

★ **Statue of Liberty:** Liberty Enlightening the World ★

Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to teach students four reasons why people immigrate to the United States. The lesson handout contains a reading passage on the reasons for immigration, information about the Statue of Liberty, and the poem, “The New Colossus.” Students complete a vocabulary and comprehension activity based on the handout and then create a collage.

Objective

1. The student will identify and describe four reasons for immigration.
2. The student will discuss the history and ideology of the Statue of Liberty.

Theme-Freedom

The Statue of Liberty serves as a monument to and reminder of the idea of liberty for all people and nations. The monument also stands as a symbol of liberty for the millions who use it as a gateway to secure liberty by entering the United States, a liberty established in the Declaration of Independence and guaranteed by the Constitution.

NCSS Standards

IVe. identify and describe ways regional,

ethnic, and national cultures influence individuals’ daily lives.

Vg. apply knowledge of how groups and institutions work to meet individual needs and promote the common good.

IXa. describe instances in which language, art, music, belief systems, and other cultural elements can facilitate global understanding...

IXb. analyze examples of conflict, cooperation, and interdependence among groups, societies, and nations.

IXf. demonstrate understanding of concerns, standards, issues, and conflicts related to...human rights.

Time

60 minutes

Materials

- ★ Statue of Liberty handout, activity sheet, and sample collage formats.
- ★ Dictionaries
- ★ Art supplies and picture sources (e.g., magazines, calendars, newspapers)
- ★ Website - www.americanheritage.org

Preparation

- ★ Copy “Statue of Liberty” handouts, activity sheet, collage samples.
- ★ Gather art supplies and pictures.

Focus

Have students brainstorm why people would leave their home, family, friends, and country to go to a new place where they might not know the language, the people, or the land. Write responses on the board.

Activity

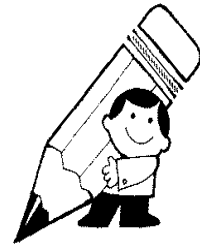
1. Students will read the Statue of Liberty handout and complete the vocabulary and comprehension activity sheet. (See Links page on www.americanheritage.org for additional resources on the Statue of Liberty.)
2. Students may work individually, with partners, or in groups to create a collage using words and pictures to illustrate the four reasons for immigration. See samples. Students may refer to their textbooks or other resources as needed. Each collage may include one or all four reasons for immigration. Students may include examples of reasons for both colonial and modern immigration.

Closure

Ask students to name the four reasons for immigration. Ask for examples of each reason learned from the discussion, reading passage, and/or collage activity.

Assessment

Students will write a letter or diary entry from the perspective of a new immigrant, describing his/her reasons for coming to the United States and what the statue means to him/her.



The Context of the Statue of Liberty

The statue is a gift to America from the people of France. Its original name is *Liberty Enlightening the World*. The statue represents the idea of Liberty. Liberty, Sam Adams wrote, is "...first, a right to life; second, to Liberty (Freedom); third, to prosperity;" When the Americans secured these ideas with revolution, other countries were encouraged to fight for their freedom. And since then, millions of people have immigrated to the United States of America.

The first Americans migrated from Asia across the Bering Strait into North America thousands of years ago. Later, European kings in search of wealth and power sent people here to explore and settle the Americas. In 1776, the English colonists declared independence from their king and established the United States of America. Since that time, generations of immigrants from all parts of the world have come to live in the United States.

From 1892 to 1954, twelve million immigrants passed through Ellis Island into New York. Today, over 100 million living Americans are descendants of immigrants who entered the United States through Ellis Island. Since 1886, the Statue of Liberty has stood near Ellis Island in New York Harbor. At the base of the statue is a poem, "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus. In the poem, the statue is referred to as the Mother of Exiles. An *exile* is someone who has left his own country either voluntarily or by force. The Statue of Liberty has welcomed millions of immigrants who have left their own countries to seek a new and better life in America.

Throughout America's history, people have immigrated to the United States for several reasons:

The most popular reason for coming to America has been *economic* opportunity. The hope of finding a better life in the United States has brought generations of immigrants here.

Many immigrants have fled to America to escape *religious* persecution in their homelands. Many of the earliest colonists including the Pilgrims came here so they

could freely practice their religion.

Immigrants have come to America to escape various forms of *political* unrest. They have left their home countries because of wars, revolutions, and oppressions by government officials.

Many immigrants leave their countries for *social* reasons. In colonial times, English debtors, who were imprisoned until they could pay their debts, were offered a new life of freedom and opportunity in Georgia. In countries where kings ruled, people were born into a certain social position and usually never changed. America became a place where people could improve their position in life through education, hard work, and determination. Generations of immigrants to America have come here to find freedoms, protections, and opportunities not available to them in their home countries.

The New Colossus

by Emma Lazarus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand

A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes
command

The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Statue of Liberty

Worksheet



1. What country gave America the statue?
2. What is the original name of the statue?
3. The statue stands for what idea?
4. List Sam Adams' definition of the above idea.

List the four reasons people immigrate to the United States.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Define these words from
"The New Colossus" on the
back of this sheet.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. colossus | 6. yearning |
| 2. brazen | 7. wretched |
| 3. exiles | 8. refuse |
| 4. beacon | 9. teeming |
| 5. pomp | 10. tempest |

Explain the following phrases from "The New Colossus:"

1. *"Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!"*
2. *"Give me your tired, your poor, your Huddled masses yearning to breathe free...."*
3. *"I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

Why do you think Emma Lazarus called the Statue of Liberty the "Mother of Exiles"?

Reasons for Immigration	
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Reasons for Immigration		
1.	2.	
3.	4.	

Reasons for Immigration	
Colonial	Modern

Reasons for Immigration		
1.	2.	
Colonial	Modern	
3.	4.	

