

**Created by:** Cheryl Coker, Menlo Park Elementary School

**Grade level:** 5

**Primary source citation:** *"The New Immigrants," The American History Herald*, page 2 – volume 1 number 8, Steck- Vaughn, January 1892. Reproduced in *Teaching with Documents* by Peter Pappas, <http://www.edteck.com/dbq/index.htm>.

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the newspaper article and graph attached while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

**Level 1: Description**

1. Where did the immigrants come from?
2. What year was the article written?
3. What years are represented in the graph?

**Level 2: Interpretation**

1. What was the article mainly about?
2. Does the graph show any changes? If so, what are they?

**Level 3: Analysis**

1. What do you think the author of the graph is trying to illustrate?
2. Do you think these immigrants had any affect on the United States? If so, what could they have been?
3. How do think the American people viewed these immigrants? Do we view today's immigrants the same or different? Explain.

# The New Immigrants

The opening of Ellis Island reminds us all that America is a land of immigrants. Over 5 million immigrants have poured into the country in the last 12 years. In the past, most immigrants came from northern and western European countries. These included England, Ireland, Germany, and the Nordic countries. Today, that trend seems to be changing. These days, an increasing number of immigrants come from southern and eastern Europe. More and more people are coming from countries such as Italy, Russia, and Austria-Hungary.

Experts believe that this trend will continue because of the poor conditions in many European countries. For example, in Italy, there is very little work to be found. Many Russian Jews have

come to America to escape religious persecution.

The bar graph shows how the

number of immigrants from southern and eastern Europe has increased in recent years.

