



stunt

Engelsk Vg 1

US Immigration and Settlement

Simplified Version

The USA is a nation of immigrants from all parts of the world. At different times in history different groups have settled in this part of the world.

The first Europeans who settled in North America were mainly from the British Isles, France and Germany. These people founded the nation. We therefore call them colonists and not immigrants. In the new country they could start a new life. Some left their homeland because they were poor. In the new colony there were enormous areas of empty land, so the colonists could have their own farms. Others left because they did not have religious or political freedom at home.

The first African Americans were brought to North America in 1619. We do not call these people immigrants either, as they did not come willingly; they were brought there as slaves. From 1619 until 1801 about 400 000 blacks were enslaved and transported across the Atlantic.

The first wave of immigrants came from Northern Europe between the 1820s and the 1880s. The industrial revolution made production more efficient, which caused unemployment. They needed a new beginning. At the same time the industrial revolution made it easier to travel. These were important reasons why thousands of people left for America.

The second wave immigrated between 1890 and 1920. These were Southern and Eastern Europeans. Many of them were extremely poor and illiterate. They mostly settled in the cities of the East and Midwest.

WWII marked the beginning of a third wave of immigration. The USA welcomed people who fled Nazism and Communism. Later Cubans and Vietnamese came because of US involvement in these countries. After WWII there was also a need of labor in the country and this gave Mexicans an opportunity to come.

Today people come from all over the world. Many of these are refugees who leave countries at war or have experienced natural catastrophes. In addition there are millions of illegal immigrants, mostly from Mexico and South America.



Glossary

Immigration – innvandring
Settlement – bosetting
Consisting of – bestående av
Founded – grunnla
Colonists – kolonialist
Enslaved – gjort til slaver
Efficient – effektiv
Unemployed – arbeidsledig
Illiterate – analfabet
Fled – flyktet fra
Involvement – engasjement
Labor – arbeidskraft
Opportunity – mulighet
Refugees – flyktninger
Experienced – opplevd
Illegal - ulovlig

Checkpoints

1. Where did the first settlers come from?
2. Why do we call them colonists and not immigrants?
3. Why did the first settlers leave home?
4. When were the first slaves brought to North America?
5. Approximately how many slaves were brought to the country?
6. Why did the first wave of immigrants leave Europe?
7. Where did the second wave of immigrants mainly come from?
8. During and after WWII some immigrants came of political reasons. Mention some of these.
9. Why could many Mexicans immigrate after WWII?
10. Where do most illegal immigrants come from?