

Rules That Changed

Trace how immigration policies shaped entry to the United States.

CE.6.e “examining the process and importance of immigration policies at different points in U.S. history; and”

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each immigration policy named in the passage, then circle one phrase near it that explains an effect on people or the nation.

Changing Immigration Rules

- ① In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, and President Chester A. Arthur signed it. The law stopped most Chinese laborers from entering the United States for ten years. It grew from anti-Chinese prejudice and fears that workers would lose jobs. The policy was renewed and later made stricter. Immigration officials used the law to decide who could enter. Families were separated, and Chinese communities faced a rule aimed at one nationality. The law showed that federal policies could limit immigration based on race and national origin.
- ② In 1924, Congress approved the Immigration Act of 1924, which President Calvin Coolidge signed. The act set national-origin quotas, or limits, for immigrants from particular countries. Its formula favored immigrants from northern and western Europe and sharply reduced entries from southern and eastern Europe. It also barred immigration by people who were ineligible for citizenship under earlier laws, which effectively excluded immigrants from Japan. Supporters claimed quotas would protect American society, but the policy treated groups unequally and changed which families could join relatives in the United States.
- ③ In 1965, Congress passed the Immigration and Nationality Act, which President Lyndon B. Johnson signed. It ended the national-origin quota system. Instead, the law gave preference to close relatives of U.S. citizens and permanent residents, as well as people with needed job skills. The change did not create open borders, because numerical limits and admission rules remained. Over time, more immigrants arrived from Asia, Latin America, Africa, and other regions. This policy demonstrates how changing a law can reshape families, communities, and the nation's population.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What steps did the Chinese Exclusion Act go through before it became law?

2 How did the Immigration Act of 1924 use national origin to decide who could immigrate?

3 How did the 1965 law change the main basis for admitting many immigrants?

4 Use one example from the passage to explain why immigration policies were important to families or communities.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two policies from the passage. Write exactly four sentences comparing how they decided who could enter the United States and explaining one important effect of each policy.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each immigration policy named in the passage, then circle one phrase near it that explains an effect on people or the nation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What steps did the Chinese Exclusion Act go through before it became law?	Congress passed the act, and President Chester A. Arthur signed it.
2	How did the Immigration Act of 1924 use national origin to decide who could immigrate?	It favored immigrants from northern and western Europe, reduced entries from southern and eastern Europe, and effectively excluded immigrants from Japan.
3	How did the 1965 law change the main basis for admitting many immigrants?	It ended national-origin quotas and gave preference to close relatives of U.S. citizens and permanent residents and to people with needed job skills.
4	Use one example from the passage to explain why immigration policies were important to families or communities.	Answers may explain that the Chinese Exclusion Act separated families, that 1924 quotas changed which families could join relatives, or that the 1965 law reshaped families and communities.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Chinese Exclusion Act stopped most Chinese laborers from entering the United States. It separated families and targeted people from one nationality. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 gave preference to relatives and people with needed job skills. It helped change the regions from which more immigrants arrived over time.

Accept any accurate four-sentence comparison of two passage policies that explains each policy's admission rule and an effect. Students may use different valid effects from the passage.