

## Nativism-1800s, Immigration

### Definition of Nativism:

- The policy of protecting the interests of native-born or established inhabitants against those of immigrants.

### Brief History of Nativism:

- Nativism has been a major theme in United States history. Some of the original colonists of British North America despised people who had different religious faiths than themselves. Beginning in the 1830s and 1840s, many white Americans developed nativist sentiments towards Irish immigrants. Several reasons existed for this dislike, including the fact most Irish immigrants were Roman Catholics, the inaccurate stereotype that Irish people were heavy drinkers, and the fact that many Irish immigrants were very poor and willing to work for less money than native-born Americans, thus causing some American employers to hire Irish workers over native Americans. During World War II, a fear of Japanese Americans developed, prompting the United States government to place Japanese Americans in internment camps. In the early twenty-first century a strong dislike of people of Middle Eastern descent arose, principally because of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

### Task:

-Review the documents on the following pages and try to summarize the document. Consider, how does the document align with the definition of Nativism.

Document	Summary and/or Description
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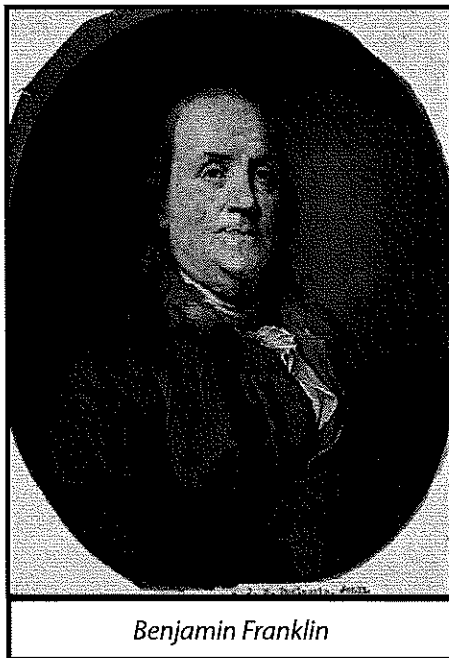
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Review Questions:

- What were some of the major reasons that fueled Nativism in the 1800s?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Why were the Irish and Chinese singled out more so than other groups in regards to Nativism during this era?

**GALLERY OF NATIVISM**

**Early American Intolerance**



*Benjamin Franklin*

1. [Regarding the Germans] "...Those who come hither are generally of the most ignorant Stupid Sort of their own Nation. Few of their children in the Country learn English ... the Signs in our Streets have inscriptions in both languages, and in some places only German ... I suppose in a few years they [interpreters] will be also necessary in the Assembly, to tell one half of our Legislators what the other half say ... they will soon so out number us, that all the advantages we have will not in My Opinion be able to preserve our language, and even our Government will become precarious."

~ Benjamin Franklin, "A Letter to Peter Collinson," May 9, 1753

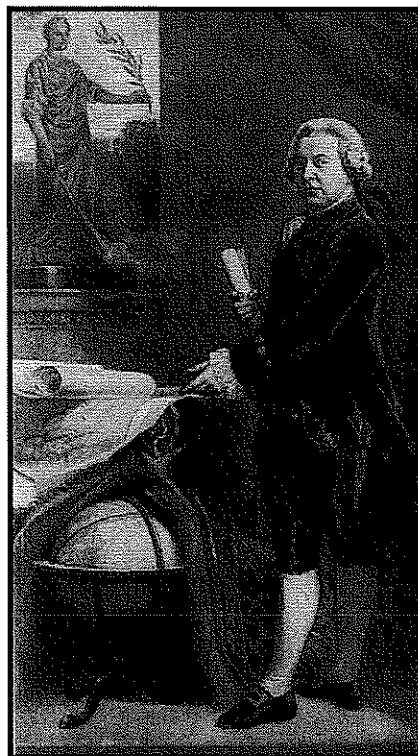
2. "Do we not know that the French nation have organized bands of aliens as well as of their own citizens, in other countries, to bring about their nefarious purposes ... By these means they have overrun all the republics in the world but our own."

~ Representative Harrison Otis, statement on floor of U.S. House of Representatives, June 1798

3. "Why should Pennsylvania, founded by the English, become a Colony of Aliens, who will shortly be so numerous as to Germanize us instead of our Anglifying them, and will never adopt our Language or Customs, any more than they can acquire our Complexion.

Which leads me to add one Remark: That the Number of purely white People in the World is proportionably very small ... in Europe, the Spaniards, Italians, French, Russians and Swedes, are generally of what we call a swarthy Complexion; as are the Germans also ... And while we are, as I may call it, Scouring our Planet, by clearing America of Woods, and so making this Side of our Globe reflect a brighter Light to the Eyes of Inhabitants in Mars or Venus, why should we in the Sight of Superior Beings, darken its People? why increase the Sons of Africa, by Planting them in America, where we have so fair an Opportunity, by excluding all Blacks and Tawneys, of increasing the lovely White and Red? But perhaps I am partial to the Complexion of my Country, for such Kind of Partiality is natural to Mankind."

~ Benjamin Franklin, "Observations Concerning the Increase of Mankind, Peopling of Countries, etc," 1751



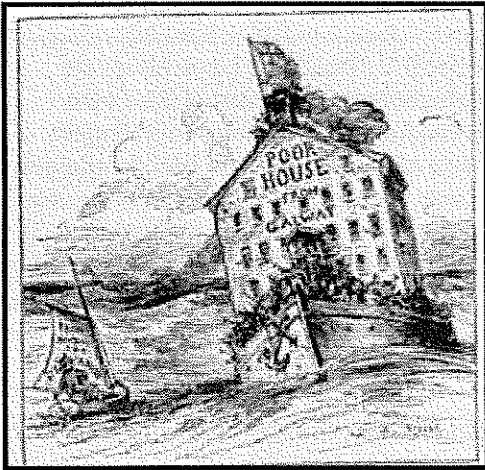
*President John Adams*

**GALLERY OF NATIVISM**

**Anti-Catholicism**

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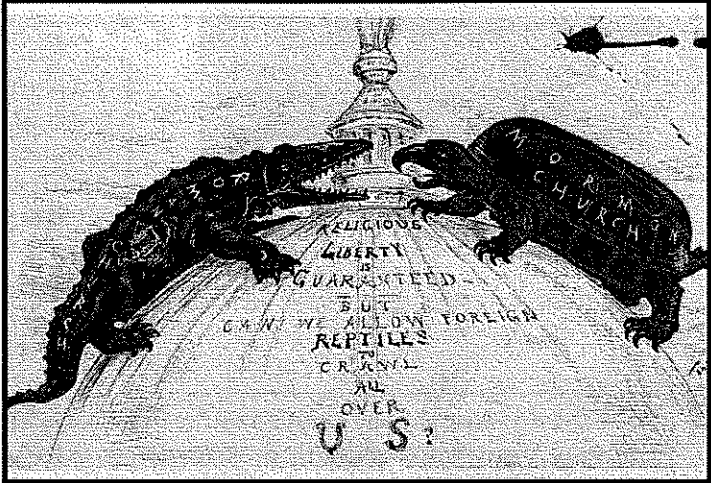


"The Roman Catholic Church claims infallibility for itself, and denies Spiritual Freedom, Liberty of Mind or Conscience to its members. It is therefore the foe to all progress ; it is deadly hostile to Democracy. She is the natural ally of tyrants, and the irreconcilable enemy of Freedom."  
 ~ Theodore Parker, "A sermon of the dangers which threaten the rights of man in America," July 2, 1854

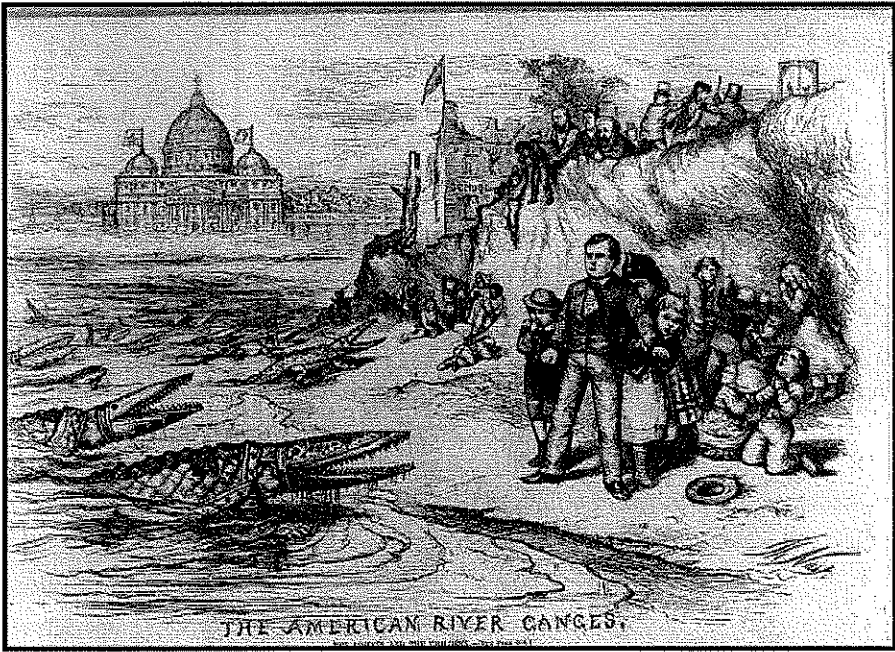
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"If the potentates of Europe have no design upon our liberties, what means the paying of the passage and emptying out upon our shores of such floods of pauper emigrants—the contents of the poor house and the sweepings of the streets—multiplying tumults and violence, filling our prisons, and crowding our poor houses, and quadrupling our taxation, and sending annually accumulating thousands to the polls to lay their inexperienced hand upon the helm of our power?"  
 ~Beecher, "A Plea for the West"



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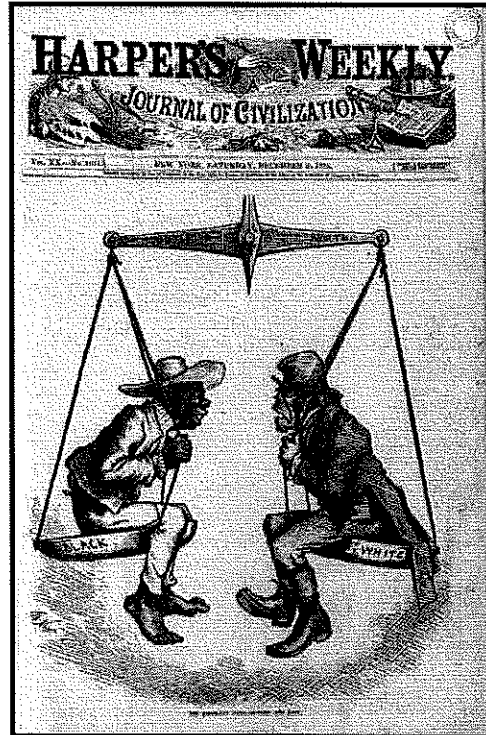
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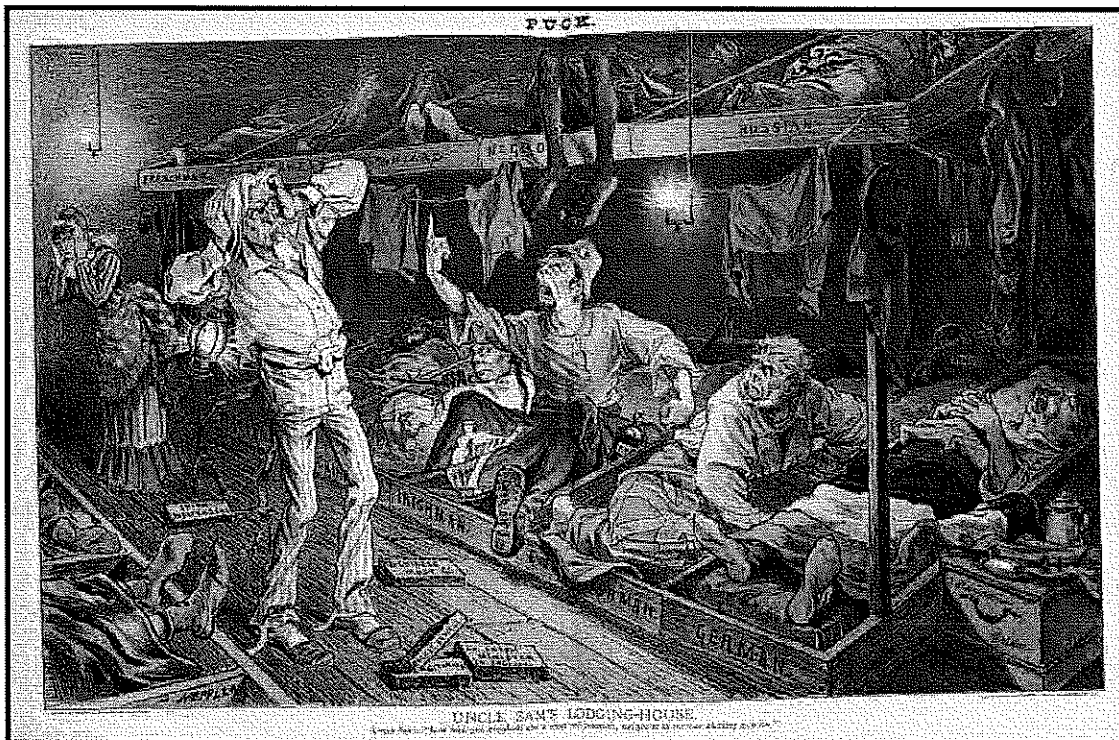
"The Mortar of Assimilation — And the One Element that Won't Mix [the Irish]"

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"The Ignorant Vote — Honors Are Easy" [African American man on left, Irishman on right]

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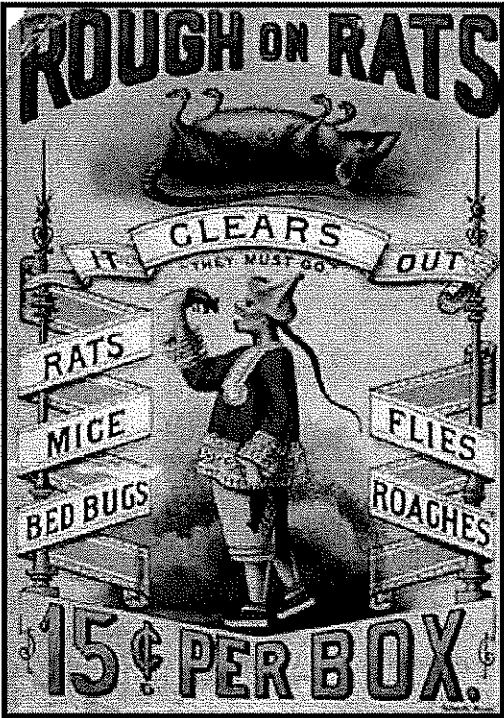


"Uncle Sam's Lodging House"  
 Uncle Sam [to Irishman]: "Look here, you, everybody else is quiet and peaceable, and you're all the time a-kicking up a row!"

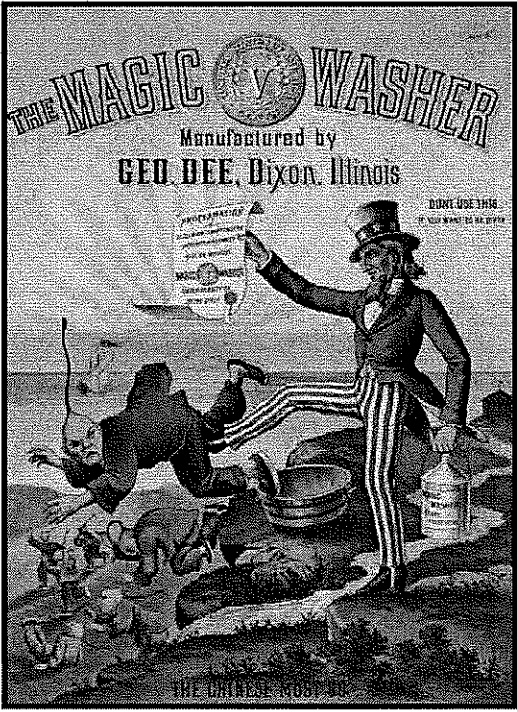
# GALLERY OF NATIVISM

## Chinese Exclusion

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