

## **Past and Present of Immigration Restrictions in the US**

*Created for Level ½ ENL students in SIOP US history*

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### **Standards**

USH.9.5

Explain the revival of popularity for white nationalism and immigration restriction in the era since 2008.

### **Objective**

Students should be able to understand the historical context for immigration restriction in the United States and its current status of debate.

### **Literacy Objectives**

Speaking- Students will be able to respond to in-class discussions about the do now and the reflective piece to share what they have gathered.

Listening- Students will be able to follow directions regarding the immigration poster and description.

Reading- Students will be able to make connections between secondary sources and understand immigration history in the US more.

Writing- Students will be able to reflect on their personal experiences in writing about their barriers to immigration.

### **Timeline of Activities**

#### **1. Do Now**

- a. Present students with an image of the [Statue of Liberty](#) and an excerpt from Emma Lazarus' "The New Colossus" (November 2, 1883)
  - i. "Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore."
- b. Ask them, what does it mean/ represent to them, and to use 2-3 words/ ideas to describe their feelings towards the image

#### **2. Lecture/ Timeline**

- a. Show students a digital timeline of instances where the United States government attempted to/did restrict immigration (see PowerPoint below)

- b. Have students pick ONE event from the timeline and illustrate it using symbols, imagery, and colors
- c. Title the illustrations and have students include a two-sentence caption, one sentence about the event, and one about how it makes them feel.

### **3. Read as a class**

- a. Read an article about restriction of Syrian refugees
- b. Lexile level and language can be adjusted for accommodations

### **4. Reflection**

- a. Prompt students with “reflect on your own immigration journey and if you faced any barriers, what were they and do you know why they happened?”

# Immigration Restriction in the United States

All information sourced from [Pew  
Research](#)

# Alien Friends Act 1798

- Authorization of President to deport any “alien” deemed dangerous

# Immigration Act of 1864

- Created to encourage immigration after Civil War

# Asian Exclusion Act (1875)

- Prohibited  
(stopped) the  
immigration of  
criminals and  
Asian laborers

# Chinese Exclusion Act

- Banned Chinese immigration for 10 years
- No naturalization of Chinese immigrants

# Asiatic Barred Zone Act (1917)

- Required that immigrants could read
- Banned immigration from Asia
  - Except for philippines and Japan

# 1921 Emergency Quota Act

- Limited immigration to 3% of each foreign born nationality

# 1924 Johnson-Reed Act

- Favored immigration from Western Europe
- Whites and people of Africans descent allowed to immigrate
- Arabs and Jews are restricted from entering US

# 1942 Bracero Agreement

- Permitted Mexican workers during WWII

# Magnuson Act

- Allowed 105  
Chinese  
immigrants PER  
year

# Immigration and Nationality Act

- Quota of 100 visas  
per Asian country  
per year
- Politics, mental  
health can be  
reasons for  
exclusion

# Refugee Relief Act

- 200,000 Refugee visas per year

# 1976 & 1978

- Established a  
worldwide visa  
quota at 290,000  
PER year

# Refugee Act of 1980

- Removes refugee status from worldwide quota

# Simpson-Mazzoli Act

- Pathway to permanent residency
- Creates H-2A visa for seasonal workers

# 1990

- Increased immigration limit to 700,000

# Homeland Security Act

After 9/11, Homeland security is created

- Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

# DACA

- Temporary  
deportation relief  
for young adults  
brought to US  
illegally

# 2015

- Indiana governor Mike Pence attempts to block Syrian refugee settlement in Indiana

# 2017 & 2018

- Travels bans  
targeting  
predominantly  
Muslim countries