

WK 31 WAVES OF IMMIGRANTS

4.27.09

READ > FOLLOW CHART * CRUCIAL TO READ

WRITE > NO H/W BUT FINISH MAPS + WRITE THESIS

DUE >

- 4.27 - AFRICA 3 MAPS + QUESTIONS
- 4.27 - WORKING THESIS FOR RESEARCH PAPER
- 5.11 - OUTLINE (EXPOSITORY ESSAY PLANNING WORKSHEET)
- 5.18 - TIME LINE
- 6.1 - FINAL RESEARCH PAPER

* ALL THE ABOVE MUST BE ON TIME
INCLUDE PROPER HEADING
INCLUDE RUBRIC (EXCEPT FOR WORKING THESIS 4.27)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL GRADES

Do you know what gilding is, say, on a picture frame or the pages of your family Bible? It is a thin layer of gold that is applied to the surface of an object to make it look expensive and beautiful, when often it is made of common, cheap materials underneath.

This week, we are returning our focus to American history. The last twenty-five years of the 1800's in America were dubbed "The Gilded Age" because, though there were many amazing advances in technology and many people enjoyed a better standard of living than any people had since the beginning of the world, and though many in high society were fabulously wealthy, the "gold" that made America seem like a glittering treasure was only painted on the surface. If you scratched beneath the golden gilding of America's cities, you found horrid slums where desperately poor people lived in shamefully dirty, crowded, and dangerous conditions.

This week, students on all learning levels will read about the millions of immigrants who came to America. Each level has a different aspect of this great voluntary migration to study, so ask your brothers and (or) sisters what they are learning about this week. Some of you are reading in detail about the process by which immigrants entered America. You'll learn about some of their first sights of their new homeland, especially the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Others are learning about hardships that immigrants underwent both coming to America and once they entered the country.

You will also read about President Grover Cleveland this week. This President was in office during the era of immigration, and had to confront not only the problems that swelling foreigners brought but also those brought to him by established Americans who wanted the government to serve their needs in various ways. President Cleveland had some unique experiences as President, as well as some unusual challenges to face.

As you read this week, you will probably begin to think that many of the problems and experiences of the people you study sound somewhat familiar. We are fast entering the part of history that is most like the world that we live in today. Some of the problems that both immigrants and President Cleveland faced were new and different to them, but they have become lasting challenges to us—Americans living more than a century later.



"Come to Stay"—illustration from an 1880 newspaper