“No Irish Need Apply”:
The Immigrant Experience in America

Factors of Immigration

- What kinds of factors can cause a group of people to emigrate?
- What were the appeals of coming to the United States in the 19th century?
- What kinds of consequences or conflict could happen as a result of mass immigration?

Old Immigration

- to leave your country
- to enter a new country
- “Old” Immigration, 1800-1845
- Northern Europe, Protestant
- “invisible immigrants”
The Irish Experience

Irish Immigration Trends:
- 19th Century
- 75% from 1840-1852
- Why the increase?
  - potato blight
  - 1845 — 30-40%
  - 1846 — 80-100%

Where can they go?

The Irish Experience in U.S.
- The trip — cultural identity
- Living conditions
- Discrimination
- Irish = "No Irish Need Apply"

I'm a decent boy just landed
From the town of Ballyfad;
I want a situation, yes,
And want it very bad.
I have seen employment advertised,
"It's just the thing," says I,
But the dirty spalpeen ended with,
"NO IRISH NEED APPLY!"

"Whoa," says I, "that's an insult,
But to get the place I'll try,
So I went to see the blackguard
With "NO IRISH NEED APPLY!"

Some do count it a misfortune
To be christened Pat or Dan,
But for me it is an honor to
BE BORN AN IRISHMAN.

I started out to find the house,
I got it mighty soon;
There I found the old chap seated,
He was reading the Tribune.
I told him what I came for,
When he in a rage did fly,
"No!" he says, "You are a Paddy,
AND NO IRISH NEED APPLY!"

Then I gets my dander rising
And I'd like to black his eye
To tell an Irish gentleman
"NO IRISH NEED APPLY!"

I couldn't stand it longer
So a hold of him I took,
And gave him such a welting
As he'd get at Donnybrook.
He hollered, "Milia murther,
And to get away did try,
And swore he'd never write again
"NO IRISH NEED APPLY!"

Well he made a big apology,
I told him then goodby,
Saying, "When next you want a beating,
Write 'NO IRISH NEED APPLY!'"

Some do count it a misfortune
To be christened Pat or Dan,
But for me it is an honor to
BE BORN AN IRISHMAN.
Beware of Foreign Influence!

- Discrimination + prejudice
- Fear of a "papist" take-over

Immigration Trends

- "New" Immigrants, 1880-1920
- Urban Political Machines
  - Improvised political groups that controlled the activities of political parties in the cities
  - Pyramid Structure

Immigrant Voters
- Captains
- Ward Boss
- City Boss

Run the political party
Gain voter support
Favors to the Voters
Immigration Trends

& the "Tweed Ring"

New York City Courthouse