

Journeys and Reasons

Trace why different groups came to the United States and where they settled.

8.23.A “identify racial, ethnic, and religious groups that settled in the United States and explain their reasons for immigration;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each group named in the passage, circle the words that explain why it came to the United States, and write a matching number beside each group and its reasons so you can connect immigration groups to their reasons.

Why People Crossed the Ocean

- ① In the 1840s, many Irish Catholics left Ireland after potato blight destroyed food crops. The famine brought hunger, disease, and poverty. Families crossed the Atlantic hoping to find work and enough food in U.S. cities. They settled in places such as Boston and New York, taking jobs in construction, factories, and domestic service. Their Catholic faith was important to many newcomers, yet anti-Irish and anti-Catholic prejudice limited jobs and housing. Despite these barriers, Irish communities built churches, newspapers, and mutual-aid groups.
- ② Chinese migrants began arriving in larger numbers during the California Gold Rush of 1849 and later worked on western railroads. Some hoped to earn money after poverty or conflict in southern China disrupted family life. Railroad companies needed labor, so jobs drew workers across the Pacific. Chinese workers settled in western towns and cities, often forming neighborhoods where they could find familiar food, language, businesses, and support. They also faced racial discrimination and laws that restricted immigration and citizenship.
- ③ At the end of the nineteenth century, many Jewish people left parts of eastern Europe. Antisemitic violence, unfair laws, and limits on education or work threatened their safety and future. They came to the United States seeking religious freedom, security, and economic opportunity, then formed congregations and aid societies in growing cities. In the early twentieth century, Black immigrants from Caribbean islands, including Jamaica, also moved to U.S. cities. Many sought industrial jobs and greater opportunity while leaving economies shaped by colonial rule and limited work.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Which ethnic and religious group left Ireland in the 1840s? Give two reasons this group immigrated.

2 What conditions in China and the United States encouraged Chinese migrants to come to the United States?

3 Why did many Jewish people leave eastern Europe, and what did they seek in the United States?

4 What were two reasons Black immigrants from Caribbean islands moved to U.S. cities in the early twentieth century?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose an ethnic, racial, or religious immigrant group not named in the passage. Write exactly four sentences that identify the group, explain one reason it left its homeland, explain one reason it came to the United States, and describe one place or community it formed after arriving.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each group named in the passage, circle the words that explain why it came to the United States, and write a matching number beside each group and its reasons so you can connect immigration groups to their reasons. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which ethnic and religious group left Ireland in the 1840s? Give two reasons this group immigrated.	Irish Catholics. They left because the potato blight and famine caused hunger, disease, and poverty, and they hoped to find work and food.
2	What conditions in China and the United States encouraged Chinese migrants to come to the United States?	Poverty or conflict in southern China disrupted family life, while Gold Rush and railroad jobs offered a chance to earn money.
3	Why did many Jewish people leave eastern Europe, and what did they seek in the United States?	They left because antisemitic violence, unfair laws, and limits on education or work threatened them. They sought religious freedom, security, and economic opportunity.
4	What were two reasons Black immigrants from Caribbean islands moved to U.S. cities in the early twentieth century?	They sought industrial jobs and greater opportunity, while leaving places with economies shaped by colonial rule and limited work.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Many Italian immigrants, an ethnic group, arrived in the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Poverty and scarce farmland in southern Italy pushed many people to leave. Factory jobs and higher wages pulled them to the United States. Many settled in northeastern cities and formed Italian neighborhoods, churches, and mutual-aid societies.

Accept equivalent passage-based reasons, including closely related wording. For the open response, accept accurate examples of groups not named in the passage when all four required ideas are present and the response has exactly four sentences.