Adaption

By the early nineteenth century economic conditions in much of northern and western Europe led increasing numbers to leave their homelands: population increased, depressions recurred, and families subdivided their farms for younger generations into plots too small for subsistence, larger farms run as businesses replace smaller ones, and factories replaced handcraft workshops. Crop failures and other agricultural crises became a constant affliction: for example, British land policies in Ireland and a devastating Potato Famine from 1845 to 1847 led to severe hardship. Revolutions and religious persecution also led to emigration.

The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 and the growth of New York City as a major world seaport and center for manufacturing created tremendous need for labor. Between 1815 and 1915, about 33 million people moved to the United States from all over the world, three quarters of them through the Port of New York. Irish and German Catholics made up the greatest numbers, and their presence in a city that was still strongly Protestant and Anglo-Saxon led to conflicts over temperance, city government, and the religious orientation of public education.

Almost half of all employed immigrants worked in the clothing industry or as manual laborers, servant, cooks, waiters, and house hold help ... A second phase of immigration began in the late 1880’s, as Russian and Polish Jews as well as southern Italians, Greeks, Polish, Hungarians, Romanians, Bohemians, and others from southern and eastern Europe who fled changes similar to those that has beset northern and western Europe in the first half of the century.
The Extensive Cattle Yards and Factories—Progress Evident since the Inception of the South Side Railroad—the New Sewer Commenced.

With the flight of years, and the gradual reaching out for building and factory sites beyond the cramped limits of the densely populated portion of the city, the Sleepy Hollow stir that was always to be recognized about that section of the Eastern District known as Old Bushwick, has rapidly succumbed to the force of business enterprise, and where comfortable farm houses only were to be seen, now loom up in every direction large and substantial buildings, used in various mechanical pursuits, the principal of which were devoted to the manufacture of rope and lager beer.

Farmers have been forced to seek more congenial quarters at a greater distance, and their land has been divided up into lots, the most of which are built upon and occupied by the families of those who labor in the adjacent works. Nearly contemporary with the building of the South Side Railroad and preceding it but a brief time, a new enterprise was started in the vicinity of it.
1. According to Document 1, list three ways Bushwick changed during the late nineteenth century:

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2. Do you think the author is happy with the change? Why or why not?

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3. What types of people do you imagine moved in to the houses that were built on the old farmland?

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4. Describe what you think “Old Bushwick” might have looked like? Use lots of detail!

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In the mid-1800’s, over one million Germans and Austrians immigrated to the United States because of civil unrest, severe unemployment, or almost inconceivable hardships at home. Most of these people settled in northern Brooklyn and the area was nicknamed “Little Germany.” Germans were known for their beer and breweries and by 1880 there were 11 breweries in Bushwick; by 1904 there were 44 breweries.
1. What do you see in the image? Make five observations.

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2. Describe the different types of people you see in the image.

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3. Why do you think beer was important to the German immigrant community in Bushwick?

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4. How do you think the German community's connection to beer might have been viewed by outsiders?

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At least four hundred of the two thousand Italians who were landed at Ellis Island on Sunday and Monday will be deported, as they have not the means to subsist upon for thirty days. The law requires each immigrant to have at least $30 and to have some relative in America before he is admitted. Commissioner Senner attributes the large migration of Italians to the Italian invasion of Abyssinia, to which most Italian peasants are averse. They do not wish to be drafted into the army and so to avoid becoming conscripts they emigrate. In many instances they have sold their household effects in order to raise their passage money.


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Document 3B-Herzberg, Irving. Ellis Island. 1950’s. The Brooklyn Collection, Brooklyn.
1. Why does the article say Italians were immigrating to the United States? What are some other reasons a person might immigrate to a new country?

2. What did the law state immigrants needed to enter the United States?

3. What reason does the article give for the Italians' deportation?

4. What do you think seeing Ellis Island meant for people immigrating to America? How do you think those who were deported felt?
IN GERMAN CIRCLES.

The new German Roman Catholic St. Barbara Church, on Central avenue and Bleecker street, will be dedicated on Sunday next. The dedication services will be conducted by the Rt. Rev. Bishop McDonnell. The church has been erected according to the ideas of the Rev. Fr. Hanselmann, who made a trip to Europe for the purpose of studying the construction of large church edifices. After the
1. Find Document 4A’s citation. Infer what year St. Barbara Church was built?

2. According to Document 4A, which group of people was the church initially built for?

3. Why do you think Rev. Hanselmann traveled to Europe to study how churches were constructed there before building St. Barbara’s Church?

4. St. Barbara’s Church still stands today and the makeup of its congregation has changed along with the population of Bushwick. Why do you think religious spaces such as St. Barbara’s Church are so historically important to the immigrant populations of Bushwick?

1. In your own words, what is the “3% Rule?”

2. Why would the US government want to limit the admission of immigrants during this time? Infer two reasons here:

3. Imagine you are a recent immigrant in Bushwick when this bill is passed. Name three concerns on your mind:

4. Which population was hurt most by the 3% Rule? (Hint: look at the second and third columns of Document 5B.)

SAEGERBUND

A Sketch of Brooklyn’s Largest German Singing Society.

The Ups and Downs of its Career Since its Organization a Quarter of a Century ago—In a Prosperous Condition Now and Ready to Fittingly Celebrate its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary.

During the early part of the sixth decennial of the present century, shortly after the German revolutions of 1818 and 1819 had thrown hundreds and thousands of exiled patriots to the shore of the Western hemisphere, a contemporary could easily have witnessed in this city the many social gatherings of German residents. Who at that time settled in several wards, some of which were in the neighborhood of South Brooklyn, and whose number was increased with the arrival of every sailing vessel, with its human freight, from the Old World. Among these German residents were many lovers of music and poetry, all of marked social qualities, and soon they were organized into societies and the songs of the Fatherland and the music of Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn and others, and the poems of such writers as Schiller, Goethe and Lessing were heard at the primitive headquarters erected by those societies for the purpose of continuing the culture of their domestic music and song on American soil.
1. In your own words, what is Document 6 describing? What is it celebrating?

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2. Why did the German population come to Brooklyn?

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3. How does Document 6 describe South Brooklyn during this time?

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4. What was the purpose of this singing society? What did the German people want to continue?

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________________________________________________________________________________________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Name:</strong> Mary Boyle &amp; child</th>
<th><strong>Sex:</strong> Female</th>
<th><strong>Age:</strong> 19</th>
<th><strong>Color:</strong> White</th>
<th><strong>Single, Married, Widow, Widower:</strong> Single</th>
<th><strong>Birth Place:</strong> New York</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Record Number:</strong> 8182</td>
<td><strong>County:</strong> Kings</td>
<td><strong>Town or City:</strong> Greenpoint</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of Admission:</strong> Mar 19th 1885</td>
<td><strong>Birth Place of Father:</strong> Ireland</td>
<td><strong>County:</strong> Unknown</td>
<td><strong>City:</strong> Unknown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Birth Place of Mother:</strong> Ireland</td>
<td><strong>County:</strong> Westmeath</td>
<td><strong>City:</strong> Unknown</td>
<td><strong>Education:</strong> Read and write</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Habits:</strong> Temp</td>
<td><strong>Habits of Father:</strong> Intemp</td>
<td><strong>Habits of mother:</strong> Temp</td>
<td><strong>Occupation:</strong> Pencil Factory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Occupation of Father:</strong> Foundry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Father:</strong> Self-supporting</td>
<td><strong>Mother:</strong> Self-supporting</td>
<td><strong>Brothers:</strong> None</td>
<td><strong>Sisters:</strong> None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Houses, Asylums, Hospitals, other institutions or self-supporting:</strong> (with mother)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Existing cause of Dependences:</strong> Bastardy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Has the Person been an inmate of any other charitable institution?</strong> Kings Co. Hospital 4 months</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>What is the probably destiny of the person as respects recovery from the cause of dependence?</strong> May recover</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Remarks:</strong> This young woman has stated the full particulars to the commrs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Document 7:** “Census of Inmates in Almshouses and Poorhouses.” 1875-1921. 1885. New York State Archives.
1. Make three observations about Document 7 (don't forget to look at the citation):

   

   

   

   


2. Based on Document 7, describe Mary Boyle's life:

   

   

   

   


3. What questions do you have regarding this document? How would you find out more information?

   

   

   

   

   

   

   

   

   


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1. Make four observations about Document 8:

2. Document 8 is of a tenement house in Bedford-Stuyvesant. What can you infer about the living conditions of immigrants in this community from this image?

3. List four changes you would implement to help immigrants if you worked for the City of New York at this time:

Outrages upon immigrants.

As if the poor immigrants who come hither from the old world, had not enough impositions practised on them, it appears by the following that some of our sea-captains claim the right of flogging them, at the said captains' high will and pleasure! A case, day before yesterday, was decided in the U.S. District Court at Phila., arising out of a flogging administered by the Captain of the brig Rebecca to a German passenger, on a recent voyage from Rotterdam to this country. The captain claimed the right to administer corporal punishment to his passenger for refractory conduct, the same as if he were a seaman, and ropes-ended him severely. On the arrival in this country, the German Emigrant Society told the man his rights, and induced him to bring an action for the purpose of testing the authority of masters of vessels over their passengers, and also for the purpose of arresting this kind of degrading tyranny, which, we are told, is frequently exercised by captains over emigrants. The Court delivered an opinion repudiating the right of masters of vessels to inflict corporal punishment upon passengers, no matter how humble their condition, and made an order mulcting the defendant in this case in damages to the amount of $100 and costs.

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1. In your own words, what is happening in Document 9? Who is involved?

2. In Document 9 who are the different players and what are their roles?

3. What was the role of the German Emigrant Society in this document?

4. Do you think that immigrants knew that they had certain rights based on the above document? Do you think that the fact that this article was written in a newspaper, changes anything? Why or why not?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Beer Delivered</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
<th>Amount of Sales</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IN ACCOUNT WITH**

Welz & Zerweck's
High-Ground Brewery,
Cor. Myrtle & Wyckoff Aves.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Telephone, Bushwick 801-802.

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1. Make four observations about Document 10.

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2. Based on your observations, what was the purpose of this document?

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3. What immigrant group do you think this document belongs to? How do you know?

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4. What information would be helpful to better understand Document 10?

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GLOSSARY

Abyssinia: The former name of today’s Ethiopia whom Italy went to war with in 1895

Affliction: a cause of persistent pain or distress

Alms House: a privately financed home for the poor

Beset: to set or stud with or as if with ornaments

Civil Unrest: a situation where many people in a country or area are angry about a shared cause and hold riots or protests

Congenial: pleasant, agreeable, appealing

Conscript: To force someone to serve in the military

Corporal Punishment: physical punishment

Decennial: lasting for or relating to a period of ten years.

Degrade: to lower in grade, rank, or status

Depression: a period of low general economic activity marked especially by rising levels of unemployment

Economic: money, resources, and means of production

Exile: a period of forced absence from one's country or home

Feeble: lacking in strength

Freight: goods to be shipped

Flog: to beat with or as if with a rod or whip

Induce: to call forth or bring about by influence or stimulation

Imposition: a thing that is imposed, in particular an unfair or unwelcome demand or burden.

Inconceivable: Impossible to imagine or believe

Incur: become subject to (something unwelcome or unpleasant) as a result of one's own behavior or actions.

Loom: an apparatus for making fabric by weaving yarn or thread.

Mulct: a fine or penalty

Orientation: relative position of something
**Patriot:** one who loves his or her country and supports its authority and interests

**Persecution:** hostility and ill-treatment, especially because of race or political or religious beliefs.

**Pestilence:** a contagious or infectious epidemic disease

**Primitive:** not developed or derived from anything else

**Refractory Conduct:** A rule established in 1834 which could result in a period of solitary confinement for misconduct at work

**Repudiating:** to refuse to have anything to do with

**Subsistence:** maintaining or supporting oneself at a minimum level

**Succumb:** to stop trying to resist something

**Temperance:** abstinence from alcoholic drink.

**Tyranny:** oppressive power

**Ward:** the action or process of guarding