City of Immigrants Prologue & Part 1 Teacher Guide

Essential Question:
What conditions prompt immigrants to leave their homeland and/or draw them to come to the U.S. and what challenges do they face when they arrive?

Document Analysis

"The High Tide of Immigration"

Study the image below and answer the questions that follow. View a larger version of the image.

Source: Dalrymple, Louis. 1903. "The High Tide of Immigration—A National Menace." *Judge Magazine* (August 22).

Word Bank
Anarchist *(n.)* – a person who rebels against authority   Degenerate *(n.)* – an immoral person
Illiterate *(adj.)* – unable to read or write

Mafia *(n.)* – members of a criminal organization
Menace *(n.)* – a person who represents a threat
Pauper *(n.)* – a very poor person

Jot down examples and observations of the following (be specific!):

Words/Phrases:

Objects:

Setting:

Depiction of immigrants:

1. What does the cartoon reveal about attitudes and sentiments toward immigrants during the early 20th century? (Be sure to refer to specific words and depictions of the immigrants.)

2. What do you think the title of the illustration means: "The High Tide of Immigration—A National Menace"

3. Do you think this image could be used today? Why or why not?

4. Think about your experience as Lena and your analysis of "The High Tide of Immigration." How have attitudes toward immigrants changed, or stayed the same, from the early 20th century until now?

Time: At least 25 minutes

Instructions

Document Analysis (10 min)

This document shows turn-of-the-20th-century Americans' negative attitudes toward immigrants—another challenge newcomers faced as they struggled to build a life in the United States.

If possible, project the cartoon large enough so students can read the words associated with the immigrants. Here is a link to a large version.

Consider modeling a close reading of the image by pointing out some aspects to analyze. Then have students work in groups or individually to complete their close reading.

If needed, review definitions of words provided in the Word Bank.

Discussion/Writing (15 min)

See if students can summarize some of the *fears* that the cartoon depicts (e.g., that the country is being flooded by dark-skinned people who include criminals, the poor, the sick, and uneducated people who are "different").

Help students think about ways this has *changed* (at the turn of the 20th century, there were few restrictions for immigrants from Europe or the Western hemisphere and no quotas), and how it has *not changed* (many Americans still see immigration as a threat; racist ideas about them persist).