



# Question # 5

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Compare and contrast  
immigration to the  
United States in the  
period from 1800-1860  
and from 1880-1924.

# Thesis Statement

- There are many similarities as well as differences in immigration when compared to the United States between 1800-1860 and 1880-1924

# 1800-1860

- During the 1800's the United States immigration grew.
- Between 1820-1830's a notable portion of immigrants was from England, Scotland, Wales, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Holland, Ireland, and Germany.
- Between 1840's and 1860's immigration increased and majority of immigrants were German and Irish.
- Immigrants left their countries for a variety of reasons; one being that Europe had no room for them.
- Many of them came from countries with very little history of democratic government and people had gotten used to harsh living conditions. They came to America as it was seen as a "land of great opportunities." Several immigrants intended on returning home, and eventually returned with money.
- Those that stayed struggled to preserve their traditional culture.
- In 1800-1820, immigration barely existed due to revolutions and wars in Europe.
- Only about 6,000 people a year immigrated into the U.S.
- The percentage of foreign-born population in the U.S. is believed to have reached its low (100,000 people, or 1.4% of population) around 1815.

# 1880-1924

- There were many immigrants from Italy, Poland, Scandinavia, and other foreign places.
- Society's response was largely the same.
- There was resentment of the influx of culturally different people.
- They often competed with "native" Americans for scarce jobs and housing.
- There was also a small inflow of immigrants from Lebanon and Syria (mostly Christians, although Muslims and Jews came as well), as well as from Japan.
- Between 1850 and 1930, about 5 million Germans immigrated to the United States with a peak in the years between 1881 and 1885.
- Millions of Germans left Germany and settled mostly in the Midwest.
- Between 1820 and 1930, 3.5 million British and 4.5 million Irish entered America.

# Conclusion

- Starting in the 1800's the United States immigration grew. Immigrants were coming from England, Scotland, Wales, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Holland, Ireland, and Germany. By the 1840's the majority of immigrants were German and Irish. The immigrants provided a solid foundation for a motivated workforce trying to set their families up for success in the newly developing country. Many Americans did not think they would adjust to life in the new land and did not recognize their benefits. Between 1800 and 1820 immigration from Europe was scarce due to wars and revolutions.

