

Reading Essentials and Study Guide



A Time of Change, 1980–2000

Lesson 2 A New Wave of Immigration

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

How have improvements in science and technology helped change society? How have immigration, technology, and global trade changed the world?

Reading HELPDESK

Academic Vocabulary

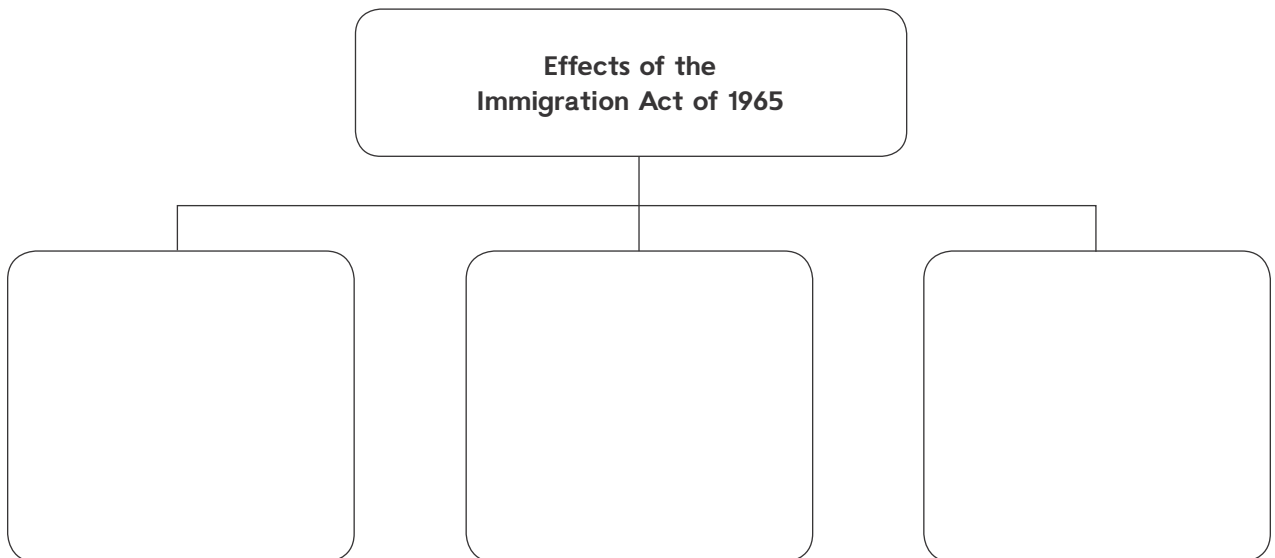
- ***illegal** not according to or authorized by law
- ***allocate** to set apart for something specific
- ***resident** one who lives in a place for some length of time

Content Vocabulary

- migration chain** the process by which immigrants who have acquired U.S. citizenship can send for relatives in their home country to join them
- refugee** someone leaving his or her country due to a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular group, or political opinion
- amnesty** the act of granting a pardon to a large group of people

TAKING NOTES: *Determining Cause and Effect*

ACTIVITY As you read the lesson, complete a graphic organizer similar to the one below to list the effects of the Immigration Act of 1965.



Reading Essentials and Study Guide

The logo for 'networks' features the word in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font. A stylized graphic of intersecting lines forms a starburst or network pattern behind the letter 'o'.

A Time of Change, 1980–2000

Lesson 2 A New Wave of Immigration, *continued*

IT MATTERS BECAUSE

The number of immigrants to the United States hit an all-time high in the late-twentieth century. Large numbers of non-European immigrants changed the nation's ethnic composition. Both legal and illegal immigration became a difficult political issue.

Changes in Immigration Law

Guiding Question *How have important immigration laws affected legal and illegal immigration to the United States?*

After the the national origins quota system was introduced in the 1920s, immigration to the United States changed. For the next few decades, the total number of immigrants arriving each year remained lower. The quota system favored people coming from northern Europe and Western Europe. It did not change much until the mid-1960s.

The Immigration Act of 1965 ended the national origins quota system. It favored people with skills. It also favored people with close family members who were U.S. citizens. These policies remain in place today. When the policy favored children, spouses, and parents of U.S. citizens, **migration chains** formed. Newcomers who became citizens could send for relatives in their home country. The legislation set limits on immigration from the Western Hemisphere for the first time. The act also allowed immigrants to apply for U.S. citizenship after five years of legal residency.

Most people did not think that the new law would cause a lot of change in immigration patterns or numbers when it was passed. Supporters of the law saw it as an addition to the nation's growing support of equal rights for all people, regardless of their race or ethnic background.

Supporters of the new law also thought that the new equal quotas for non-European nations would not be filled. But immigration from non-European countries grew. Some newcomers arrived in the United States as **refugees**. Refugees from countries ruined by World War II were allowed into the United States beginning in 1948. However, they were counted as part of their nation's quota. The Cold War brought more refugees. The McCarran-Walter Act of 1952 stated that anyone who was escaping a Communist government could be let in as a refugee. The Refugee Act of 1980 expanded the refugee policy in the United States. It said a refugee was anyone leaving his or her country due to a fear of persecution. The harassment could be because of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular group, or political opinion.

The problem of **illegal** immigration also caused changes in immigration law. The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 created punishments for employers who knew that they hired unauthorized immigrants. It made border controls stronger. This was to stop illegal entry into the United States. It set up a process to give **amnesty**, or a pardon, to undocumented immigrants. They had to prove that they had entered the country before January 1, 1982. They also had to prove they had lived in the United States since then.

Illegal immigration continued even with these changes. The number of unauthorized immigrants grew. About 3.5 million unauthorized immigrants lived in the United States by 1990. Congress was debating new ways to fight illegal immigration by the mid-1990s. It passed the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. This act made several changes to U.S. immigration law.

The first change was that families supporting an immigrant had to have an income above the poverty level. The second change was that more resources were **allocated** to stop illegal immigration. Five thousand more U.S. Border Patrol agents were authorized. The construction of a 14-mile fence

Reading Essentials and Study Guide

networks

A Time of Change, 1980–2000

Lesson 2 A New Wave of Immigration, *continued*

along the border near San Diego was called for. Another change was increased punishments for smuggling people into the U.S. Punishments also increased for anyone supplying fake documents. Finally, it was easier for immigration authorities to deport undocumented immigrants.

Another change in immigration law was caused by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 put immigration under the control of the new Department of Homeland Security. It also tripled the number of Border Patrol agents, Customs Service inspectors, and Immigration and Naturalization Service inspectors along the Canadian border.



Reading Progress Check

Sequencing How did the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 attempt to control illegal immigration?

Recent Immigration

Guiding Question *How has the federal government addressed immigration reform in the twenty-first century?*

Certain states had more immigrants arrive than other states. In 1990 California, Texas, New York, Illinois, and Florida had the highest populations of foreign-born **residents**. High numbers of immigrants also increased the ethnic diversity of these states. The number of Latinos and Asians in these states grew. Just over 10 percent of the immigrants who arrived in the 1990s came from Europe. More than half of new immigrants came from Latin America. About 25 percent came from Asia. By 2001 legal immigrants to the United States came mainly from five countries. These were Mexico, India, China, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Refugees added to the growing immigrant population. The Cuban Revolution took place in 1959. In the 25 years after the revolution, more than 800,000 Cubans arrived in the United States. Many settled in the Miami, Florida, area. Only the city of Havana, Cuba, is home to more Cubans. The Vietnam War also created refugees. About 600,000 immigrants from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia arrived in the decade after 1974.

Other immigrants arrived without official permission. The largest number of unauthorized immigrants came from Mexico, El Salvador, and Guatemala. The Reagan administration's amnesty program began in 1986. It had been designed to end the problem of illegal immigrants. But over the next 20 years the number of unauthorized immigrants tripled. Americans were divided over whether unauthorized immigrants should be able to get driver's licenses or send their children to public schools and receive other government services.

Some thought that unauthorized immigrants should be deported. Others wanted to allow them to apply for temporary work visas. This would let the government keep track of them. Some wanted to allow them to earn permanent legal residency. To do this, they would have to learn English, pay back taxes, and have no criminal record.

Reading Essentials and Study Guide

networks

A Time of Change, 1980–2000

Lesson 2 A New Wave of Immigration, *continued*

In 2006, President George W. Bush made immigration reform a top priority. But members of Congress strongly disagreed over how to solve the problem. A bipartisan majority of the Senate favored legislation that had tougher enforcement of immigration laws and some form of earned citizenship.

The Senate bill included a condition that allowed undocumented residents who grew up in the United States and graduated from high school to apply for citizenship. Conservative Republicans held the majority in the House. They disagreed with the Senate bill. They thought it would reward illegal behavior.

The House rejected any form of amnesty and called for the United States to build a wall along its Mexican border. By this time the United States had already tripled the size of its border patrol without reducing illegal immigration. Congress debated a bill that would criminally prosecute unauthorized residents. Latinos held rallies across the country. They carried signs that read: “We are not criminals.”

Supporters of immigration reform encouraged alternatives such as expanding quotas through a guest-worker program. They also supported creating a way to legalize those already in the country. Some undocumented immigrants had lived in the United States for years and had raised families. Deporting them would mean separating husbands, wives, and children. Some undocumented residents arrived as children. They had lived in the United States most of their lives. Their own children who were born in the United States were native-born citizens. But the parents lacked legal status. Most who became legal citizens wanted other family members to join them.



Reading Progress Check

Hypothesizing How would you solve the problem of illegal immigration?
