

Handout A: Primary Source Immigration Activity Student Guide

Task 1: Warm-Up

The year is 1850 and you are standing in the middle of the street outside a factory in New York City. What and whom do you see? Write a description or draw the scene of the street in the box provided. If you illustrate your ideas, add dialogue bubbles or words as needed to help convey your ideas.

Share your written description or illustration with your partner. Write a brief reflection of what your partner created.

With your partner, can you find any similarities between your two final products?

Similarity #1:

Similarity #2:

Task 2: Primary Source Exploration

List the title of your document:

- Is your item a primary or secondary source? PRIMARY SECONDARY
- Describe the type of source you are looking at (e.g., political cartoon, text, chart, graph):
- What group(s) of people can you identify in your source?
- What do you think was the author's purpose in creating this document?
- What is the author's viewpoint in this source?
- Put this source into a larger context of time and history.

Task 3: Application—Identify the Pushes and Pulls of Irish and German Immigration

	Pushes (moving away from their home country)	Pulls (moving toward a new place)
Irish	<p>Document # & Title Evidence:</p> <p>Document # & Title Evidence:</p> <p>Document # & Title Evidence:</p>	<p>Document # & Title Evidence:</p> <p>Document # & Title Evidence:</p> <p>Document # & Title Evidence:</p>
German	<p>Document # & Title Evidence:</p> <p>Document # & Title Evidence:</p> <p>Document # & Title Evidence:</p>	<p>Document # & Title Evidence:</p> <p>Document # & Title Evidence:</p> <p>Document # & Title Evidence:</p>

Task 4: Exit Ticket—Thesis Statement

On the basis of your completed Task 3: Application—Identify the Pushes and Pulls of Irish and German Immigration chart, write a thesis statement responding to this prompt:

Describe the various push-pull factors that contributed to Irish and German immigration to the United States between 1840 and 1875.

Document 1: Margaret McCarthy letter, 1850

Source:

<http://www.mayolibrary.ie/en/LocalStudies/Emigration/LetterSamples/>

Introduction:

Margaret McCarthy, a 22-year-old Irish immigrant, wrote the following letter to her father back in Ireland on September 22, 1850. Margaret arrived in New York the preceding year.

Text
<p>This is a good place and a good country . . . but there is one thing that's ruining this place. . . . The emigrants have not money enough to take them to the interior of the country, which obliges them to remain here in New York and the like places, which causes the less demand for labor and also the great reduction in wages. For this reason, I would advise no one to come to America that would not have some money after landing here that would enable them to go west in case they would get no work to do here. But any man or woman without a family are fools that would not venture and come to this plentiful country where no man or woman ever hungered or ever will. . . . I can assure you there are dangers upon dangers . . . but my friends . . . have courage and . . . come you all together courageously and bid adieu to that lovely place, the land of our birth.</p>

Document 2: From the Old to the New World – German Emigrants for New York Embarking on a Hamburg Steamer

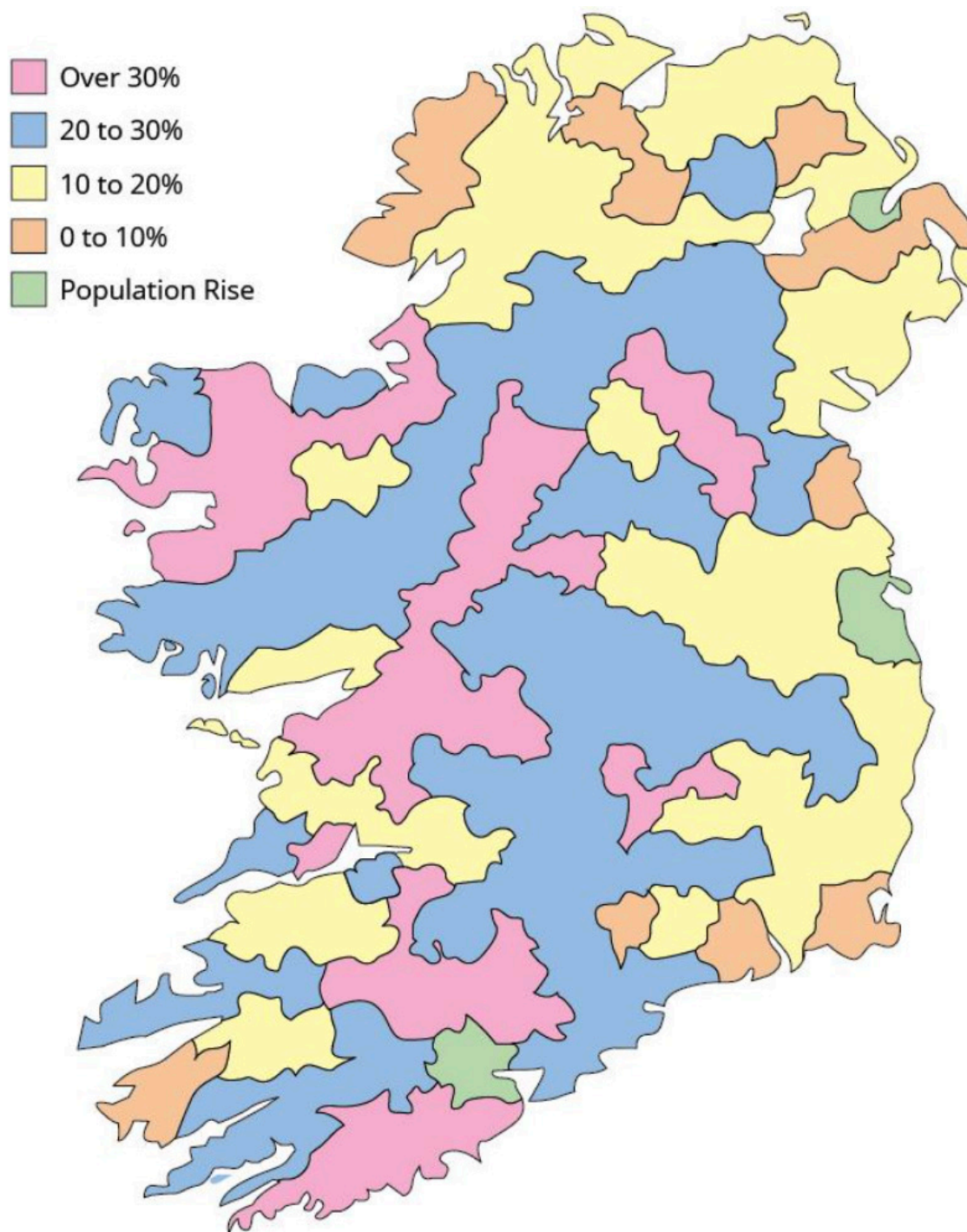
Source:

<https://www.loc.gov/item/90711902/>



This 1874 wood-engraving print appeared in Harper's Weekly and shows German immigrants boarding a ship for the United States in the late nineteenth century.

Document 3: The Fall in Ireland's Population, 1841–1851



Source: Edwards, RD, Williams, TD; "The Great Famine: Studies in Irish History 1845-1852", Lilliput Press, 1956. Reprinted 1997. Figure 20, p260 Produced for www.irelandtheisland.com

By the early nineteenth century, the potato had become the main source of nutrition for the Irish people. Potatoes were easy to grow, even in poor soil, and produced more calories per acre than any other crop. In 1845, a blight struck that turned potatoes in the field black and inedible. What was referred to as "The Great Famine" continued through the early 1850s.

Document 4: Illustrations of Suffering in Ireland



(a)



(b)

(a) The first image depicts the suffering experienced by the Irish at Skibbereen, near Cork, in 1847. These images were commissioned by the *Illustrated London News* to show the scale of the devastation caused by the potato famine. (b) The second image, an engraving entitled "Engraving of Emigrants Leaving Ireland" appeared in the preface to the first edition of *An Illustrated History of Ireland from AD 400 to 1800* by Mary Frances Cusack, first published in 1868.

Document 5: German Settlement in Pennsylvania: An Overview

Source:

http://hsp.org/sites/default/files/legacy_files/migrated/germanstudentreading.pdf

Introduction:

German immigrants to the United States came in two waves—those who came before and after the American Revolution. The following chart summarizes the major differences between these two groups.

	German Immigration before the American Revolution	German Immigration c. 1820–1850
Origins	Southern Germany	Northern and eastern Germany
Occupation	Farmers, artisans	Farmers, artisans
Reason for emigrating	Cheap land in the United States, freedom from religious persecution	Famine in Germany, freedom from political oppression after the 1848–1849 German revolutions
Religion	Protestant	Roman Catholic
Destination within the United States	Pennsylvania	New York, Midwest (Illinois, Wisconsin)

Source: The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, http://hsp.org/sites/default/files/legacy_files/migrated/germanstudentreading.pdf

Works Cited:

- Conzen, Kathleen Neils. "Germans." *Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups*. Edited by Stephan Thernstrom. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1980.
- Glatfelter, Charles H. *The Pennsylvania Germans: A Brief Account of their Influence on Pennsylvania*. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania Historical Association, 1990.
- Shoemaker, Alfred Lewis. *The Ancestors of the Pennsylvania Germans*. [microform at Pennsylvania State University]
- Wokeck, Marianne S. "German Settlements in British North American Colonies: A Paperwork of Cultural Assimilation and Persistence." *In Search of Peace and Prosperity: New German Settlements in Eighteenth-Century Europe and America*. Edited by Harmutt Lehmann, Hermann Wellenreuther, and Renate Wilson. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2000.

Document 6: 1848 Revolution in Berlin, artist unknown

Introduction:

In 1848, revolutions broke out in many European countries, including the German states (Germany was not unified into a single country until 1871). These revolutions were inspired in part by the Enlightenment ideas that inspired the American Revolution but also the increasingly powerful force of nationalism. The revolt in the German states was unsuccessful, and many who supported it—known as “Forty-Eighters”—fled into exile to escape political persecution.



This painting depicts the 1848 revolution in Berlin.