

***Political Cartoon Analysis***  
***Immigration and Nativism: Then and Now***

**Directions:** Examine each political cartoon from the late 1800s and today. Answer the questions that follow, then discuss them with your group members.

**Document 1: "Be Just - Even to John Chinaman," 1893.**



A judge says to Miss Columbia, "You allowed that boy to come into your school, it would be inhuman to throw him out now - it will be sufficient in the future to keep his brothers out." Note the ironing board and opium pipe carried by the Chinese. An Irish American holds up a slate with the slogan "Kick the Heathen Out; He's Got No Vote."

1. Who are the other "students" in the class?
2. What is their opinion of letting the Chinese man stay?
3. What does the school represent?

4. Do you think this cartoon is in favor of immigration, or against it? What reason might the artist give to support this view?

### Document 2: The Mortar of Assimilation



The one unmixable element in the national pot was the Irish. A female U.S. figure, ("Uncle Samantha"?) stirs various stereotypes of different nationalities into the American melting pot, in "The Mortar of Assimilation," 1889.



5. What is the Irish man refusing to do?
6. Do you think this cartoon is in favor of immigration, or against it? What reason might the artist give to support this view?

### Document 3: Looking Backward



The shadows of immigrant origins loom over restrictionist American plutocrats. Hypocrisy over immigration.

7. Why do you think these men, who had been poor immigrants themselves, would want to stop this man from entering the country?
8. Do you think this cartoon is in favor of immigration, or against it? What reason might the artist give to support this view?

Document 4:



9. Why is the Native American asking the white people to show their identification?

10. What does this cartoon suggest about Americans?

11. Do you think this cartoon is in favor of immigration, or against it? What reason might the artist give to support this view?

Document 5:

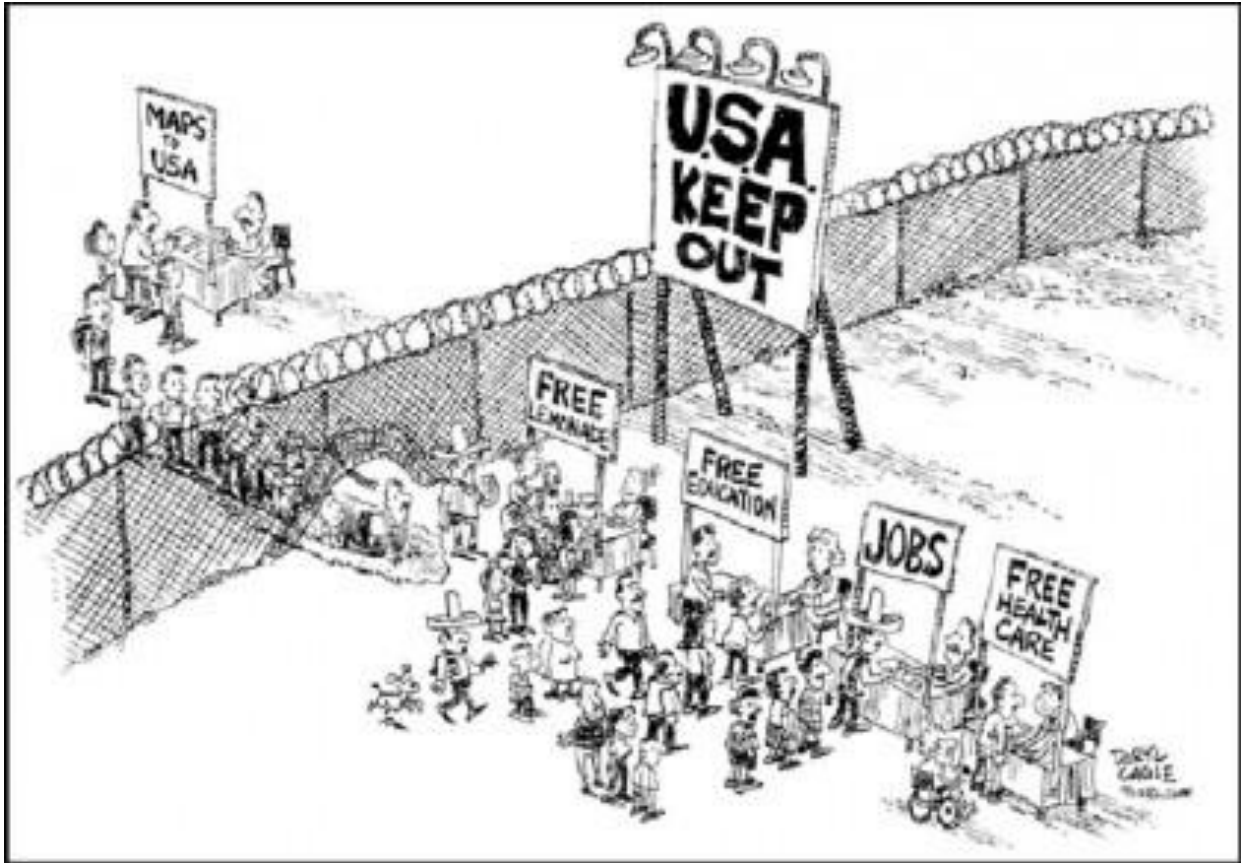


12. Is the man looking in the mirror in favor of immigration or against it?

13. Who is the man being compared to? Why?

14. Do you think this cartoon is in favor of immigration, or against it? What reason might the artist give to support this view?

Document 6:



15. Did the immigrants in the cartoon arrive here legally or illegally?
16. According to this cartoon, what is the difference between what Americans say about immigration and what we provide immigrants? What is problematic about that?
17. Do you think this cartoon is in favor of immigration, or against it? What reason might the artist give to support this view?
18. How do Americans' views of immigration today compare to those of the late 1800s? Explain your answer.