Immigration and Population Growth Statistics, 19th Century

**Composition of Immigration, 1840–1860**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Pop.</th>
<th>Pop. Increase</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1830</td>
<td>12,860,702</td>
<td>3,222,249</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>91.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>17,063,353</td>
<td>4,202,651</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>89.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>23,191,876</td>
<td>6,128,523</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>84.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>31,443,321</td>
<td>8,251,445</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>80.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>38,558,371</td>
<td>7,115,050</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>74.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.) During which years did Irish immigrants come to U.S. more than any other ethnic group?
2.) Describe what happened to Irish immigration after 1852? Give a reason that could explain this data.
3.) By 1860, which ethnic group do you think had the most people immigrant to the United States? Why?

4.) This graph (right) shows the total number of people who immigrated per year to the U.S. During what 10 year span did the largest increase of immigration per year occur?
5.) In this span, which ethnic group did most people come from? (use above graph)
6.) Which ethnic group is responsible for the huge decrease in immigration in the early 1850s?
7.) Between its highest point per year and 1860, how much had immigration to the US decreased?

8.) What does living in an “urban” area mean? Rural?
9.) How has the percentage of people living in urban and rural areas changed from 1830 to 1870?
10.) What does this change show us about where these immigrants chose to settle (urban or rural)? Why do you think they chose this?
Instructions: Create a “t-chart” in your notebook, then read the accounts below! On one side, list factors that “pushed” immigrants from your homelands. On the other, document reasons that “pulled” immigrants to the United States.

Rene Dubos came from France with this in mind:
In the small village where I was brought up, I read with passion, until the age of fourteen, stories about Buffalo Bill and the Wild West, that were then published in a French weekly magazine. I could not imagine any better life than roaming on horseback over the Great Plains and the Rockies. I read everything available about American life and became intoxicated with the phrase ‘America the land of unlimited possibilities.’ I had no clear vision of what these possibilities were, but I wanted to experience them nevertheless.

A Swedish minister wrote this letter in the 1860s:
You should see our settlement out here. It is a beautiful sight: nothing but prairie! Here and there a line of green trees on both sides of the winding Smokey Hill River or in the small valleys where water seeks an outlet... Many who come, overwhelmed by this dreary prairie, do not take time to dig a hole in order to observe the rich soil, which nourishes the luxuriant grass. They turn back immediately, or devote themselves to idle sorrow. The only thing they do is write long lamentations to Sweden.... It has been wonderful this summer to see the large seeded fields, which a few years ago belonged to the buffalo and Indians. The crop in Kansas has really been excellent this year, although our settlement has not profited much from it, since all of us have just arrived.... We do not dig gold with pocket knives, we do not expect to become bountifully rich in a few days or in a few years, but what we aim at is to own our own homes, where each one has his own property, which with God’s blessings will provide him with the sustenance which he and his family need.... The advantage which America offers is not to make everyone rich at once without toil and trouble, but the advantage is that the poor, who will and are able to work, secure a large piece of good land almost without cost, that they can work up little by little....

From an advertisement found in China in the mid 1800s:
Americans are very rich people. They want the Chinaman to come and will make him very welcome. There you will have great pay, large houses, and food and clothing of the finest description. You can write to your friends and send them money at any time, and we will be responsible for the safe delivery.... There are a great many Chinamen there now, and it will not be a strange country. Never fear and you will be lucky. Money is in great plenty and to spare in America!

Another Swede chose America for these reasons:
Forty years ago my father came over to this country from Sweden. He had a small business and a large family. In Europe business does not grow as fast as children come, and poverty over there is an inheritance. He heard that North America was peopled and governed by working men, and the care of the states was mainly engaged in the welfare and prosperity of labor. That moved him, and so I came to be born here. He, and millions like him, made this country their home, and their homes have mainly made this country what it is...

Russian Jews also came to America:
“All has become even more dreadful since Trotsky replaced Alexander II as czar here in Russia. He has initiated a number of mild reforms that have become very hostile against us. He has ordered secret police to lead pogroms (government supported attacks) against Russian Jews. If he wants to, he can throw an old woman out of a third-floor window together with a grand piano, he can smash a chair against a baby’s head... hammer a nail into a living human body.... He exterminates whole families, he pours petrol over a house, transforms it into a mass of flames, and if anyone attempts to escape, he finishes him off with a cudgel.”
Faced with such terrorism, over a third of Russia’s Jews departed in hordes--more than 90 percent of them bound for America, the land of promise.