



Unit: Daily Life

Lesson 4.6: The Immigrants of Brooklyn: Now and Then

Aim: To compare the immigrant population during the pre-Civil War era (1855) to that of today (2000 census data).

Objective: Students interpret circle and bar graphs comparing immigrant populations in Brooklyn yesterday and today, and create a class bar graph reflecting their own countries of birth.

Materials:

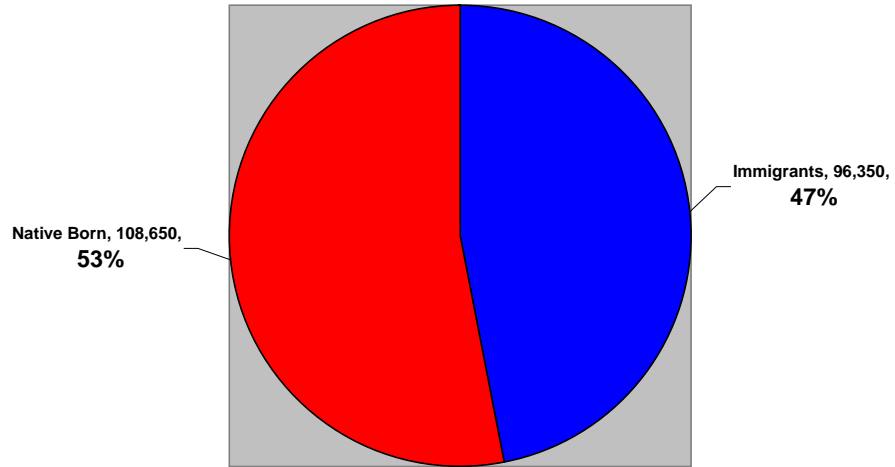
1. Circle and bar graphs of Brooklyn immigrant populations in 1855 and 2000 (transparencies or handouts)
2. Graph paper

Procedure:

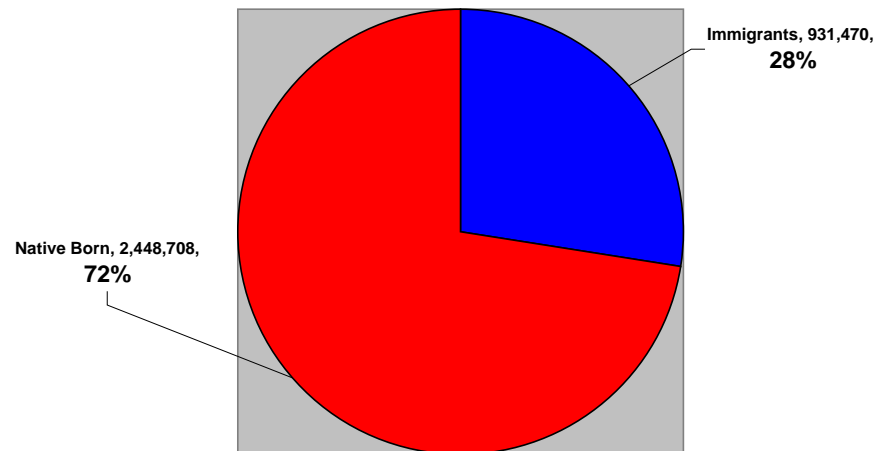
1. Ask students: What is an immigrant?
2. Discuss why people emigrate from one country to another. Ask students to share family stories, if relevant.
3. Either as a class or in small groups, show students the circle and bar graphs of Brooklyn's immigrant populations in 1855 and 2000.
4. Students can either use the graphs to compose their own questions or answer the questions below:
 - How many immigrants lived in Brooklyn in 1855? In 2000? In terms of percent, were there more immigrants in Brooklyn yesterday or today? Explain.
 - Where did people emigrate from in 1855? What about today?

Note: 55% of Brooklyn's immigrant population in 1855 were from Ireland. The Irish came by the thousands during this era because of the tragic potato famine in their country. Have students research the potato famine online or at the library. The remaining European immigrants were mostly from Germany (political refugees) and Britain. The Europeans who come to America today are mainly from the former Soviet Union and Poland.
5. Poll the class about their birth countries or ancestry and create a class bar graph reflecting their heritages.
6. Foreign-born students can write about coming to America. Native-born students can interview a family member, neighbor, or friend and record the interview on paper.

Brooklyn 1855 Immigrant Population



Brooklyn 2000 Immigrant Population



Where Did They Come From?

