**Nativism and Anti-Immigration Movements**

**Student Worksheet**

Introduction:

Anti-immigrant sentiment, known as “nativism,” started to gain force in the mid-1840s. A substantial number of citizens believed that the large numbers of German immigrants and Irish immigrants threatened American jobs, could be too easily swayed in elections by corrupt politicians, and generally were an affront to the “American way of life.” Nativism eventually found political expression in the “Know-Nothing” party, an antiforeigner, anti-Roman Catholic political organization that flourished between 1852 and 1856. It was called the Know-Nothing party because members answered “I know nothing” when asked about the organization. They advocated the exclusion of Catholics and foreigners from public office and sought to increase the naturalization period from five to 21 years.4 Although the Know-Nothing party eventually split over the slavery issue, anti-immigrant sentiment stayed alive. In the 1870s and 1880s laws were created restricting immigration, such as the 1882 the Chinese Exclusion Act which created quotas and put restrictions on the number of Chinese immigrants permitted to enter the United States.

**Know-Nothing Anti-Immigrant Cartoon**

Go to <http://www.socialstudies.com/article.html?article@knownothing>

This political cartoon, created in 1850, was published in the *Smithsonian Magazine*. Answer the following questions:

1. What do you see literally depicted in the cartoon?
   1. Click here to enter text.
2. Who are the figures in the cartoon? How can we tell who they are?
   1. Click here to enter text.
3. What accusation is the cartoonist making? Why do you think he makes this accusation?
   1. Click here to enter text.
4. What do you think the cartoonist’s view on immigration restrictions would be? Why?
   1. Click here to enter text.
5. Many people who supported anti-immigrant movements came from families who had emigrated to America only one or two generations earlier. Why then do you think they looked down on recent immigrants?
   1. Click here to enter text.

**The Chinese Question**

Go to [http://www.socialstudies.com/article.html?article@harpers\_chinesequestion](%20http:/www.socialstudies.com/article.html?article@harpers_chinesequestion)

This political cartoon is from *Harper’s Weekly*, dated February 18th, 1871. Answer the following questions.

1. What do you see literally depicted in the cartoon?
   1. Click here to enter text.
2. What is written on the banners on the wall? What do the banners represent?
   1. Click here to enter text.
3. Who does the woman represent?
   1. Click here to enter text.
4. Who does the man sitting on the ground represent?
   1. Click here to enter text.
5. Who is the woman protecting the man on the ground against?
   1. Click here to enter text.
6. Why is the woman protecting the man?
   1. Click here to enter text.
7. What do you think the artist’s opinion is on immigration quotas?
   1. Click here to enter text.
8. Which of the two cartoons you’ve viewed in this lesson do you think makes its argument more successfully? Explain your choice.
   1. Click here to enter text.

4 http://ap.grolier.com/article?assetid=0161940-0&templatename=/article/article.html