(6:12) Middle School Documents: Immigration

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| Sources of Immigration   * Read this chart on immigration to the United States. It has a lot of **data** (facts) about immigration. * Now you be the historian. Instead of answering questions, you have to make a list of questions that you have about the data. A sample question: Why did so many people come from Southern and Eastern Europe from 1901-1910? * When the class has a list of questions, students should think of possible answers. A possible answer is called a **hypothesis**. Once historians have an hypothesis, they try to check their “possible answer” by finding more data.   Homeland 1871-1880 1881-90 1891-1900 1901-10 1911-20  Northern & 2,070,000 3,778,000 1,643,000 1,910,000 997,000  Western Europe  Southern & 201,000 958,000 1,915,000 6,225,000 3,379,000  Eastern Europe  China 123,000 61,000 14,000 20,000 21,000  Japan - 2,000 25,000 129,000 83,000  Canada 383,000 393,000 3,000 179,000 742,000  Mexico 5,000 2,000 1,000 49,000 219,000 |

**Unguarded Gates** (1895)

By Thomas Aldrich

Wide open and unguarded stand our gates,

And through them presses a wild motley throng--

Men from the Volga and the Tartar steppes,

Featureless figures of the Hoang-Ho,

Malayan, Scythian, Teuton, Kelt, and Slav,

Flying the Old World's poverty and scorn;

These bringing with them unknown gods and rites,

Those, tiger passions, here to stretch their claws.

In street and alley what strange tongues are loud,

Accents of menace alien to our air,

Voices that once the Tower of Babel knew!

O Liberty, white Goddess! Is it well

To leave the gates unguarded?

*The New York Tribune*, Jan. 3, 1920: “All night long the process of questioning and sorting out the captives went on at the office of the Department of Justice....At midnight, Mr. Flynn said, 'This is the breaking of the backbone of radicalism in America'.”

**Congress Discusses Immigration Restriction, 1921**

Congressman Lucian Parish, Dem.-Texas: “We should stop immigration entirely until such a time as we can amend our immigration laws and so write them that hereafter no one shall be admitted except he be in full sympathy with our constitution and laws. Now is the time to throw about this country the most stringent immigration laws and keep from our shores forever those who are not in sympathy with American ideas.”

Congressman James McClintic, Dem.-Oklahoma: “I say the class of immigrants coming to the shores of the United States at this time are not the kind of people we want as citizens in this country.”