

Laws That Excluded

Trace how immigration laws harmed people and communities.

USII.3.f "explaining how governmental actions including, but not limited to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, caused harm to Chinese Americans and other immigrants;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each government action in the passage. Number the harm caused by each action, using the same number beside the action and its effect.

When Laws Closed Doors

- ① In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act. The law stopped Chinese laborers from entering the United States for ten years. It made an exception for some merchants, teachers, students, and diplomats. Chinese people already living in the country faced new fears. Many workers had helped build railroads or worked in mines and laundries. The law separated families because a worker who left the country could have trouble returning. It also treated Chinese newcomers as unwanted because of their nationality.
- ② Government officials enforced exclusion in harsh ways. At ports, immigration inspectors questioned Chinese travelers and examined papers. In 1892, the Geary Act required Chinese residents to carry a certificate of residence. A person without the required paper risked arrest and deportation, even after living in the United States for years. These actions limited freedom and created fear and uncertainty in daily life. They also made it harder for families to reunite and for Chinese communities to grow.
- ③ In 1924, Congress passed the Immigration Act, using national-origins quotas to limit immigration from many countries. The law gave far fewer openings to people from southern and eastern Europe than to people from northern and western Europe. It also barred immigration from countries whose people were not eligible for citizenship under U.S. law, which stopped most Japanese immigrants. Like Chinese exclusion, this policy used government power to decide who could join families, seek jobs, and build a life in the United States.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did the Chinese Exclusion Act stop, and how could this action separate families?

2 How did the Geary Act put Chinese residents at risk?

3 Name two harms caused by the enforcement actions described in paragraph 2.

4 How did the Immigration Act of 1924 harm immigrants from southern and eastern Europe and most Japanese immigrants?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write four sentences explaining how one government action from the passage harmed people. Name the action, identify who it affected, describe one immediate harm, and explain one larger effect on families or communities.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each government action in the passage. Number the harm caused by each action, using the same number beside the action and its effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did the Chinese Exclusion Act stop, and how could this action separate families?	It stopped Chinese laborers from entering the United States. Workers who left could have trouble returning, which could separate families.
2	How did the Geary Act put Chinese residents at risk?	It required Chinese residents to carry a certificate of residence. A person without one risked arrest and deportation.
3	Name two harms caused by the enforcement actions described in paragraph 2.	Accept any two: limited freedom, created fear and uncertainty, made family reunification harder, or made it harder for Chinese communities to grow.
4	How did the Immigration Act of 1924 harm immigrants from southern and eastern Europe and most Japanese immigrants?	It gave people from southern and eastern Europe far fewer openings through quotas, and it barred immigration by most Japanese immigrants.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Chinese Exclusion Act harmed Chinese laborers by stopping them from entering the United States. It also made returning difficult for workers who left the country. As a result, some families were separated. This law showed that the government used nationality to decide who could enter and live safely in the country.

Accept equivalent explanations that accurately connect a named government action to a specific group and a harm stated in the passage. For the open response, look for all four required parts and a clear cause-and-effect explanation.