



IMMIGRATION AND ETHNIC HERITAGE

Glossary

acculturation—a process of cultural change or loss as a result of contact with other groups

alien—a noncitizen living in the United States
broadside—a nineteenth-century handbill, usually used for advertisements

ancestor—an individual from whom a person is descended and who is usually more remote in the line of descent than a grandparent

assimilate—to absorb into the culture or values of a population or group

census—The enumeration of individuals that lists their age, ethnic background, occupation, and where and how they live. The first census to survey individuals (rather than whole families) took place in the United States in 1850

Chicana/o—a person of Mexican or Mexican-American descent

citizenship—the status of being a citizen of a country

demographics—having to do with population statistics (for example, age, gender, religion, ethnic background, education level, profession)

derivative citizenship—a policy through which family members (spouses, children) of a citizen (naturalized or born in this country) can also become citizens

descendant—a family member proceeding from an ancestor

diaspora—the movement, migration or scattering of people from their original homelands

displaced person—a person expelled, deported, or forced to flee his country by war or oppression

Ellis Island—an island located in Upper New York Bay that served as an immigration station from 1892 to 1954

emancipate—to set free from the power of another person

emigrate—to leave one's country of origin in order to settle in another country

emigration—the act of leaving one's country or state to permanently live in another

ethnic—relating to large groups of people classed according to common racial, national, tribal, religious, linguistic, or cultural origin

Copyright 2010, REV Apr. 2012

Indiana Historical Society

All rights reserved

This is a publication of the Indiana Historical Society, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, 450 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269 USA. Except for copying portions of the teacher resources by educators for classroom use, or for quoting of brief passages for reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise), without written permission of the copyright owner. All inquiries should be addressed to the Indiana Historical Society Press. Teacher Resource available online: www.indianahistory.org/.

ethnic group—people of the same race or nationality who share common and distinctive customs

ethnicity—traits or qualities of a particular group based on heritage or culture

exclusion law—a law barring entry into a country by immigration authorities

exile—banish or expel from one's own country

food ways—in the study of folklore, this is a focus on the cultural and edible aspects of food, including preparation, eating habits, and culinary practices of a people, region, or historical period

genealogy—a history or account of one's ancestry, tracing back through generations of relatives

heritage—cultural legacy or tradition passed on within a community from one generation to another

Hispanic—a term referring to people of Spanish or Latin-American descent

immigrant—a person who moves from another country

immigration—entering a country for the purpose of settlement

indigenous—the original peoples of North America (Native American nations)

Indios—an indigenous person from Mexico or Central and South America

internment camp—a camp where individuals are confined during a war

Ku Klux Klan—a secret organization that attempts to restrain the rights of minorities, often through violent means

melting pot—a process of racial amalgamation and social and cultural blending among groups of people

Mestizo—this refers to the tri-ethnic heritage of Mexican peoples (African, European, and indigenous or Indios)

migrant—a person who moves from one place or locality to another to live and work

migrate—to move from one place or locality to another

migration—movement of people from one area or region to another

Mississippian—a Native American culture that began around 800 A.D. that built communities primarily in the southeastern United States from the Mississippi River to the Atlantic Ocean; people of this culture lived at the site now known as Angel Mounds (in Indiana) from as early as 1100 A.D.

National Road—a route from Cumberland, Maryland, through Illinois, one of the major thoroughfares for immigrants and manufactured goods during the first half of the nineteenth century; in addition to being called the Cumberland Road, this was also referred to as U. S. Route 40 and Washington Street

nationality—the nation a person came from or identifies with; naturalized citizens and ethnic Americans may identify themselves with the United States and their home country or that of their ancestors

native—belonging to a particular place by birth

nativist—a person who favors native inhabitants of a country

naturalization—the process of becoming a citizen of a country in which you were not born

pluralism—a process of diversity in which communities maintain an autonomous participation in and development of their traditional culture or special interests

pogroms—organized massacres

pre-contact—prior to the arrival of European explorers and settlers

primary documents—original source materials (maps, visas, posters, letters, diaries, etc.)

quota—the number of immigrants allowed to enter a country in a particular year

race—a biological concept based on physical characteristics such as skin color, hair type, body build, facial features, and blood type; scientists disagree on the number of human races

refugee—a person who flees to a foreign country because of danger or persecution

relative—a person connected to another by blood or affinity

stereotype—a fixed and often negative impression of all members of an ethnic, religious, or other group