

Newcomers Take Action

Track support systems and immigrant-led action in growing cities.

USII.3.g “explaining how various groups worked to alleviate the issues facing new immigrants and how immigrants advocated for themselves; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each group that tried to help immigrants, and underline the words that tell what it did. Number 1 and 2 beside two examples of immigrants advocating for themselves, so you can distinguish outside support from immigrant-led action.

Help and Self-Advocacy

- ① Between 1880 and 1920, many newcomers reached crowded American cities. Families often lived in small apartments called tenements, where poor sanitation could spread disease. Factory jobs paid low wages and could be dangerous. New immigrants also faced language barriers and prejudice. Some groups stepped in to help. Settlement houses, located in city neighborhoods, offered classes and services. At Chicago's Hull House, workers provided English lessons, child care, and clubs. These programs helped families manage daily life while they adjusted to a new country.
- ② Other organizations addressed immediate needs. Religious charities gave food, clothing, and temporary shelter to people with little money. The Young Men's Christian Association, or YMCA, offered inexpensive rooms, baths, and activities in some cities. Reformers also pushed city leaders to improve housing and sanitation. They investigated unsafe tenements and used their findings to argue for better laws. These efforts did not erase every problem, but they gave many immigrant families support and brought public attention to unhealthy living conditions.
- ③ Immigrants were not only people receiving help. They also spoke and acted for themselves. Workers joined labor unions, which organized employees to seek safer workplaces, shorter hours, and better pay. In 1911, a fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City killed 146 workers, many of them immigrant women. After the tragedy, workers, reformers, and unions demanded safer factory rules. Immigrant communities also formed mutual aid societies. Members paid small dues, then helped one another with funeral costs, sickness, or unemployment.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Hull House help immigrant families adjust to life in the United States?

2 What did reformers do to try to improve tenement housing and sanitation?

3 How did workers and unions advocate for change after the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire?

4 How did mutual aid societies help immigrants support themselves and one another?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a neighborhood where new immigrant families face language barriers and unsafe factory work. Write four sentences that describe one way a group could help and one way immigrants could advocate for themselves, then explain how each action could improve their lives.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each group that tried to help immigrants, and underline the words that tell what it did. Number 1 and 2 beside two examples of immigrants advocating for themselves, so you can distinguish outside support from immigrant-led action. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Hull House help immigrant families adjust to life in the United States?	Hull House provided English lessons, child care, and clubs, which helped families manage daily life.
2	What did reformers do to try to improve tenement housing and sanitation?	They investigated unsafe tenements and used their findings to argue for better laws.
3	How did workers and unions advocate for change after the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire?	They demanded safer factory rules.
4	How did mutual aid societies help immigrants support themselves and one another?	Members paid small dues and helped each other with funeral costs, sickness, or unemployment.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A neighborhood center could offer evening English classes and help families find safe housing. This support would make daily tasks and job searches easier. Immigrant workers could form a committee and meet with a factory owner about broken safety doors. By speaking together, they could ask for a change that protects workers.

Accept equivalent descriptions of assistance from settlement houses, charities, the YMCA, or reformers, as long as the action and its purpose are clear. For the open response, accept realistic group support and immigrant-led advocacy that each address a stated problem.