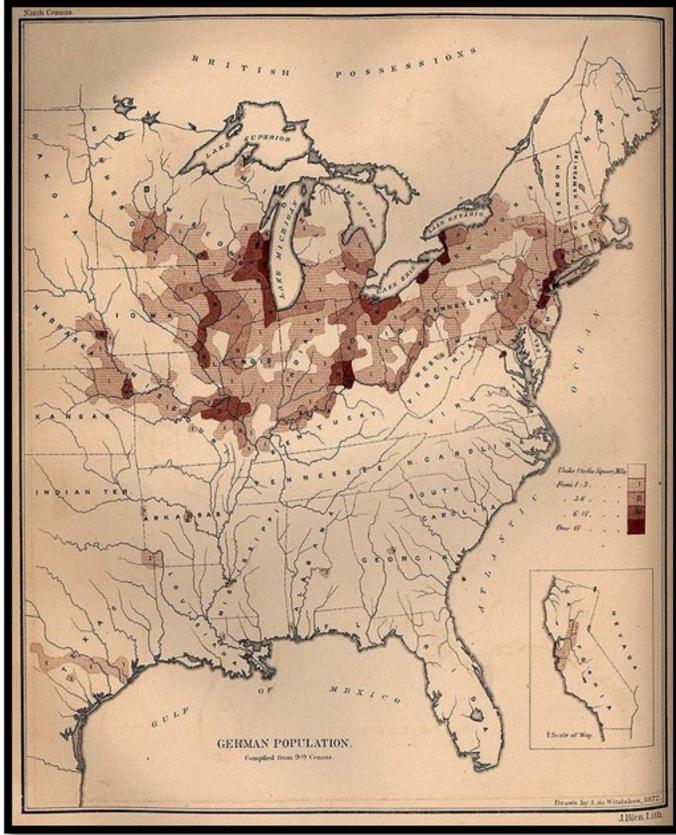


Germans

In the mid-1800's, events in Germany led to the immigration of thousands of Germans to the United States. The majority of German immigrants settled in the rural Midwest and Texas. They established the town of New Braunfels, Texas, and its surrounding areas in 1845. They also moved to the Midwest cities of Milwaukee and Chicago.



This map shows where many Germans settled in the United States.

Many Germans were farmers. Others were craftsmen such as furniture-makers, brewers, metalworkers and engineers. Many of these craftsmen joined the growing urban factories, to which they introduced their craft guild tradition. This tradition soon evolved into trade unions, and from there the labor union movement emerged, reaching its peak in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Most Germans who emigrated in the 1840s and 1850s were well-educated, particularly in comparison to the average American. German immigrants placed great emphasis on early public education, which they enjoyed in their homeland. In 1857, Margaretha Meyer Schurz, established the first American kindergarten in Wisconsin. Germans introduced physical education and vocational education into the public schools, and were responsible for the inclusion of gymnasiums in school buildings. More important, they were leaders in the call for universal education, a notion not common in the U.S. at the time.

German immigrants settled primarily in German neighborhoods and all-German towns, but their cultural traditions and foods soon spread to the American masses. Beginning in the 1850s, German holiday traditions, including the Christmas tree, Santa Claus and even the Easter Bunny became popular in the United States. Germans invented the American weekend. Before the arrival of the Germans, many communities in the American colonies observed a Puritan Sabbath, with an emphasis on rest. Germans, however, had a long tradition of organized Sunday recreation and were enthusiastic devotees of the Sunday outing.

Stop and Discuss

1. Where did a majority of Germans move to in the mid-1800's?
2. How would you summarize a German immigrant?
3. What contributions did Germans give to the United States?



German Primary Sources



Washington Crossing the Delaware, Emanuel Leutze



Yosemite Valley, Albert Bierstadt

Source: *Important German Americans: Their Contributions to the New World* by G. Marquardt, August 2012

German artists would make their mark on American history during the mid 1800s by creating art which became quintessentially "American." Emanuel Leutze was born in Germany and was brought to America as a child. An avid supporter of Germany's Revolution of 1848, Leutze decided to paint an iconic and patriotic image to encourage Europeans to embrace American ideals of liberty. Another famous painter who contributed to America's identity is Albert Bierstadt. He is most famous for his paintings of the American West. Bierstadt came to the U.S. in 1832 as a child with his family. Painting mostly landscapes, Bierstadt traveled throughout the United States, especially through the unchartered west. This style of painting, the "Hudson River School" was inspired by the scenery of the Hudson river valley which was painted to inspire awe and positive feelings for the exploration and settlement of the country.

Source: Meusebach-Comanche Treaty Between the Comanche and the German Immigration Company, Texas, May 9, 1847

I. The German people and Colonists for the Grant between the waters of the Llano and the San Saba shall be allowed to visit any part of said country, and be protected by the Comanche Nation and the Chiefs thereof, in Consideration of which agreement the Comanche may likewise come to the German colonies towns and settlements, and shall have no cause to fear, but shall go wherever they please – if not counselled otherwise by the especial agent of our great father – and have protection, as long as they walk in the white path.

Note: This treaty is one of the few pacts with Native Americans that was never broken.

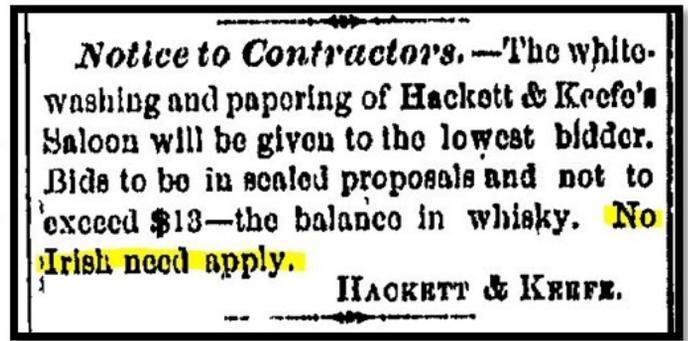
Document Analysis

1. Describe what you see in the paintings. What details in the paintings do you consider important? Why do you think these were painted
2. How does the peace treaty reflect German culture?
3. How do these sources show immigrant contributions to the growth of the United States?

It was the Potato **Famine** of 1845-1851, one of the most severe disasters in Irish history, that started the greatest number of Irish immigrants to the United States. The potato was the main food source for most Irish and when disease killed the potatoes, thousands starved. From the beginning of the famine in the mid-1840s until 1860 about 1.7 million Irish immigrated to the United States. Single men and women came to the United States in large numbers. By 1880 more single women than single men were immigrants. It has been estimated that from 1820 to 1900 about four million Irish immigrated to the United States.

The majority of Irish immigrants lived in cities such as Chicago, New Orleans, and San Francisco. Only a small number went west to engage in farming, however. Most Irish immigrants were indeed peasants, but few had the money to purchase land or had sufficient skill and experience to farm.

Textile mills also began to hire more Irish during the influx of Famine immigration. "No Irish Need Apply" signs were prevalent through the 1830s, and some Irish women were segregated when first hired in mills. By the 1850s, textile mills were hiring the Irish regularly because they would work for less money and did not make the same demands for reasonable working conditions that others did.



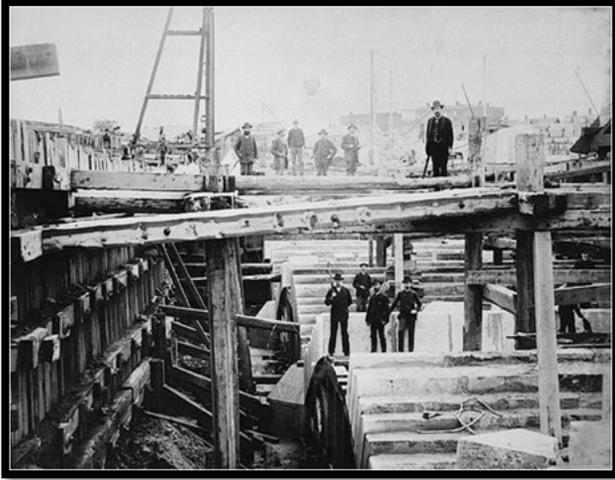
The expansion of the railroad in the mid-1800s transported thousands of immigrants throughout the country. Irish laborers built the Brooklyn Bridge, the Union-Pacific Railroad, and the Southern-Pacific Railroad. The first railroad to span the entire nation was constructed almost entirely by the Irish. The Irish also provided crucial labor in mining and the building of canals and bridges. The Erie Canal in New York, for example, was dug by over 5,000 Irish, and was considered the largest and most important transportation project in the nation by its completion in 1826. Irish Americans played a key role in the development of **infrastructure** of this country and are considered by many to be the "canal and railroad builders of the United States."

Stop and Discuss

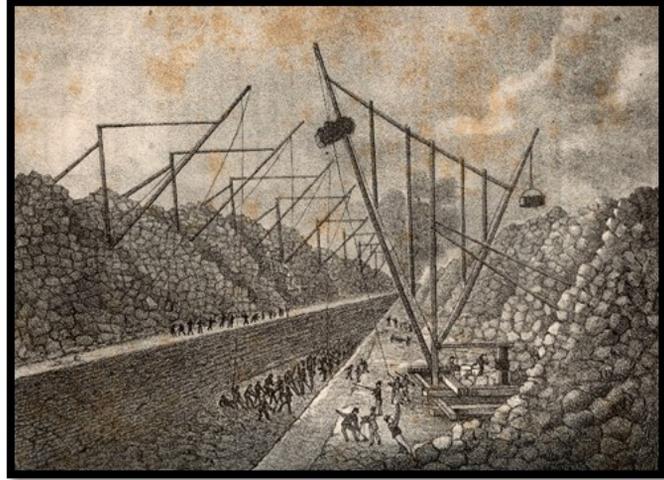
1. What challenges did the Irish face living in America? Why did they face these challenges?
2. Where did most of the Irish settle?
3. How did the Irish contribute to the growth of the United States?



Irish Primary Sources



Irish Immigrants 1840s



Process of Excavation - Lockport

"so many die that there is hardly any time to give Extreme Unction to everybody. We run night and day to assist the sick."

- Father John Raho, Irish community on the canal

*When I came to this wonderful empire,
It filled me with the greatest surprise
To see such a great undertaking,
On the like I've never opened my eyes.*

*To see a full thousand brave fellows
At work among mountains so tall
To dig through the valleys so level,
Through rocks for to cut a canal.*

-Paddy's Song

Ten Thousand Micks
They Swing Their Picks
to Dig the New Canal
But the Cholera
Was Stronger 'n They
And Twice it Killed 'em All."

-Irish Rhyme From the 1830's

Document Analysis

1. Describe what you see in the pictures. What details do you consider important?
2. What are the similarities between the song and rhyme?
3. How do these documents reflect immigrant contributions to the growth of the United States?

Chinese

The first major wave of Chinese immigrants came to the U.S. after hearing of the "Golden Mountain" or "Gum Saan" when California's Gold Rush began in 1848. In addition to the economic stability offered in California, civil war and famine in China forced many from their home.



Chinese workers migrated to the United States, first to work in the gold mines, but also to take agricultural jobs, and factory work, especially in the garment industry. Along the way, in frontier communities that sprung up, Chinese men began selling food and doing menial services, work traditionally done by women in that era. Setting up makeshift restaurants, providing care for children, and laundering became flourishing businesses. As the numbers of Chinese laborers increased, so did the strength of anti-Chinese feelings among other workers in the American economy.

The Chinese immigrants, almost 95% male, also worked on the Transcontinental Railroad. By agreeing to lower-paying wages than other workers, and by enduring the rough and dangerous working conditions, they were largely responsible for laying down the tracks for the western railways, in one of the greatest engineering feats of the 19th century.

American resentment to Chinese immigration took many forms. Most Chinese laborers who came to the United States did so in order to send money back to China to support their families there. These financial pressures left them little choice but to work for whatever wages they could. Non-Chinese laborers often required much higher wages to support their wives and children in the United States. Many Americans hated the Chinese laborers.

Stop and Discuss

1. What challenges did Chinese experience living in America? Why did they face these challenges?
2. Where did most Chinese immigrants settle?
3. How did the Chinese contribute to the growth of the United States?



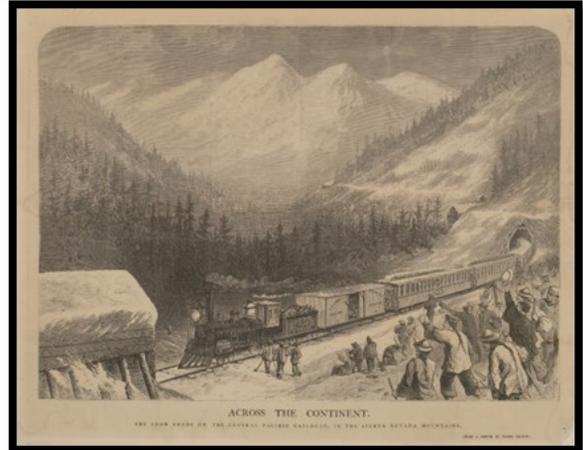
Chinese Primary Sources



Across the continent: the Frank Leslie transcontinental excursion...

Creator/Contributor:

Baker, Horace (1833-1918)] **Date:** 1878



Across the continent, the snow sheds on the Central Pacific Railroad, in the Sierra Nevada Mountains

Creator: Becker, Joseph (1841-1910)

The cars now (1867) run nearly to the summit of the Sierras. ... four thousand laborers were at work—one-tenth Irish, the rest Chinese. They were a great army laying siege to Nature in her strongest citadel. The rugged mountains looked like stupendous ant-hills. They swarmed with Celestials, shoveling, wheeling, carting, drilling and blasting rocks and earth, while their dull, moony eyes stared out from under immense basket-hats, like umbrellas. At several dining camps we saw hundreds sitting on the ground, eating soft boiled rice with chopsticks as fast as terrestrials could with soup-ladles. Irish laborers received thirty dollars per month (gold) and board; Chinese, thirty-one dollars, boarding themselves. After a little experience the latter were quite as efficient and far less troublesome. —*Beyond the Mississippi* by Albert D. Richardson

"Wherever we put them, we found them good, and they worked themselves into our favor to such an extent that if we found we were in a hurry for a job of work, it was better to put Chinese on at once." —Charles Crocker

"Chinese are faithful and industrious and, under proper supervision, some become skillful in the performance of their duty. Many of them are becoming very expert in drilling, blasting and other departments of rock work" – S. S. Montague, Chief Engineer, CPRR annual report, 1865

Document Analysis

1. Describe what you see in the pictures. What details do you consider important?
2. What can you infer about the Chinese experience in California? What evidence supports your answer?
3. How do these documents reflect immigrant contributions to the growth of the United States?