History of Immigration Lesson Plan

\*\*\*Resources provided by Lauren Donnenfeld (GA)

\*\*\*Much of the lesson is adapted from a lesson from *Voices of History*

***Article Reading and reflection****:* Have students read the article “Background Essay: Nation of Immigrants - A History of Immigrants to 1924”. <https://voicesofhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/IC-001-HandoutB-1.pdf>

Students should read the short essay and answer the questions (handout below) as they are reading.

***Video Viewing***: Have students view this brief video from the Bill of Rights Institute on the history of immigration - “Immigration to America” (4:50) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1Co57R_spM&feature=youtu.be>

***Small Group Work:*** Divide the class into groups of 3-4. Hand each group a graphic organizer from the Bill of Rights Institute - <https://voicesofhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/IC-001-HandoutC-1.pdf>.

Instruct students to fill in the graphic organizer using information they read about in the background essay and/or information they obtained from the video. Have them wait to fill out the section on the Modern Era.

Bring the groups back together and have a larger class discussion about what they charted. As a class, brainstorm ideas to fill in for the Modern Era column.

***Homework***: Have students read “Letter from Mary Garvey, Irish Immigrant” from the Bill of Rights Institute. Have them fill out the corresponding reflection worksheet (below). <https://voicesofhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/IC-001-HandoutD-1.pdf>

\*\*\*\*Note from Tate: Out of all of the lessons, this will be the one I start with followed by the lesson on Ellis Island and then the PowerPoint on the History of Immigration Policy.

“Background Essay: Nation of Immigrants - A History of Immigrants to 1924”

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questions as you read the essay.

1. Who is an immigrant?

2. What was the first major ethnic group to immigrate to the United States?

3. What were three major factors drawing immigrants to the United States in the 1800s?

4. How did the pattern of immigration change throughout the 1800s?

5. What fears motivated the nativists’ actions against immigrants?

6. What motivations do you believe caused immigrant families to group together upon relocating to the United States?

“Letter from Mary Garvey, Irish Immigrant” Reading Questions

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block\_\_\_\_\_

1. In the 1850s, it could take weeks or months before letters reached their intended recipients. How does Mary’s letter reflect this?

2. What are the primary concerns Mary describes in the letter?

3. How does Mary describe her life in the United States?

4. What opportunities has her immigration afforded her?

5. How might the details she gives in the letter reveal what Mary values in her new home?

6. What do her warnings to her mother reveal about the trials of the voyage to the United States?

7. What does Mary say in order to entice her family to migrate to the United States? What does this show about the differences in economic mobility in Ireland compared to what she sees in the United States?