

SOURCE A – 1890



SOURCE B – IMMIGRATION BY THE NUMBERS

Year	Population of New York City
1810	96,373
1820	123,706
1830	202,589
1840	312,710
1850	515,547
1860	813,669
1870	942,292
1880	1,164,673
1890	1,441,216

Top Ten Sources of New York's Immigrants, 1860	
Ireland	203,740
German States	119,984
England	27,082
Scotland	9,208
France	8,074
Canada	3,899
Switzerland	1,771
Poland	1,586
Italy	1,464
West Indies	1,202
Total Foreign Born	383,717
Total Population	813,669

Top Ten Sources of New York's Immigrants, 1910	
Russia	484,193
Italy	340,770
Germany	278,137
Ireland	252,672
Austria	190,246
England	78,483
Hungary	76,627
Sweden	34,952
Romania	33,586
Canada	27,180
Total Foreign Born	1,944,357
Total Population	4,766,883

TAGS:

Statue of Liberty

American Identity

Immigration

IMMIGRATION & THE STATUE OF LIBERTY – PRIOR TO 1900

SOURCE

Source A: A cartoon published on March 22, 1890 in the *Judge*.

Source B: Three tables that show how the population of New York City changed over time.

BACKGROUND

When Emma was born in 1849, New York's population was 700,000; by 1883 when Emma Lazarus wrote "The New Colossus" in 1883, the population of New York City exceeds almost two million. Americans experienced a sense of dislocation. Stereotypes and caricatures of various groups flourished, assigning mostly negative characteristics to many immigrant groups.

When Emma Lazarus wrote "The New Colossus," she knew that not everyone agreed with her linkage of immigration and the statue, and not everyone agreed that immigrants were good for America. After all, the Chinese Exclusion Act, severely limiting Chinese immigration had been passed in 1882. Yet she still upheld the idea that the Statue and America should welcome immigrants. While the poem gained some attention and acclaim in 1883, no mention was made of the poem, or even of immigration, when President Grover Cleveland led a celebration for the Statue's installation in 1886.

Indeed, when the government was looking for a place to put an immigration center in the 1890s and the idea of Bedloe's Island, where the Statue had been installed, was proposed, critics objected to the placement of immigrants so close to the Statue of Liberty. A caption of an 1890 Puck cartoon has the Statue saying, "If you are going to make this island a garbage heap, I am going back to France."

GUIDING QUESTIONS

As you read the source consider how it informs these questions:

- If the poem and the statue, and immigration and the statue, ultimately came to be linked together, why is it important to understand the moments when it was not linked together?
- Emma had passed away three years before this cartoon. Would it have surprised her to see immigrants described as "a garbage heap"? Why or why not?
- Why have Americans disagreed about immigration over the years?
- What is the connection between immigrants and American identity?

HISTORICAL NOTES

Definitions of terms used in the source.

The Judge Magazine: A weekly satirical paper which ran from 1881-1947

Immigration Station: in 1890 the federal government asserted control over immigration and proposed the creation of a larger immigration processing station. The current station at Battery Park, Castle Garden, couldn't accommodate the increased numbers of immigrants arriving that needed to be processed. They eventually settled on Ellis Island, expanding 3 acres into 27 acres. Ellis Island ran from 1892 to 1954 processing 12 million immigrants.

Bedloe's Island : In 1871, Frederic Auguste Bartholdi chose Bedloe's island, located in New York's harbor as the site for the Statue of Liberty. In 1956, Congress officially renamed the island "Liberty Island."