

Immigration and the U.S. Policy Debate

Second edition. September 2018.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Begins by showing that race was an important criteria for deciding who to include in U.S. society even prior to framing of the Constitution.
- Summarizes U.S. history trends: nativism, assimilation, government policies that limited immigration; explains changes in immigration policy in 1965 and connects immigration patterns to global issues such as war, globalization, and political instability.
- Concludes with an overview of the political, economic, and social issues influencing current policy.

STUDENT TEXT

- Profiles the connection between racism and U.S. immigration policy.
- Illustrates continuity and change over time in the experiences of immigrants.
- Highlights the causes of undocumented immigration during the 1990s and subsequent efforts to address it.
- Presents the political and social dilemmas the United States faces as it frames the future of its immigration policy.

CENTRAL ROLE PLAY ACTIVITY

Question: What should U.S. immigration policy be?

Setting: U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

SKILL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LESSONS

A short description of each lesson can be found on the unit webpage [here](#).

Students will:

- **Conduct** interviews about experiences of immigration, and compare and contrast accounts to understand the benefits and limitations of oral histories.
- **Close read** the Dillingham Commission report to examine the values that influenced anti-immigration policy in the early 1920s.
- **Compare** early-20th century debates to today's debate.
- **Analyze** immigration data for trends and connections to historical events.
- **Evaluate** continuity and change over time among immigrant experiences through first person accounts of immigrants.
- **Deliberate**, using primary sources from across eras, the conceptual strengths and weaknesses of open immigration, closed door, selective, and emigration reduction policies today.
- **Write** a persuasive essay that includes primary source quotes on immigration policy.
- **Develop** problem-solving strategies by identifying challenges of refugee resettlement and crafting solutions.

LINKS FOR FURTHER CURRICULUM EVALUATION

Videos - A free online [video collection](#) accompanies this unit, and the videos are incorporated throughout the Digital Editions.

Print Format - This unit [preview](#) includes the table of contents, a reading excerpt, and a sample lesson plan.

Digital Editions Format - Interested in what the Digital Editions format looks like? Check out our web-based curriculum [here](#).