Discovering our Shared History: An ESOL Curriculum

SARAH LYNN
JULY 12
IMMIGRANT STUDENT SUCCESS: MODELS AND TOOLS FOR K-12 AND ADULT EDUCATORS
# My Class

## The Students:
- All adult ESOL
- All custodians at a large university
- All from Central America
- All settled in U.S.
- All low literacy skills

## Fall Curriculum:
- Literacy Content was U.S. History
  - The 13 colonies.
  - The Declaration of Independence.
  - The Revolutionary War.
Spring Semester 2017

First day of class: January 31st

Students’ Questions:
  Who are the refugees?
  Where are their countries?
  Why are they leaving?
  What is refugee status?
Instead of just teaching US history, why don’t I teach the history of U.S. immigration?
Multimedia Approach

**Pre 1790**
- Europe: 005,750,000
- Americas: 00,000,000
- Asia & Oceania: 00,000,000
- Africa: 00,000,000
- Not Specified: 00,000,000

But a majority of immigrants in the 18th century were Africans forced into slavery.

**1840 - 1860**
- Europe: 027,388,468
- Americas: 001,393,590
- Asia & Oceania: 000,363,071
- Africa: 000,001,711
- Not Specified: 000,788,681

At the same time, millions of Irish came to the US seeking refuge from the Great Famine.

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Immigrants from China began arriving in San Francisco in the 1850s as word of the Gold Rush spread.

**Total**
- Europe: 383,773,614
- Americas: 223,003,593
- Asia & Oceania: 138,017,639
- Africa: 113,890,812
- Not Specified: 081,083,487

Today more than 1 in 8 Americans are immigrants & almost all are descendants of immigrants.

76,672,048 Total Immigrants
Curriculum Outline

10 weeks

1. The Native Americans
2. The Spanish
3. Early English Immigrants: The Pilgrims
5. Early European Immigrants
6. The Gold Rush and Chinese Immigration
7. The Ellis Island Era: Irish, Southern European, and Jewish Immigration
8. Asian Immigration in the 20th and 21st centuries
9. Latin American Immigration in the 20th and 21st centuries
10. Immigrants today
Curriculum Objectives

To help students recognize their journeys to the United States as part of the broader history of immigration to the United States.

To facilitate community building within and between immigrant communities in the classroom.

To equip students with knowledge about the forces that have impacted immigration policy, and the reception of immigrants in the United States, both historically and today.
The Questions about Each Immigrant Wave

1. Who were they?
2. Where did they come from?
3. Why did they leave their homes?
4. What did they come to find?
5. What was life like for them in the U.S.?
Native Americans
1. Native Americans lived in North America for thousands of years before other people arrived.
2. There were 11 large groups of Native Americans.
3. In each group there were many different tribes. Each tribe had its own language and way of life.
The Spanish

1. Christopher Columbus was the first European in America.
2. He came in 1492.
3. The Spanish quickly took control of South and Central America.
4. They had territory in North America from 1560 - 1830.
5. They lived in the area of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.
6. The Spanish founded many towns, including San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego.
The African Slaves

1. People from Africa came to America against their will.
2. In 1680, there were 7,000 African slaves in the American colonies.
3. The number of African slaves grew to 760,000 by 1790.
4. In 1790, there were 4 million people in the U.S.
5. In 1790, 19% of people in the U.S. were African slaves.
Who lived in the 13 Colonies?
The California Gold Rush & Chinese Migration

1. Many people came from China. They hoped to find gold.
2. The Chinese called the U.S. “Gold Mountain”.
3. In 1849, about 300 Chinese lived in California.
4. Three years later, 20,000 Chinese lived in California.
5. There was not a lot of gold in the California mountains. Soon Americans gave up on mining.
6. The Chinese continued to look for gold. The Chinese moved into abandoned mines and worked hard. Sometimes they found more gold.
1. Ireland was a poor country.
2. Before 1840 some Irish immigrated to the United States.
3. Many came to the U.S. as indentured servants.
4. Most Irish lived on small farms.
5. In 1840, a terrible famine began.
6. The most important food in their diet was the potato.
7. The potatoes didn’t grow.
8. They rotted.
9. There was nothing to eat.
Skibbereen

Oh father dear, I often heard you speak of Erin's isle
Her lofty scenes, her valleys green, her mountains rude and wild
They say it is a lovely land wherein a prince might dwell
So why did you abandon it, the reason do me tell.

Sung by Waxie Dargle
Interviews with Recent Immigrants

1. When did you come here?
2. Why did you come?
3. Was it what you expected?
4. How did you feel at first?
5. What has been hard?
6. What has been good?
Alex’s Story
1. I came to the U.S. in 1987.
2. I was 18 years old.
3. I came to Boston because it had work opportunities.
4. It was not what I expected...
5. It was a big city. Life was hard.
6. But I felt good because I could make money.
7. Now I have a family and a good job.
8. I cannot go back. It’s too dangerous there.
What did students learn?

They learned about geography
They learned about US history
They learned about other Americans’ stories
They deepened their understanding of their colleagues & neighbors
They developed their literacy, numeracy, and visual literacy skills
What materials did I use?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Simple text</th>
<th>Paintings</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Illustrations and cartoons</td>
<td>Newspaper clippings</td>
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<td>Photographs</td>
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<td>People for interviews</td>
<td>Songs i.e. <strong>Skibereen</strong></td>
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<td>Videos:</td>
<td></td>
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![Video](image.jpg)
Chat Rooms

2. What waves of immigrants would you talk about?
3. What kinds of learning materials would you use?
Sharing Teaching Ideas
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