

Lesson Plan Template: Hewit Summer Institute

Title: Chinese Immigration-Attitudes and Legacy

Unit duration: 4 60 minute Lessons

Grade level: 8th Grade

Objectives:

- I can identify and explain factors that lead to Chinese immigration to the United States in the 1800s.
- I can evaluate the obstacles and attitudes toward Chinese Immigration in the United States in the 1800s.
- I can explain the impact and legacy of Chinese Immigration to the United States

Essential Questions:

How does Immigration impact society?

What is the legacy of Chinese Immigration?

Colorado State Standards Addressed: 8th Grade

- History 1a, History 1b
- History 2b, History 2d

Lesson content and procedures:

(note- power point is available on the Hewit Website as a file labeled: Chinese Immigration-Attitudes and Legacy POWER POINT slides)

Day/time/duration	Title/content	Step by step instructions	Materials needed/notes
1 55 Minute Class	Chinese Immigration- Push and Pull factors 1800s.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Warm up Question: “Have you ever moved or wanted to move from one place to another place? Where? Why?” <p>Class discussion about warm-up focusing on commonalities of motivations. Economic, political, geographic, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Debrief what are push and pull factors.• Students then mark whether the reasons they moved were pushing them away or pulling them to their new	Power Point Slide 1

		<p>text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a class discuss push factors and the evidence they used to support this. • Activity 4 Checks for Understanding. • Have students respond to the prompt, “What was the biggest motivation for Chinese to immigrate to the United States? Explain your answer using reasoning. 	<p>Student response paper Checks for Understanding 1</p>
<p>(2) 55 Minute Lesson</p>	<p>Chinese Immigration-attitudes and obstacles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm Up questions: “ Why is it hard to move from one place to another?” • Class discussion about warm-up looking at issues of acceptance, different culture, etc. • Ask students what would be hard about moving to a new country? Tie responses to ideas of acceptance and obstacles. • Distribute secondary source about Chinese Immigration. • Read secondary source as a class 	<p>Slide 8</p> <p>“From Gold Rush to Golden State” Library of Congress.</p>

		<p>with ability to have conversations about vocab and what the source is saying. Students should annotate secondary source as they are reading with the class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In groups students will then analyze a primary source (1 per Group) looking for attitudes and obstacles Chinese Immigrants faced in the 1800s. • Have students record on poster paper the attitudes and obstacles using quotes and information from their source to support their answers. • Groups will then display their posters and students will have a gallery walk to record information about obstacles and attitudes. 	<p>Primary Source Packet 1 Primary Source per Group (Political Cartoons can be used as 1 source) (Using groups allows differentiation into complex text, teacher guidance might be needed with more advanced tests)</p> <p>Poster Paper/Sticky notes could be used</p>
1 55 minute lesson	Legacy of immigration: What was the impact of the Chinese Immigration in the 1800s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm-Up Question: “How do you want to be remembered when you leave this school?” • Have students 	Slide 9

		<p>discuss how they want to be remembered and why.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tie discussion into legacy, how people impact their surroundings and what they leave behind. • Transition to the legacy of Chinese Immigration. • Summative: Write a letter home as a Chinese immigrant in the 1800s to their family still in China. • Letter should include: Who they are, why they came to the U.S. what conditions are like, what they do for a living, where they settled, what obstacles they have encountered, and what they hope to achieve (Legacy). 	<p>Slide 10 &11</p> <p>Initiate brief discussion of Chinese legacy in the United States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Gold Rush -Agriculture -Railroad -Services -China Town -Food, religion, language, holidays.
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Chinese Immigration T-Chart

Chinese immigrated for multiple reasons, record conditions and situations which would push people from China and pull people to the American West in the 1800s.

Push Factors	Pull Factors

Chinese immigrated for multiple reasons, record conditions and situations which would push people from China and pull people to the American West in the 1800s.

Push Factors	Pull Factors

Reading 1

Qing China's Internal Crisis: Land Shortage, Famine, Rural Poverty

(Modified)

Read the Following text and Identify factors that would have pushed Chinese to immigrate to the United States in the 1800s.

Unfortunately for China, the demands of western powers and the devastation caused by rebellions coincided with other social problems which challenged the Chinese government and people. First among these crises was a huge population increase, which put an enormous strain on already hard-pressed resources. During the long period of peace from the late 17th century until the end of the 18th century, the population of China more than doubled, growing from nearly 150 million to over 300 million. The next period, 1779-1850, brought another 56% increase, bringing the total population to 430 million (approximately 1/2 the 1980 total) on the eve of the great Taiping rebellion of mid-century. This population growth was all the more difficult to deal with since by the late 18th century there were few regions left which could absorb more internal migration. Even frontier areas like the west and south-west were filling up. As in other times of Chinese history, there were creative responses: more intense irrigation, the development of earlier ripening strains of rice that allowed double cropping, and, most importantly, the gradual acceptance of New

World food crops such as maize (corn), sweet potatoes, tobacco and peanuts for less fertile lands. But these agricultural advances were good and bad: they may have resulted in more food, animal feed, and fuel, but they also led to erosion of the more heavily farmed hills and the beginnings of a labor surplus, particularly in crowded areas like the lower Yangtze delta.

But it was not only food production and available opportunities for work that could not keep up with the population surge. The government had been reasonably effective for a smaller population, yet an increase in government personnel was not made to keep pace with the population. By the 19th century, it is estimated that a direct magistrate, the lowest level official responsible for all local government, might be responsible for as many as 250,000 people. Small wonder that when real crises came, officials in government were powerless to avoid them, and people had nothing to fall back on except for some meager donations and national and international relief efforts, which reached few people.

"Qing China's Internal Crisis: Land Shortage, Famine, Rural Poverty." Asia for Educators. Accessed June 17, 2019. http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/special/china_1750_demographic.htm.

Checks for Understanding Response (formative)

What was the biggest motivation for Chinese to immigrate to the United States? Explain your answer using reasoning from today's materials and discussion.

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From Gold Rush to Golden State (Secondary Source)

The first federal census conducted in California in 1860 counted 308,000 residents--population had almost tripled since 1847. While gold mining was still an important factor in the state economy, Californians were finding other ways to earn a living. By the mid 1850s, the state's farms had made California self-sufficient in raising wheat. Cattle ranching flourished, and by 1860, local ranches produced four times as many cows as they had in 1848. Still, everyone in the booming state was painfully aware of the difficulties of bringing goods in and sending them out: there was still no rail link to the eastern United States.

There were other, more ominous signs of the transition from the Gold Rush boom to the problems of a permanent society. Even in the 1850s, as the limits of the gold bonanza for single, independent miners became apparent, white "American" miners were resentful of the other national groups represented in the camps. While they usually accepted non-English-speaking Europeans, they had less tolerance for Latin American miners and none at all for Chinese. In 1850, the new California legislature adopted a Foreign Miners License Law, charging all non-U.S. citizens \$20 per month. This fee proved unreasonably high, and the law was repealed the next year. Before the law was repealed, however, many Chinese left the mining camps, moving to San Francisco, where they soon established themselves in the city's business community and created America's first "Chinatown." But many more came to the "Mountain of Gold." The height of Gold Rush immigration came in 1852: of the 67,000 people who came to California that year, 20,000 were from China. Chinese miners who continued their search for gold found increasingly harsh treatment at the hands of their fellow miners.

The legislature adopted a new foreign miners' tax of \$4 per month, and anti-Chinese feeling surfaced in many mining camps.

At last the railroads came, and the end of California's physical isolation from the rest of the United States not only changed the economy but altered anti-Chinese attitudes. Debate on the route of a transcontinental railroad was unable to overcome disagreement over whether the railway should follow a northern or a southern path, until the coming of the Civil War in 1861. With the slave states part of the Confederacy, this sectional stumbling block vanished. Indeed, the construction of the railroad may have been the most important immediate effect of that war on California. Although a California battalion served in Virginia and other California troops were sent to New Mexico, most volunteers who enlisted never left the state and spent their military service guarding federal installations. California wheat and wool from California sheep did their part for the Union effort as well.

In January 1863 work began on the Central Pacific line that was to run east from Sacramento and link California with the East. On May 10, 1869, at Promontory Point, Utah, it joined its sister road extending from the East, the Union Pacific. But completion of the Central Pacific rested on the use of Chinese laborers. At one time, more than 10,000 Chinese worked on the line. White workers proved unreliable, unwilling to face the dangers and grueling work when rumors of new gold and silver strikes promised easier alternatives. The Chinese, on the other hand, demonstrated physical courage and intellectual resourcefulness in meeting the challenges of laying track and handling the high explosives needed to blast routes through the Sierras. Many also helped build the Northwest Pacific and Southern Pacific lines. In 1870, there were 63,000 Chinese in the United States, almost all in California.

The railroads the Chinese built, however, contributed to a situation in which racial bias became still more ugly. As railroads spread throughout the state, California's economy and population patterns quickly changed. Easy access to rail lines made citrus growing and other large scale agricultural pursuits an important element in the state economy.

Farming in California never resembled the model seen in the Midwest or the Plains, where homesteaders could acquire cheap government land for family farms. Once it became clear that the United States would control California in 1846, the Mexican governor Pío Pico hurriedly signed 800 land grants, giving them fraudulent dates so that they would appear to precede the American takeover. Even earlier land grants tended to be vague and contradictory in wording, no matter what other claims they had to validity, and this meant that much of the best land for farming and ranching lay with old grants that were to be challenged in the courts over decades. Only the well-to-do could afford to spend this much time and money, and would-be small farmers usually had to content themselves with being squatters or giving up their dreams. This pattern was strengthened with the coming of the major rail lines: much of the remaining public land went to the railroads as subsidies for constructing their lines.

Farming in California was therefore always commercial farming, the patterns of land ownership reinforced by the need to invest substantial money in irrigation and reclamation. Irrigation, in turn, did not become feasible during the boom of canals and stream diversion in mining. Thus it was not until the 1860s that large scale, irrigated farming became common. When major rail construction ended in the early 1870s, Chinese laborers moved easily into agriculture, proving themselves skilled farm workers and enterprising operators of small garden farms of their own. The expansion of irrigation canals in Southern California also drew the Chinese to these farms, making this group of immigrants a statewide phenomenon.

Accordingly, hostility to the Chinese spread from the northern mining camps to farming regions and factory sites throughout the state. Anti-Chinese sentiment was exacerbated by the fact that the transcontinental railroad had ended California's comparative insulation from economic cycles in the rest of the United States. A national depression in the mid 1870s struck California, where labor leaders like Denis Kearney fired anti-Chinese feeling. In 1882, Congress passed the first Chinese Exclusion Act, which barred further Chinese immigration for ten years.

"From Gold Rush to Golden State." California as I Saw It: First-Person Narratives of California's Early Years, 1849 to 1900. Accessed July 1, 2019. <https://www.loc.gov/collections/california-first-person-narratives/articles-and-essays/early-california-history/from-gold-rush-to-golden-state/>.

Primary Source 1

Transcript of Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)

An Act to execute certain treaty stipulations relating to Chinese.

Whereas in the opinion of the Government of the United States the coming of Chinese laborers to this country endangers the good order of certain localities within the territory thereof: Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That from and after the expiration of ninety days next after the passage of this act, and until the expiration of ten years next after the passage of this act, the coming of Chinese laborers to the United States be, and the same is hereby, suspended; and during such suspension it shall not be lawful for any Chinese laborer to come, or having so come after the expiration of said ninety days to remain within the United States.

SEC. 12. That no Chinese person shall be permitted to enter the United States by land without producing to the proper officer of customs the certificate in this act required of Chinese persons seeking to land from a vessel. And any Chinese person found unlawfully within the United States shall be caused to be removed therefrom to the country from whence he came, by direction of the President of the United States, and at the cost of the United States, after being brought before some justice, judge, or commissioner of a court of the United States and found to be one not lawfully entitled to be or remain in the United States.



Keller, George Frederick. "What Shall We Do With Our Boys." Cartoon. *The San Francisco Illustrated Wasp*, March 03, 1882.

Primary Source 2 (advanced)

Mark Twain's Observations About Chinese Immigrants in California

In the following excerpt, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as the author Mark Twain, describes Chinese immigrants in California. The excerpt below is taken from his book, *Roughing It*, originally published in 1872.

OF course there was a large Chinese population in Virginia, CA--it is the case with every town and city on the Pacific coast. They are a harmless race when white men either let them alone or treat them no worse than dogs; in fact they are almost entirely harmless anyhow, for they seldom think of resenting the vilest insults or the cruelest injuries. They are quiet, peaceable, tractable, free from drunkenness, and they are as industrious as the day is long. A disorderly Chinaman is rare, and a lazy one does not exist. So long as a Chinaman has strength to use his hands he needs no support from anybody; white men often complain of want of work, but a Chinaman offers no such complaint; he always manages to find something to do. He is a great convenience to everybody--

even to the worst class of white men, for he bears the most of their sins, suffering fines for their petty thefts, imprisonment for their robberies, and death for their murders. Any white man can swear a Chinaman's life away in the courts, but no Chinaman can testify against a white man. Ours is the "land of the free"--nobody denies that--nobody challenges it. [Maybe it is because we won't let other people testify.] As I write, news comes that in broad daylight in San Francisco, some boys have stoned an inoffensive Chinaman to death, and that although a large crowd witnessed the shameful deed, no one interfered.

There are seventy thousand (and possibly one hundred thousand) Chinamen on the Pacific coast. There were about a thousand in Virginia. They were penned into a "Chinese quarter"--a thing which they do not particularly object to, as they are fond of herding together. Their buildings were of wood; usually only one story high, and set thickly together along streets scarcely wide enough for a wagon to pass through. Their quarter was a little removed from the rest of the town. The chief employment of Chinamen in towns is to wash clothing. They always send a bill, like this below, pinned to the clothes. It is mere ceremony, for it does not enlighten the customer much. Their price for washing was \$2.50 per dozen--rather cheaper than white people could afford to wash for at that time. A very common sign on the Chinese houses was: "See Yup, Washer and Ironer"; "Hong Wo, Washer"; "Sam Sing Ah Hop, Washing." The house servants, cooks, etc., in California and Nevada, were chiefly Chinamen. There were few white servants and no Chinawomen so employed. Chinamen make good house servants, being quick, obedient, patient, quick to learn and tirelessly industrious. They do not need to be taught a thing twice, as a general thing. They are imitative. If a Chinaman were to see his master break up a centre table, in a passion, and kindle a fire with it, that Chinaman would be likely to resort to the furniture for fuel forever afterward.

All Chinamen can read, write and cipher with easy facility--pity but all our petted voters could. In California they rent little patches of ground and do a deal of gardening. They will raise surprising crops of vegetables on a sand pile. They waste nothing. What is rubbish to a Christian, a Chinaman carefully preserves and makes useful in one way or another. He gathers up all the old oyster and sardine cans that white people throw away, and procures marketable tin and solder from them by melting.

Twain, Mark. "Mark Twain's Observations about Chinese Immigrants in California." Library of Congress. Accessed June 17, 2019.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/riseind/chinimms/twain.html>.

Primary Source 3 --- New York Times (advanced)

THE MASSACRE OF THE CHINESE.

SIXTEEN KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN KILLED AND MANY WOUNDED.

ROCK SPRINGS, Wyoming, Sept. 4. 1885.

A glance over the battleground of Wednesday reveals the fact that many of the bullets fired at the fleeing Chinamen found their mark. Lying in the smoldering embers where Chinatown stood were found 10 charred and shapeless trunks, sending up a noisome stench, while another, which had evidently been dragged from the ashes by boys, was found in the sage brush nearby. The search resulted in the finding of the bodies of five more Chinamen, killed by rifle shots while fleeing from their pursuers. All were placed in pine coffins and buried yesterday afternoon. Some six or eight others were found seriously wounded, and were cared for by the railroad officers. The Coroner's jury has rendered a verdict to the effect that the men came to their deaths at the hands of parties

unknown. Reports from along the line of the railroad are to the effect that Chinamen have been arriving at small stations east and west of here, and they say that a large number of the fugitives were wounded by Wednesday's attack, and that many have perished in the hills. It is feared that it will be found that no less than 50 lost their lives when all the returns are in.

This trouble has been brewing for months. The contractors who run the mines have been importing Chinamen in large numbers and discharging white men, until over 600 Celestials were in their employ. It is said that the mine bosses have favored the Chinamen to the detriment of white miners, and it needed only a spark to kindle the flames. This was furnished by a quarrel between a party of Celestials and whites in Mine No. 6 over their right to work in a certain chamber. A fight ensued and the Chinamen were worsted, four of them being badly wounded, one of whom has since died. The white miners then came out, armed themselves with firearms, and notified the men in the other three mines to come out in the afternoon. Meantime all was excitement in Chinatown. The flag was hoisted as a warning, and the Chinese working in different parts of the camp fled to their quarters. After dinner, the saloons closed and no liquor has since been sold. The miners gathered on the front streets, about 100 of them armed with guns, revolvers, hatchets, and knives, and proceeded toward Chinatown. Before reaching there they sent a committee of three to warn the Chinamen to leave in an hour. This they agreed to do, and started to pack up, but in about half an hour, the white men became impatient and advanced upon the Chinese quarters, shouting and firing their guns into the air. Without offering resistance, the Chinese fled with whatever they could snatch up. They fled to the hills about a mile east of the town, the miners firing at them as they fled. The miners then set fire to some of the houses, and soon eight or ten of the largest houses were in flames. Half choked with fire and smoke, numbers of Chinamen came rushing from the burning buildings, and, with blankets and quilts over their heads to protect themselves from stray rifle shots, they followed their retreating brothers into the hills at the top of their speed. A laundry in town was next visited and the inoffensive inmates shot dead.

All the employes of the coal department of the railroad were ordered to leave town, which they did on the evening train. During the night, all the Chinese houses in town, numbering nearly 50, were burned to the ground. A number of Chinamen who were hiding fled from the burning buildings. It is rumored that the Mormon miners in the camp are to be ordered out, but no action in this direction has yet been taken. The miners here are entirely unorganized in the crusade and, although a large number of them are Knights of Labor, the move was not made under their directions. The miners have not been working since the riot. Business is almost entirely suspended and everything is quiet.

"THE MASSACRE OF THE CHINESE." *New York Times*, September 05, 1885. February 19, 2007. Accessed June 20, 2019. <http://www.ghostcowboy.com/node/118>.

Primary Source 4—Political Cartoons

THEY ARE PRETTY SAFE THERE.

When Politicians do Agree, their Unanimity is Wonderful.



"GIVE IT TO HIM, HE'S GOT NO VOTE NOR NO FRIENDS!"

Gilliam, Bernhard. "They Are Pretty Safe There: When Politicians Do Agree, Their Unanimity Is Wonderful." Cartoon. Digital Public Library of America. Accessed June 25, 2019. <https://dp.la/primary-source-sets/early-chinese-immigration-to-the-us/sources/85>.

1892 Congressional Report on Chinese Immigration (Modified Excerpt)

10 years earlier Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act which barred any new immigration to the United States from China, though it left alone those of Chinese Descent already in the United States at the time.

“The exclusion act approved May 6, 1882...Expires by limitation of time n May 6th, 1892, and after that time there will be no law to prevent the Chinese hordes from invading our country in numbers so vast, as soon to outnumber the present population of our flourishing states on the pacific slope...The popular demand for legislation excluding the Chinese from this country is urgent and imperative and almost universal. Their presence here is hurtful to our institutions and is a source of danger. They are a distant race, saving from their earnings a few hundred dollars and returning to China. This they succeed in doing in from five to ten years by living in the most miserable manner, when in cities and towns in crowded tenement houses, surrounded by dirt, filth corruption, pollution, prostitution...They have no attachment to our country, its laws or its institutions, nor are they interested in its prosperity. They never join with our people, our manners, tastes, religion, or ideas. With us they have nothing in common. Living on the cheapest diet (mostly vegetable), wearing the poorest clothing, with no family to support, they enter the field of labor in competition with the American workman...and have invaded almost every branch of industry.”

U.S. Congress. Select Committee on Immigration and Naturalization. *Chinese Immigration. February 10, 1892. -- Referred to the House Calendar and Ordered to Be Printed.* By James Fletcher Epes and Herman Stump. Cong. Washington, DC, 1892.

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- Nast, Thomas. "The Chinese Question." Cartoon. *Harpers Ferry*, February 18, 1871, 149.
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- "Qing China's Internal Crisis: Land Shortage, Famine, Rural Poverty." Asia for Educators. Accessed June 17, 2019. http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/special/china_1750_demographic.htm.
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