Activity Items
The following items are part of this activity and appear at the end of this student version.

- Item 1: Growth of the Elements of the Population: 1790-1890
- Item 2: “Looking Backward” Political Cartoon, Published 1893

Student Learning Objectives

- I will be able to interpret a historical chart depicting changes in the makeup of the U.S. population from 1790 through 1890.
- I will be able to use the chart data and information in a political cartoon to explain changes that resulted from immigration to the United States in the late 19th century.
1. Use Item 1: Growth of the Elements of the Population: 1790–1890 to answer the following questions and prompts.

   a. Describe what is shown in the chart. Does anything surprise you?

   b. During which decade of the 19th century did the United States see the greatest amount of immigration? Use your background knowledge of the U.S. economy at that time to explain what may have caused this increase in immigration.

   c. During the 19th century, where did the majority of immigrants to the United States come from? Use your background knowledge of the conditions in those countries at the time to explain why people may have left.
2. Review Item 2: “Looking Backward” Political Cartoon, Published 1893, and then describe the characters on the shore and their shadows, as well as the person arriving.

3. What does the cartoon reveal about the perceptions of immigration in the United States in the late 19th century?

4. Using your background knowledge of the 1800s, in what other ways did increased immigration affect American society? Consider political, economic, and social effects.

5. How has the immigrant experience changed over the course of U.S. history?
Item 1: Growth of the Elements of the Population: 1790–1890

www.loc.gov/resource/g3701gm.gct00010/?sp=42

Click on the link above to view the chart online.
Item 2: “Looking Backward” Political Cartoon, Published 1893

Click on the link above to view the cartoon online.