

TOPIC: Results of the Great Irish Famine

Aim: Why did the Great Irish Famine lead to a wave of immigration to the United States?

Standards: United States History (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4); World History (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4).

Do Now Activity: Complete this activity working in pairs or in groups. If you were moving to a new country to settle permanently and all you could take with you are the things that fit an old large trunk, 3'x2'x2', what would you pack? Be prepared to explain your choices.

Motivational Activity: Make a list of things students would pack in their trunks. Discuss the reasons for their choices. How would the selections be different if you were Irish immigrants coming to the United States in the 1840s because of the Great Irish Famine? Why would they be different?

Activity: Examine the graph, "Immigration from Ireland to the United States." Discuss key questions.

What kind of graph is this? What years are shown on this graph?

Why do you think the graph begins and ends in these years?

How many people migrate to the U.S. from Ireland in 1845? 1847? 1851? 1855?

What is happening to immigration from Ireland to the U.S. during these years?

If you were a historian who found this data, what would you want to look at next? Why?

Activity: People immigrate to a new countries when something attracts them, or pulls them to a new country, and when conditions in their old country are pushing them out. Examine the cartoons and drawings from the mid-nineteenth century.

Describe what you see in the cartoon or drawing.

What is pulling the Irish to the United States?

What is pushing them to leave Ireland?

Summary Question: Why did so many Irish men and women decide to migrate to the United States at the middle of the nineteenth century?

Application: Do you think the United States should welcome new immigrants from countries where people are suffering great hardship? Explain.

Homework: Go around your house and prepare two lists of items you absolutely must take with you if your family was forced to move to a new country and you did not know what things would be like there. For List # 1, you will have no space limit. For List # 2, you must fit everything you take into an old large trunk that is 3'x2'x2'.

ACTIVITY SHEET - Immigration from Ireland to the United States

Immigration from Ireland to the United States

Source: R. Edwards and T. Williams (1956). *The Great Famine, Studies in Irish History*.

Year	Irish immigration to the U.S.
1842	49,000
1843	23,000
1844	37,000
1845	50,000
1846	68,000
1847	117,000
1848	154,000
1849	177,000
1850	181,000
1851	216,000
1852	193,000
1853	157,000
1854	111,000
1855	57,000

Questions

1- What kind of graph is this? _____

2- What years are shown on this graph? _____

3- Why do you think the graph begins and ends in these years? _____

4- How many people migrate to the U.S. from Ireland in 1845? _____

1847 _____ 1851 _____ 1855 _____

5- What is happening to immigration from Ireland to the U.S. during these years?

6- If you were a historian who found this data, what would you want to look at next?

Why? _____

