

Oklahoma C³ Standards for United States History:

- Content Standard 1: The student will analyze the transformation of the United States through its civil rights struggles, immigrant experiences, settlement of the American West, and the industrialization of American society in the Post-Reconstruction through the Progressive Eras, 1865 to 1900.
 - Item 2: Integrate specific textual and visual evidence to analyze the impact of Westward Movement and immigration on migration, settlement patterns in American society, economic growth, and Native Americans.
 - Objective A: Summarize the reasons for immigration, shifts in settlement patterns, and the immigrant experience including the *Chinese Exclusion Act*, the impact of Nativism, Americanization, and the immigrant experiences at Ellis Island.

To help develop an understanding of the reasons for a group people make a choice to leave one part of the world and move to another, have students (individually or in groups—based upon ability levels) research a specific ethnic group and conduct research on why people of that group moved to the United States in large numbers during a specific era. As best as possible have students find primary source material (including photographs) to help document the immigrant experience of their assigned ethnic group.

Have students then use the information they have learned and take on the identity of an individual from that group. Using a social networking site (i.e. Facebook or Twitter) have students create a profile representing this identity and then over one to two weeks they must create a set number of status updates for this identity. Other students within the class should respond to each other and make comments, asking questions, or other appropriate interaction based upon the experiences of their respective identities.

Students will develop an in-depth understanding of the experience of their group which their identity represents. They will also gain an understanding of the experiences of other groups.

Class discussions can then revolve around the similarities and differences of the experiences faced by each different group. How did issues of home country origin and/or location of U.S. settlement impact their experiences within the U.S.? How did experiences change by time period?

Class discussions can then be extended into later discussions of other waves of immigration (post-World War I, post-World War II, Korean War era, Vietnam War era, 1980s-90s, and contemporary society). How do these experiences compare with those of the past?