

**Immigration – Late 1800s**  
**Grade 5**

The following question is based on the accompanying documents (1 - 5). Some of these have been edited for the purpose of this task. This question is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the source of the document and the author's point of view.

**Directions:**

- ◆ Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction with a topic sentence that answers the essay question (or thesis statement), a body with several paragraphs explaining and supporting your answer and a conclusion.
- ◆ Analyze the documents
- ◆ Use evidence from documents to support your answer
- ◆ Include specific related outside information.

**Historic Background:**

Between 1861 and 1914 almost 30 million people came from Europe to the United States. This increase in immigration to the United States had many effects.

**Task:**

For Part A, read **each** document carefully and answer the question or questions after each document. Then read the directions for Part B and write your essay.

For Part B, use your answers from Part A, information from the documents, and your knowledge of social studies to write a well organized essay. In the essay you should:

Explain how the arrival of immigrants changed life in the United States of America during the late 1800s.

**Document 1:**

How did the arrival of immigrants change life in the United States of American? (Late 1800s)

## The New Immigrants

The opening of Ellis Island reminds us all that America is a land of immigrants. Over 5 million immigrants have poured into the country in the last 12 years. In the past, most immigrants came from northern and western European countries. These included England, Ireland, Germany, and the Nordic countries. Today, that trend seems to be changing. These days, an increasing number of immigrants come from southern and eastern Europe. More and more people are coming from countries such as Italy, Russia, and Austria-Hungary.

Experts believe that this trend will continue because of the poor conditions in many European countries. For example, in Italy, there is very little work to be found. Many Russian Jews have

come to America to escape religious persecution.

The bar graph shows how the number of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe has increased in recent years.

### Immigrants from Europe

Year	Northern and Western Europe (Thousands)	Southern and Eastern Europe (Thousands)
1870	280	20
1880	380	40
1890	280	140

The American History Herald , page 2 – volume 1 number 8 Steck- Vaugh, January 1892

1. By looking at this graph, list one effect that the arrival of the immigrants had on the United States of America.

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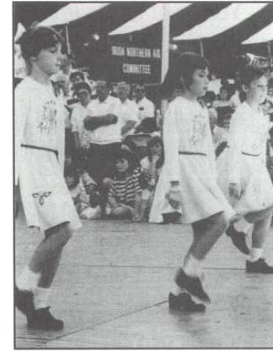
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## Document 2:

How did the arrival of immigrants change life in the United States of American? (Late 1800s)

### CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE IRISH

Irish Americans made many important contributions to New York. Irish workers helped build the Erie Canal and the railroads that made New York economically successful. Irish Americans built St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Irish-American politicians, like Robert F. Wagner, Robert F. Kennedy and Daniel P. Moynihan, worked to improve the lives of all New Yorkers. Irish folk music and theater enriched New York's entertainment scene. Some Irish New Yorkers, like James Cagney, became famous movie stars.



Young girls participating in a St. Patrick's Day celebration in upstate New York

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick is honored as the saint who brought Christianity to Ireland. Many Irish Americans celebrate March 17—**St. Patrick's Day**—with a parade. In New York it is a time when bands play and politicians march up Fifth Avenue. Students from all over New York head to Manhattan to take part in the parade.

#### ✓ CHECKING YOUR UNDERSTANDING ✓

1. Why did the Irish immigrants come to America?
2. What problems did Irish immigrants face?
3. What contributions have Irish Americans made to American society?

Learning About New York State, A. Jarrett Publication 2000

1. Immigrants have made many contributions to America. In what two ways have the Irish immigrants made a difference?

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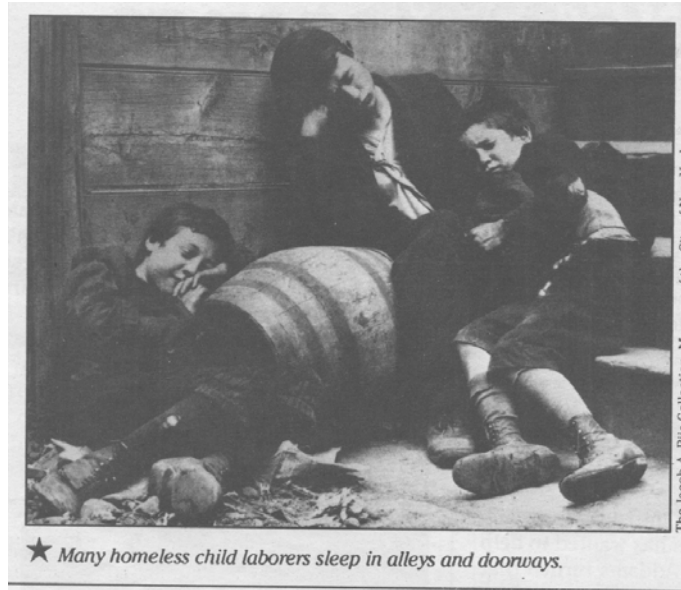
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**Document 3:**

How did the arrival of immigrants change life in the United States of American? (Late 1800s)



The American History “Herald” – Welcome to America, Steck-Vaugh, January 2, 1892, “

1. Often working conditions for immigrant children were horrible. List two hardships these working immigrant children faced.

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