

## New Movements in America

### Section 1



#### MAIN IDEAS

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

## Key Terms and People

**nativists** people who opposed immigration

**Know-Nothing Party** political organization founded by nativists in 1849

**middle class** a social and economic level between the wealthy and the poor

**tenements** dirty, unsafe housing structures in which the cities' poor were forced to live

## Academic Vocabulary

**implicit** understood though not clearly put into words

## Section Summary

### MILLIONS OF IMMIGRANTS ARRIVE

Between 1840 and 1860, more than four million immigrants came to the United States. Many came from Ireland, fleeing starvation that came with a terrible potato famine there. The famine also meant that many Irish immigrants arrived poor. These immigrants often got jobs working long hours for little pay.

Unlike the Irish, immigrants from Germany often arrived with some money. Many came to America after a revolution in their homeland. Others came for the opportunities America offered. Many bought farmland in America's Midwest. Others settled and worked in cities.

To many native-born Americans, the new immigrants posed an **implicit** threat. Americans worried that immigrants would take away their jobs. Immigrants would do the same work but for less

**Compare and contrast Irish and German immigration between 1840 and 1860.**

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**Why did nativists worry about the increasing numbers of immigrants?**

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money. The Americans also mistrusted immigrants who were Catholic. In Europe, Protestants and Catholics had a history of conflicts.

Americans who opposed immigration for these reasons were known as **nativists**. Together, the nativists formed a political group called the **Know-Nothing Party**, which tried to limit immigration.

**RAPID GROWTH OF CITIES**

In the mid-1800s, the Industrial Revolution encouraged rapid growth in America's cities. The jobs the Industrial Revolution created also helped build a **middle class**—a social and economic level between the wealthy and the poor. These new urban dwellers enjoyed the culture in America's cities. Libraries, clubs, and theaters grew as the cities grew.

**Why do you think culture changed after the Industrial Revolution?**

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**URBAN PROBLEMS**

The people who moved to the city to work could afford only tenement rents. **Tenements** were poorly designed housing structures that were dirty, overcrowded, and unsafe. Cities had not yet learned how to deal with the filth and garbage generated by so many people, and killer epidemics resulted. Crime and fires also plagued the fast-growing cities of the United States.

**Why were living conditions so poor in urban areas?**

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**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Summarize** List some of the health and safety issues that plagued America's cities during the first half of the 1800s.