

## **The Big Idea**

The population of the United States grew rapidly in the early 1800s with the arrival of millions of immigrants.

### **Main Ideas**

- Millions of immigrants, mostly German and Irish, arrived in the United States despite anti-immigrant movements.
- Industrialization led to the growth of cities.
- American cities experienced urban problems due to rapid growth.

### **Main Idea 1:**

**Millions of immigrants, mostly German and Irish, arrived in the United States despite anti-immigrant movements.**

- Large numbers of immigrants crossed the Atlantic in the mid-1800s to begin new lives in the United States.
- More than 4 million came between 1840 and 1860, mostly from Europe.
- More than 3 million of them were from Ireland and Germany.

### **Push-Pull Factors of Immigration**

#### **Push Factors**

- Starvation
- Poverty
- Lack of political freedom

#### **Pull Factors**

Jobs

Greater freedom and equality

Abundant land

### **Immigrants from Ireland and Germany**

#### **Irish Immigrants**

- Fled Ireland because of potato famine in 1840s
- Most were very poor.
- Settled in cities in Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania
- Men worked at unskilled jobs or by building canals and railroads.
- Women worked as domestic servants for wealthy families.

#### **German Immigrants**

- Some educated Germans fled for political reasons.
- Most were working class and came for economic reasons.
- Many became farmers and lived in rural areas.
- In cities they had to take low-paying jobs, such as tailors, seamstresses, bricklayers, servants, clerks, and bakers.

### **Anti-Immigration Movements**

- Many native-born Americans feared losing jobs to immigrants, who might work for lower wages.
- Most Americans were Protestants before the new immigration.
  - Conflict between Protestants and newly arrived Catholic immigrants
- Americans who opposed immigration were called **nativists**.
- Nativists founded a political organization called the **Know-Nothing Party** in 1849 to make it difficult for immigrants to become citizens or hold public office.
  - Wanted to keep Catholics and immigrants out of public office
  - Wanted immigrants to live in United States for 21 years before becoming citizens

### **Main Idea 2: Industrialization led to the growth of cities.**

- Industrial Revolution led to creation of new jobs in cities.
  - Drew rural Americans and immigrants from many nations
- Transportation Revolution helped to connect cities and make movement easier.
- Rise of industry and growth of cities led to creation of new **middle class**.
  - Merchants, manufacturers, professionals, and master craftspeople
  - New economic level between wealthy and poor
- People found entertainment and enriched cultural life in cities.
- Cities were compact and crowded during this time.

### **Main Idea 3:**

**American cities experienced urban problems due to rapid growth.**

-Many city dwellers, particularly immigrants, lived in **tenements**: poorly designed apartment buildings that housed large numbers of people.

-Public services were poor—no clean water, public health regulations, or healthful ways to get rid of garbage.

-Cities became centers of criminal activity, and most had no organized police force.

-Fire was a constant and serious danger in crowded cities.