Immigration Packet

Topics covered:
1. Immigration in Connecticut
2. Immigration process and experience in Connecticut

Important vocabulary:
➔ Immigration

Grade level(s):
➔ 7-8
➔ 9-10
➔ 11-12

Description of activities:
➔ Reading on Immigration trends in Hartford and New Haven County
   ◆ 9-10 grade reading level
   ◆ 11-12 grade reading level
➔ Do Now
➔ Immigration in Connecticut Mini Inquiry
➔ Interview or Podcast Template

Teacher tips:
➔ Review their strengths and weaknesses with inquiry (and draft some sample inquiry questions as a class) before jumping into the mini inquiry project

Authored by:
Sarah Wiederecht
Social Studies Teacher
sarah.wiederecht@gmail.com

With support from:
Dylan Bober
Victor Cazabel
Emilie Waters

2023
Immigration in New Haven

Foreign Born or Immigrant: Any person living in the United States who was not an American citizen at birth. This refers to anyone born outside of the United States to non-American parents, including naturalized citizens, legal non-citizen residents, and undocumented immigrants.

Throughout our history, and especially around the turn of the twentieth century, great surges of European immigrants contributed to rapid population growth in New Haven and other Connecticut cities. However, the Great Depression, World War II, and immigration policy that limited incoming immigrants to quotas based on their origin constricted immigration during the mid-twentieth century.

New Haven and its surrounding suburbs have welcomed thousands of immigrants from around the world, closely mirroring the diversifying and expanding foreign-born population nationwide. Between 2000 and 2020, the share of foreign-born residents in Greater New Haven increased from 9 percent to 14 percent of the total population. Communities from Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, India, and China saw the largest population increases. There was also a notable increase in the number of residents born in African nations.

Greater New Haven’s increasing diversity is due in part to this shift in immigration. Thirty-six percent of New Haven County’s immigrants who came to the U.S. before 1990 were born in Europe, while among immigrants who entered in 2010 or later, only 12 percent were born in Europe. Instead, recent immigration has shifted to people born in Asia, making up 46 percent of immigrants entering in 2010 or later. Large communities of recent immigrants currently live in New Haven, as well as in West Haven and Hamden.
**Final Reflections**

1. According to the excerpt and the graph, what trends in immigration do you see?

2. How does this excerpt and graph help us understand the history of immigration in Connecticut?

3. How can we use this kind of data to assist efforts in creating a more equitable Connecticut?
Immigration in Hartford County

Foreign Born or Immigrant: Any person living in the United States who was not an American citizen at birth. This refers to anyone born outside of the United States to non-American parents, including naturalized citizens, legal non-citizen residents, and undocumented immigrants.

Throughout our history, and especially around the turn of the twentieth century, great surges of European immigrants contributed to rapid population growth in New Haven and other Connecticut cities. However, the Great Depression, World War II, and immigration policy that limited incoming immigrants to quotas based on their origin constricted immigration during the mid-twentieth century.

Between 2000 and 2020, the share of foreign-born residents in Greater Hartford increased from 11 percent to 15 percent of the total population. Communities from India, Jamaica, China, the Dominican Republic, and Peru saw the largest population increases. There was also a notable increase in the number of residents born in African nations.

Greater Hartford's increasing diversity is due in part to this shift in immigration. Forty percent of the region's immigrants who came to the U.S. before 1990 were born in Europe, while among immigrants who entered in 2010 or later, only 11 percent were born in Europe. Instead, 50 percent of immigrants who entered in 2010 or later were born in Asia. Large communities of these recent immigrants include people born in Asia and now living in Hartford and its inner ring suburbs, as well as Hartford residents born in the Caribbean and South America.
Final Reflections

1. According to the excerpt and the graph, what trends in immigration do you see?

2. How does this excerpt and graph help us understand the history of immigration in Connecticut?

3. How can we use this kind of data to assist efforts in creating a more equitable Connecticut?
Do Now
Can you think of any famous immigrants who have made significant contributions to the United States? How have they influenced the country?
Immigration in Connecticut Inquiry

Connecticut, a state known for its rich history and diverse communities, has a long tradition of welcoming immigrants from around the world. Over the years, immigrants have played a vital role in shaping the cultural and economic fabric of the state.

**Directions:** With a partner, research and fill out the following questions. You can use government websites, testimonies, interviews, DataHaven reports, or other reputable sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How did immigration patterns in Connecticut change over time?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are the reasons people immigrated to Connecticut?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there parts of Connecticut that have high populations of immigrants from particular areas? How has this influenced the culture and life in those areas (Example: New Britain is nicknamed Little Poland)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How did immigrant communities enrich the cultural landscape of the state as a whole through food, art, music, and festivals?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What role did immigrants play in Connecticut’s economy?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How can local communities and schools promote inclusivity and support immigrant families and students?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Note Taking
Take notes on your podcast or interview below. These can be takeaways, new knowledge, questions, concerns, connections, interesting moments, etc. Take down at least 10 bullet points.

1. Describe some of the difficulties faced by those who are immigrating to the United States.
2. Describe the hope and possibility for those who are immigrating to the United States.
3. Write a statement on how Connecticut can continue to support its current and future immigrant communities, citing what you have learned.

### Discussion Questions
Prepare a few bullet points for your contributions here!