

The Life of An Immigrant

Directions: Review all of the primary sources provided regarding immigrants' lives. Then, work through the questions below. You may have to use more than one source to find the answers.

Money –

List the various jobs (from a variety of sources), the pay, hours and days worked where the information is available.

| Job | pay | hours worked per day or per week | number of days worked |
|-----|-----|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | | | |
| 2. | | | |
| 3. | | | |
| 4. | | | |
| 5. | | | |

Tenement Facts –

1. In 1900, what number of New Yorkers lived in tenements? What percentage of the total population of New York City lived in tenements?

2. Explain the name dumbbell tenement. Why were tenements called this and what was the purpose of the shape?

3. How many rooms per apartment would receive direct light and/or airflow?

4. What was the average size of the large rooms/ small rooms? What were these rooms used for?

| | size | use |
|------------|------|-----|
| Large room | | |
| small room | | |

5. After spending time in the smaller sized apartment room, what are your thoughts about immigrants' living quarters and tenements?

Immigrant Interviews

List at least three additional facts for each immigrant interviewed.

| Antonette Morrella | Marie Beriola |
|--------------------|---------------|
| | |

Wrap Up Question – Using the facts above, draw two significant conclusions about the immigrant experience. Then cite at least two facts to support your conclusion.

| Conclusion (or inference) | Facts to support this statement |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | |
| 2. | |

Reform –

Directions: Imagine you are a progressive legislator at the turn of the century. You have been made aware of problems in the cities and you would like to pass laws to attempt to solve the problems. Brainstorm necessary legislation that would help improve the plight of immigrants.

1. Brainstorm three to five different problems that exist in New York either in the tenement buildings themselves or because of tenements.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- (4.)
- (5.)

2. Select two of the problems above. Brainstorm a piece of legislation (a law) that could address each of the problems experienced by immigrants.

| Problem | Legislation to Address the Problem |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| 1. | |
| 2. | |

Wrap Up Question – Pick one of your problems and research when New York City passed laws to address the problem. Write the information you find in the space below.