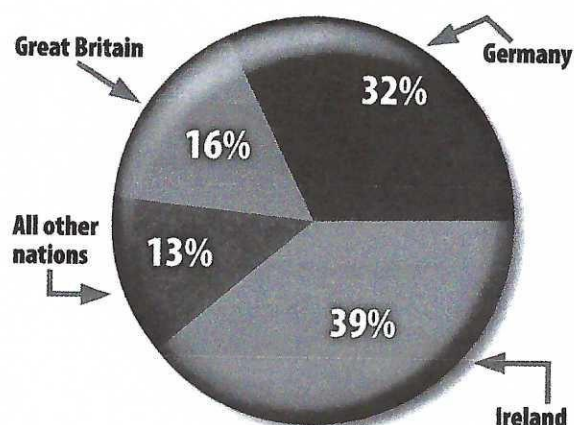
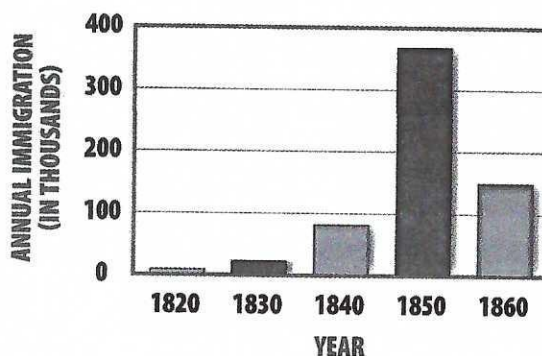


IMMIGRATION IN THE MID-1800s

SOURCES OF U.S. IMMIGRATION 1841–1860



IMMIGRATION 1820–1860



GRAPH SKILL

Immigrants came to the United States from different countries in the mid-1800s.

- 1 **CALCULATING** What share of immigrants came from Great Britain and Ireland combined between 1841 and 1860?
- 2 **CRITICAL THINKING**
Drawing Conclusions What can you conclude about Germany and Ireland during this time based on this information?

Increased Immigration

Between the years 1840 and 1860, immigration to the United States grew sharply. The greatest number of immigrants came from Ireland. A plant disease, the potato blight, destroyed most of the Irish food supply in the 1840s. The people of Ireland faced **famine**, an extreme shortage of food. More than a million people died during what was called the Great Irish Famine. Another 1.5 million Irish emigrants—people who leave their home to move elsewhere—left for the United States between 1846 and 1860.

The second largest group of immigrants in the United States between 1820 and 1860 came from Germany. Some sought work and opportunity. Others fled to escape political problems at home.

Immigration's Impact

European immigrants brought languages, customs, religions, and traditions to their new country. Some of their ways of living changed American culture.

Immigrants Face Prejudice

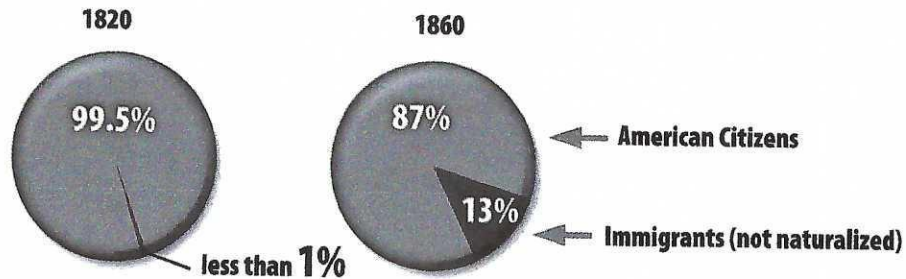
In the 1830s and 1840s, some people began to resist immigration. They were known as **nativists** (NAY•tih•vihsts). Nativists believed that immigration threatened the future of “native”—American-born—citizens. They often blamed immigrants for problems in society. Some nativists accused immigrants of taking jobs from “real” Americans and were angry that immigrants would work for lower wages. Others accused immigrants of bringing crime and disease to U.S. cities.

GRAPH SKILL

Immigration to the United States had a noticeable effect on the country's population.

- 1 **CALCULATING** How much larger was the immigrant population as a share of the overall population in 1860 compared to 1820?
- 2 **CRITICAL THINKING**
Speculating How might a nativist react to this information?

IMMIGRANTS AS A PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION



Source: Historical Census Browser, University of Virginia

The Know-Nothing Party

In 1849 nativists formed a new political party. Because party members often answered questions about their group with the statement "I know nothing," the party came to be known as the Know-Nothing Party. The Know-Nothings called for stricter citizenship laws. In 1854 the Know-Nothings became known as the American Party.

PRIMARY SOURCE

“Americans must rule America; and to this end native-born citizens should be selected for all State, Federal and municipal offices of government employment, in preference to all others.”

—American Party platform, from the American National Convention, 1856

✓ PROGRESS CHECK

Identifying From which two nations did most immigrants come in the mid-1800s?

LESSON 2 REVIEW



Review Vocabulary

1. Use these terms in a sentence that explains their meaning.
a. trade union b. strike
2. Write a brief statement about life in the mid-1800s using the following terms.
a. prejudice b. discrimination
c. famine d. nativist e. emigrant

Answer the Guiding Questions

3. **Listing** What were some of the early attempts at work reform in the North?
4. **Discussing** Why did some Americans object to immigration?
5. **Explaining** What were conditions like for African Americans in the North in the mid-1800s?
6. **NARRATIVE** Take the role of a young person working in a factory in the North in the mid-1800s. Write a letter in which you tell a friend what you like and dislike about your job.