citizen, go the Naturalization Self Test and give the questions a try.