

Native Americans Reclaim Alcatraz Island

In November, 1969 seventy-eight people seized the abandoned federal prison on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay. The group was led by Richard Oakes, a young member of the Mohawk tribe, Grace Thorpe, the granddaughter of Jim Thorpe and Mad Bear Anderson, a medicine man from the Tuscarora people. It also included white supporters of the Native American movement.

The group claimed that they had a right to take-over Alcatraz Island because federal law permitted Native Americans to reclaim land taken from them by the federal government when the government no longer needed it. The occupiers remained on the island until June 1971.

Read the statement issued by the "Indians of All Tribes" movement and complete the exercises.

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

This is a call for a delegation from each Indian nation, tribe or band from throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico to meet together on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay, on december 23, 1969.

On November 20, 1969, 78 Indian people, under the name "Indians of all Tribes," moved onto Alcatraz Island, a former Federal Prison. We began by cleaning up the Island and are still in the process of organizing, setting up classes and trying to instill the old Indian ways into our young.

We moved onto Alcatraz Island because we feel that Indian people need a Cultural Center of their own. For several decades, Indian people have not had enough control of training their young people. And without a cultural center of their own, we are afraid that the old Indian ways may be lost. We believe that the only way to keep them alive is for Indian people to do it themselves.

We realize that there are more problems in Indian communities besides having our culture taken away. We have water problems, land problems, "social" problems, job opportunity problems, and many others.

We realize too that we are not getting anywhere fast by working alone as individual tribes. If we can gather together as brothers and come to a common agreement, we feel that we can be much more effective, doing things for ourselves, instead of having someone else doing it, telling us what is good for us.

The "Indians of All Tribes" who are occupying Alcatraz Island need your help. They want the people of San Francisco to hold a demonstration in support of their take-over of Alcatraz Island. Design a leaflet telling people about the reasons for the take-over and announcing the demonstration.

Should English Be Official?

Can you name the official language of the United States? If you said English, you are wrong. The United States Constitution does not create an official language for this country.

The people of the United States have always spoken many different languages. Colonial Americans spoke European languages like English, French, Spanish, and Dutch. They also spoke African languages and Native American languages. Nineteenth and early twentieth century immigrants brought new language to the United States, including Chinese, Russian, Italian and Yiddish (the language of Eastern European Jews). Recent immigrants to the United States have brought more new languages, including Korean, Farasi (spoken in Iran), Urdu (spoken in Pakistan), and Creole (spoken in Haiti).

Today, many states allow citizens to vote and residents to apply for health care and other government services in languages other than English. Many schools allow students to take classes in their native languages while they learn English.

However, some people believe that the United States should have an official language. At least 18 states have passed laws to make English the official language of the United States. Bills have also been introduced in Congress to require that government business only be conducted in English.

Should English become the official language of the United States? Make a list of pro and con arguments and then say how you would vote on a bill to make English the official language of the United States if you were a Senator from New York State.

PRO

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

CON

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

If I were the United States Senator from New York I would vote _____

_____ . I would vote this way because

_____.

New Immigrants Describe Their Experiences

Read about the experiences of these three immigrants and then complete the exercises at the end.

Cha Ok Kim, born near Kwangju, South Korea, Businessman, New York City

Cha Ok Kim was orphaned during the Korean War. As a child he kept alive by selling cigarettes. In 1971, after completing graduate school in South Korea, he came to the United States. Today, he owns his own import-export business. Mr. Kim is proud of being an American and of fellow Korean immigrants. He says:

"Many Koreans in this city work "twenty-five hour" in a day. We set up small businesses in run-down areas where other people are afraid to go. In New York, Koreans have opened gas stations, grocery stores, liquor stores, cleaning shops, warehouses, and import-export businesses like my own."

"Sometimes, in these places, American people want to fight with us. They ask, "How come, after being in this country only two or three years, you Koreans have your own store? You make money. maybe the Korean government or American government gives you special assistance." This was never true for my generation of immigrants. We came with very little money. Some people like me started as peddlers. I put ladies' wigs in a bag that I slung over my shoulder and walked the streets in Harlem and Brooklyn. I was a peddler for seven years before I established my import-export store."

Changing Immigration Patterns

Examine the graph and chart and complete the exercises below.

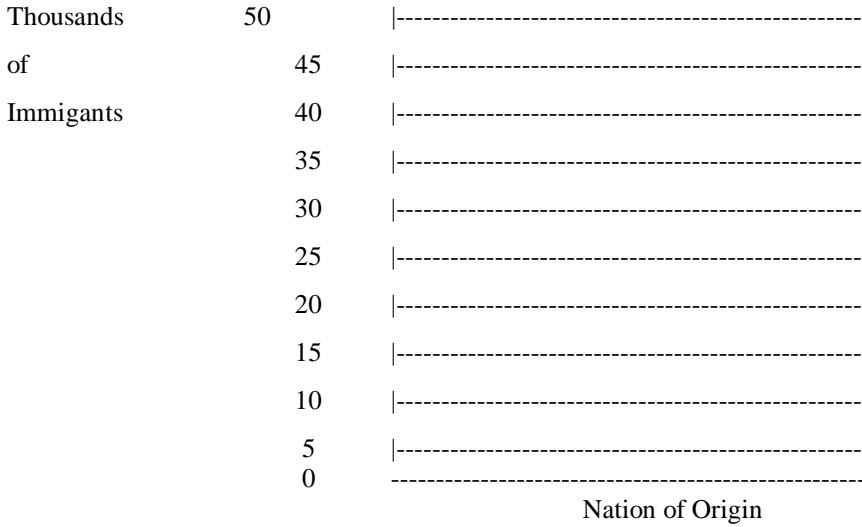
Immigrants to the United States in 1985 from country of origin.

Philippines48,000
Korea35,000
India26,000
Dominican Republic	24,000
Cuba20,000
Jamaica19,000
Iran 16,000
Taiwan 15,000

1- Using information on the circle graphs, rank immigrant groups from highest to lowest for 1966 and 1985.

1966	1985
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

2- Use the information on the chart to construct a bar graph.



Ethnic New York City -- Comparing the 1980 and 1990 Censuses

1- Examine the chart.

Group	1980 population/percentage	1990 population/percentage
Non-Hispanic Whites	3,703,203 (52.4%)	3,163,125 (43.2%)
Non-Hispanic Blacks	1,694,505 (24%)	1,847,049 (25.2%)
Hispanics	1,406,389 (19.9%)	1,783,511 (24.4%)
Asian	239,338 (3.4%)	489,851 (6.7%)
Other	28,204 (.4%)	39,028 (.5%)

2- Round off each percentage and each number to the nearest one thousand people.

Non-Hispanic Whites _____

Non-Hispanic Blacks _____

Hispanics _____

Asians _____

Others _____

3- Construct a bar graph of the ethnic population of New York City for 1990.

4- Construct a circle graph to display the percentage of each ethnic group in 1990.

5- Construct a bar graph comparing the Hispanic population in 1980 and 1990.

President Johnson Discusses Changes in the Immigration Laws

Before 1880, anyone could immigrate to the United States. Starting in the 1880's, the United States passed a series of laws to limit who could enter. The first people to be barred were Asians. By 1924, a quota system was set up. Under this quota each nation was assigned a set number of people who could migrate to the United States. Western European nations were allowed high quotas. The rest of the world was permitted very few immigrants.

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson helped launch a campaign to change the United States immigration laws. The changes in the law ended the quota system and greatly changed who was able to immigrate to the United States.

Read each statement by President Lyndon Johnson.

A) Lyndon B. Johnson, New York Times, January 14, 1965.

"A change is needed in laws dealing with immigration.....The principal reform called for is the elimination of the National Origins Quota System. That system is incompatible with (goes against) our basic American tradition. The procedures (rules for this system) imply that men and women from some countries are....more desirable citizens than others."

"To replace the quota system, the proposed bill relies on a technique of preferential admissions based upon the advantage of our nation, the skills of the immigrant, and the existence of a close family relationship between the immigrant and people who are already citizens or permanent residents of the United States."

B) Lyndon B. Johnson, New York Times, October 4, 1965.

"This Bill says simply that from this day forth those wishing to emigrate to America shall be admitted on the basis of their skills and their close relationship to those already here. This is a simple test. It is a fair test. Those who can contribute most to this country -- to its growth, and strength and spirit -- will be the first admitted to our land....The days of unlimited immigration are past. But those who come will come because of what they are -- not because of the land from which they sprung."

A different times, the United States has had different immigration policies.

Before 1880- Open Immigration. Anyone could enter the United States.

1880-1920 - Asian immigrants were barred from the United States.

1920-1965 - Immigration is limited. Quotas determined how many immigrants could enter from each country. Only a few countries could send many immigrants.

1965 to the present- Immigration remains limited. People with special skills or people with family already in the United States are permitted to come first.

Write a letter to the New York Times. In the letter explain which system of immigration is best for the United States. Before to include reasons for your opinions.