

# 1. Immigrants—Who were they? Why did they come?

Immigration was nothing new to America. Except for Native Americans, all United States citizens can claim some immigrant experience, whether during prosperity or despair, brought by force or by choice. However, immigration to the United States reached its peak from 1880-1920. It brought thousands of Irish and German people to the New World.

This time, although those groups would continue to come, even greater ethnic diversity would grace America's populace. Many would come from Southern and Eastern Europe, and some would come from as far away as Asia. New complexions, new languages, and new religions confronted the already diverse American mosaic.

## **The New Immigrants**

Most immigrant groups that had formerly come to America by choice seemed distinct, but in fact had many similarities. Most had come from Northern and Western Europe. Most had some experience with representative democracy. With the exception of the Irish, most were Protestant. Many were literate, and some possessed a fair degree of wealth.

The new groups arriving by the boatload in the Gilded Age were characterized by few of these traits. Their nationalities included Greek, Italian, Polish, Slovak, Serb, Russian, Croat, and others. Until cut off by federal decree, Japanese and Chinese settlers relocated to the American West Coast. None of these groups were predominantly Protestant.

The vast majority were Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox. However, due to increased persecution of Jews in Eastern Europe, many Jewish immigrants sought freedom from torment. Very few newcomers spoke any English, and large numbers were illiterate in their native tongues. None of these groups hailed from democratic regimes. The American form of government was as foreign as its culture.

The new American cities became the destination of many of the most destitute. Once the trend was established, letters from America from friends and family beckoned new immigrants to ethnic enclaves such as Chinatown, Greektown, or Little Italy. This led to an urban ethnic patchwork, with little integration. The dumbbell tenement and all of its woes became the reality for most newcomers until enough could be saved for an upward move.

Despite the horrors of tenement housing and factory work, many agreed that the wages they could earn and the food they could eat surpassed their former realities. Still, as many as 25% of the European immigrants of this time never intended to become American citizens. These so-called "birds of passage" simply earned enough income to send to their families and returned to their former lives.

# 1. Immigration from 1880-1920



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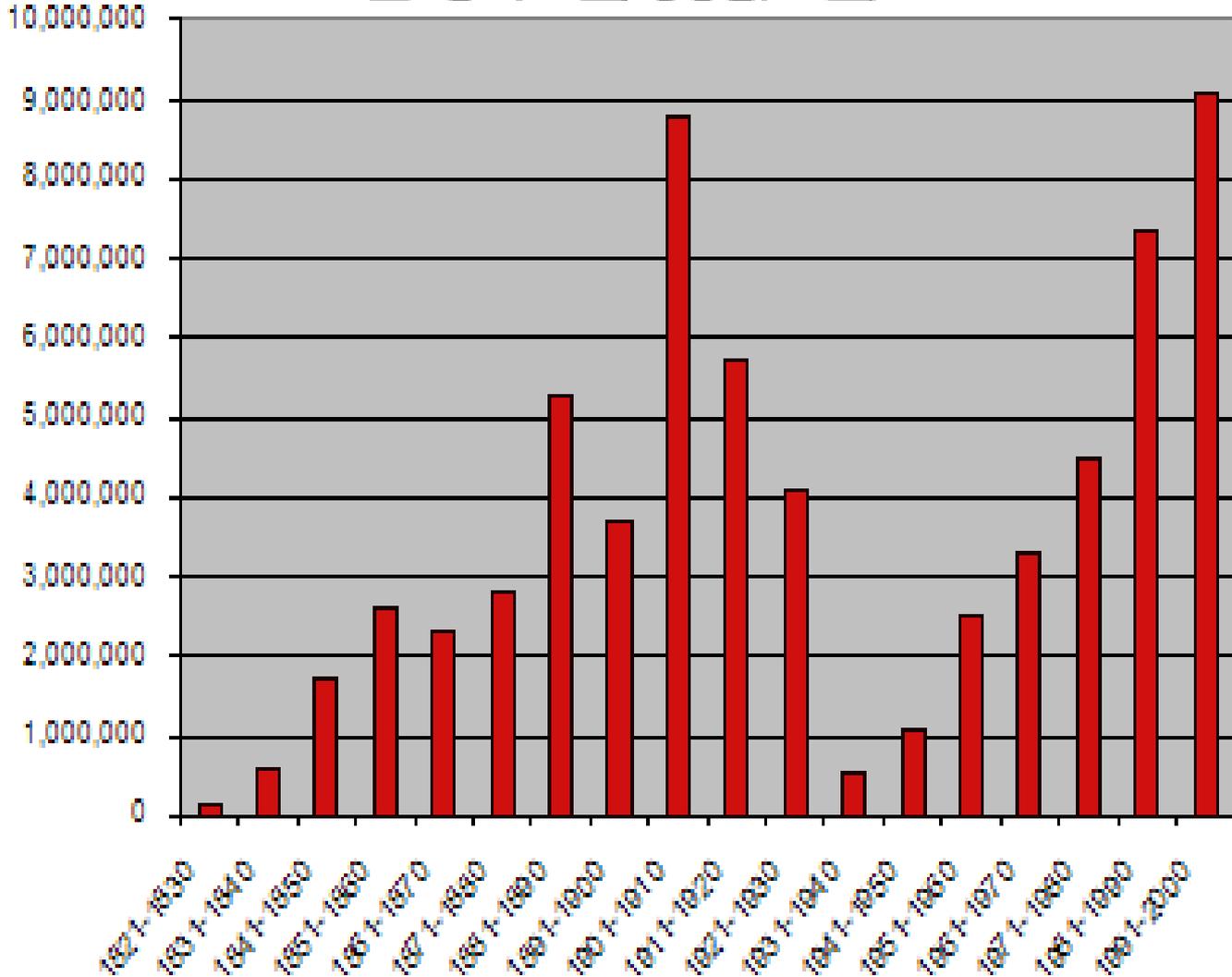
 MAIN SOURCES OF IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES, 1861-1890
 

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Europe	1861-1870	1871-1880	1881-1890
Austria-Hungary	7,800	72,969	353,719
Denmark	17,094	31,771	88,132
France	35,986	72,206	50,464
Germany	787,468	718,182	1,452,970
Great Britain			
England	222,277	437,706	644,680
Scotland	38,769	87,564	149,869
Ireland	435,778	436,871	655,482
Italy	11,725	55,759	307,309
Norway	71,631	95,323	176,586
Sweden	37,667	115,922	391,776
Switzerland	23,286	28,293	81,988
USSR	2,512	39,284	213,282
Asia			
China	64,301	123,201	61,711
America			
Canada and Newfoundland	153,878	383,640	393,304

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# 1. IMMIGRATION TO THE USA, BY DECADE



1821-1830	143,439
1831-1840	599,125
1841-1850	1,713,251
1851-1860	2,598,214
1861-1870	2,314,824
1871-1880	2,812,191
1881-1890	5,246,613
1891-1900	3,687,564
1901-1910	8,795,386
1911-1920	5,735,811
1921-1930	4,107,209
1931-1940	528,431
1941-1950	1,035,039
1951-1960	2,515,479
1961-1970	3,321,677
1971-1980	4,493,314
1981-1990	7,338,062
1991-2000	9,095,417

# 2. Immigrants—The Journey

Passage to the United States often cost a life's savings. Families would often save enough money to send just 1 or 2 family members hoping to eventually bring rest of family over.

Many were poor farmers whose fathers' or grandfathers' land had been divided so often that plots were no longer large enough to support even single families. Immigrants were a diverse group. These included: poor farmers, schoolmasters unable to find work, or artisans looking for greater opportunities. Most were young men and women willing to risk traveling to an unknown land in hopes of finding a brighter future.

Steerage class was the cheapest and least comfortable, but this is how most immigrants traveled to America. The "steerage", or between-deck, often shortened to "tween-deck", was originally the deck immediately below the main deck of a sailing ship. In the early days of emigration the ships used to convey the emigrants were originally built for carrying cargo. In reality the passengers were placed in the cargo hold. Temporary partitions were usually erected and used for the steerage accommodation. To get down to the between-deck the passengers often had to use ladders, and the passageway down between the hatches could be both narrow and steep. It was necessary that the furnishings could be easily removed, and not cost more than absolutely necessary. As soon as the ships had set the passengers on land, the furnishings were discarded and the ship prepared for return cargo to Europe.

The old-type steerage is the one whose horrors have been so often described. It is unfortunately still found in a majority of the vessels bringing immigrants to the United States. It is still the common steerage in which hundreds of thousands of immigrants form their first conceptions of our country and are prepared to receive their first impressions of it. The universal human needs of space, air, food, sleep, and privacy are recognized to the degree now made compulsory by law. Beyond that, the persons carried are looked upon as so much freight, with mere transportation as their only due. The sleeping quarters are large compartments, accommodating as many as 300 or more persons each. For assignment to these, passengers are divided into three classes, namely, women without male escorts, men traveling alone, and families. Each class is housed in a separate compartment and the compartments are often in different parts of the vessel. It is generally possible to shut off all communication between them, though this is not always done.

## 2. German Immigrants Embark on Hamburg Steamer for New York



## 2. Immigrants on Steerage Deck



**2.**

**“During the twelve days in the steerage I lived in... surroundings that offended every sense. Only the fresh breeze from the sea overcame the sickening odors. Everything was dirty, sticky, and disagreeable to the touch.”**

**U.S. Immigration Agent**

# 3. Ellis Island and Angel Island

In 1890, Congress designated this low-lying, three-acre Ellis Island in Upper New York Bay as an immigration station. It was the gateway for millions of immigrants to the United States as the nation's busiest immigrant inspection station from 1892 until 1954.

The most impressive room in the building, though, was the registry room. It measured 200 feet by 100 feet, and had an impressive fifty-six foot vaulted ceiling. Twelve narrow aisles, divided by iron bars, channeled new arrivals to be examined by doctors at the front of the room. The officials who worked at the island, however, were not impressed by the architecture. In fact, they constantly complained of leaky roofs, and other problems within the building.

The facilities remained inadequate for the amount of immigrants filtering through its doors. In 1954, Ellis Island closed its doors for good. Thieves pilfered scrap metal from the station and vines grew through broken windows. In 1965, it was proclaimed a part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument.

**Angel Island** is an island in San Francisco Bay. From 1910 to 1940, the Angel Island Immigration Station processed approximately 1 million Asian immigrants entering into the US, leading to it sometimes being referred to as "The Ellis Island of the West". Due to the restrictions of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, many immigrants spent years on the island, waiting for entry. From 1910-1940, Chinese immigrants were detained and interrogated at Angel Island immigration station in San Francisco Bay. U.S. officials hoped to deport as many as possible by asking obscure questions about Chinese villages and family histories that immigrants would have trouble answering correctly.

Men and women were housed separately. Detainees spent much of their time in the barracks, languishing between interrogations.

The immigrants expressed their fears and frustrations through messages and poems written or carved into barrack walls. Some poems are still visible at the museum today. Immigrants were detained weeks, months, sometimes even years. Word got back to China about the prolonged questioning, so people would try to mentally prepare before even crossing the Pacific Ocean.

A 1940 fire destroyed the Angel Island administration building, so the U.S. government abandoned the immigration station. The so-called "Chinese Exclusion Acts" eventually were repealed. Over the years, Chinese have settled in every U.S. city.

# 3. Ellis Island



# 4. Inspection & Interrogation

## **Brief Introduction to the Citizen Process at Angel Island:**

"Who lives in the third house in the second row of houses in your village?" "How many steps are there to the front door of your house?" Approximately 175,000 Chinese immigrants, on their way to the "land of opportunity," were bombarded with these questions and many others during their stay at Angel Island. The questions were not designed to determine if the immigrant would be a good citizen but if the person was related to a citizen. "The Ellis Island of the West" was very different than originally planned. Ellis Island in New York processed the incoming immigrants; whereas, Angel Island detained and interrogated immigrants. The interrogation process reflected the prevalent anti-Chinese sentiment present during the early 20th century. The immigrants were assumed guilty and had to prove their relationship. The questions were designed to entrap and confuse. Even though 97% of immigrants were allowed through, the human toll of the interrogation and waiting demoralized the Chinese immigrants. They felt that they weren't wanted and reflected their frustration and anguish in the somber poetry written on the walls of the barracks. The immigrants carried their fear, isolation, and humiliation with them into America. Thus, the citizenship process was extremely trying and difficult for the Chinese immigrants who came through Angel Island. Their tragic ordeal is now fully being understood as they reveal their painful memories of immigration to the next generations.

## **Path to the Interrogation: "Paper sons and daughters"**

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 offered one hope: if a Chinese immigrant was related to a citizen in America, he or she would be allowed entrance into the country. The act was the first legislation to limit the immigration of a particular race into the United States and was a response to the economic depression that the country was suffering. The phenomenon of "paper sons" and "paper daughters" began to appear as people falsified papers claiming relations. Brokers provided false papers relating an immigrant to a citizen making them their son on paper. Papers did not come cheap; families often sold their land and spent all of their money in order to send the brightest individuals to the "land of opportunity." One Chinese immigrant explains his involvement in the business of "paper sons": "Instead, we had to go back to the same old thing, 'paper son.' They had to send me over not as my father's own son, but as the son of another cousin from another village." Immigration officials soon caught on and began to use interrogation in order to verify the paper relationships.

Interrogation teams composed of two inspectors, a stenographer and an interpreter interrogated the immigrants about their lives to compare their answers to the testimony of their "families." The length of one's detainment was determined by how one answered the questions. Stays on the island could be as short as two weeks to as long as two years in one case. Inconsistencies were scrutinized and were grounds for deportation. The immigrants, separated from their families, awaited hours of interrogation that would decide if they had to go home or could stay. Several people could not handle the stress and committed suicide instead of returning shamefully to China.

Chinese immigrants expressed their fear and isolation in their poems etched on the walls of the barracks. The poems are a visible reminder of the pain that the interrogations generated.

# 4. Poem by Chinese Immigrant

**“Imprisoned in the wooden buildings day after day,  
My freedom withheld; how can I bear to talk about it?  
I look to see who is happy but they only sit quietly.  
I am anxious and depressed and cannot fall asleep.  
The days are long and the bottle constantly empty; my sad  
mood, even so, is not dispelled.  
Nights are long and the pillow cold; who can pity my loneliness?  
After experiencing such loneliness and sorrow,  
Why not just return home and learn to plow fields?”**

# **4. Poem by Chinese Immigrant**

**“My belly is full of discontent it is really difficult to relax.  
I can only worry silently to myself.  
At times I gaze at the cloud- and fog-enshrouded mountain-  
front.  
It only deepens my sadness.”**

# 4. Immigration Inspector Checking Immigrants



# 5. Resistance to Immigration

Not all Americans welcomed the new immigrants with open arms. While factory owners greeted the rush of cheap labor with zeal, laborers often treated their new competition with hostility. Many religious leaders were awestruck at the increase of non-Protestant believers. Racial purists feared the genetic outcome of the eventual pooling of these new bloods.

Gradually, these "nativists" lobbied successfully to restrict the flow of immigration. In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, barring this ethnic group in its entirety. Twenty-five years later, Japanese immigration was restricted by executive agreement. These two Asian groups were the only ethnicities to be completely excluded from America.

Criminals, contract workers, the mentally ill, anarchists, and alcoholics were among groups to be gradually barred from entry by Congress. In 1917, Congress required the passing of a literacy test to gain admission. Finally, in 1924, the door was shut to millions by placing an absolute cap on new immigrants based on ethnicity. That cap was based on the United States population of 1890 and was therefore designed to favor the previous immigrant groups.

But millions had already come. During the age when the Statue of Liberty beckoned the world's "huddled masses yearning to breathe free," American diversity mushroomed. Each brought pieces of an old culture and made contributions to a new one. Although many former Europeans swore to their deaths to maintain their old ways of life, their children did not agree. Most enjoyed a higher standard of living than their parents, learned English easily, and sought American lifestyles. At least to that extent, America was a melting pot.

# 5. Immigration Cartoon, Jan. 11, 1893



**5.**

**“The immigrants are an invasion of venomous reptiles... long-haired, wild-eyed, bad-smelling, atheistic, reckless foreign wretches, who never did a day’s work in their lives.”**

**Newspaper Editorial**

# 6. Immigration Leads to Diversity

Before the first Europeans arrived, a variety of cultural groups—fishing farmers, hunters—inhabited North America. With the arrival of Europeans and Africans, the cultural mix grew more complex. Although this diversity has often produced tension, it has also been beneficial. As different groups learned from one another about agriculture, technology, and social customs, American culture became a rich blend of cultures from around the world.

## **1610-1870s**

Spanish missionaries in the Southwest tried to impose their culture upon the Native Americans. However, they retained aspects of their cultures even as they took on Spanish ways.

## **1776**

The signers of the Declaration of Independence were descendants of immigrants. Their ancestors had come to North America in search of economic opportunity and religious freedom.

## **1886**

The Statue of Liberty's dedication took place during the most extensive wave of immigration the U.S. has ever known. Poet Emma Lazarus wrote the famous lines inscribed at the foot, "Give me your tired, your poor, / Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..."

Most immigrants combined American language and customs with their traditional ways.

## **Today**

In 1998, three countries (Mexico, China, and India) contributed a third of the total number of immigrants to the United States. The rest of the 1998 immigrants came from countries such as Vietnam, Sudan, and Bosnia.

According to the 2000 census, the U.S. population is 71% Caucasian, 12% African American, 12% Hispanic, 4% Asian, and around 1% Native American. In 2050, observers predict that Caucasians will comprise approximately 53% of the population, African Americans 13%, Asian 9%, and Native American 1%. The greatest increase expected is for Hispanics, who will account for 25% of the population.

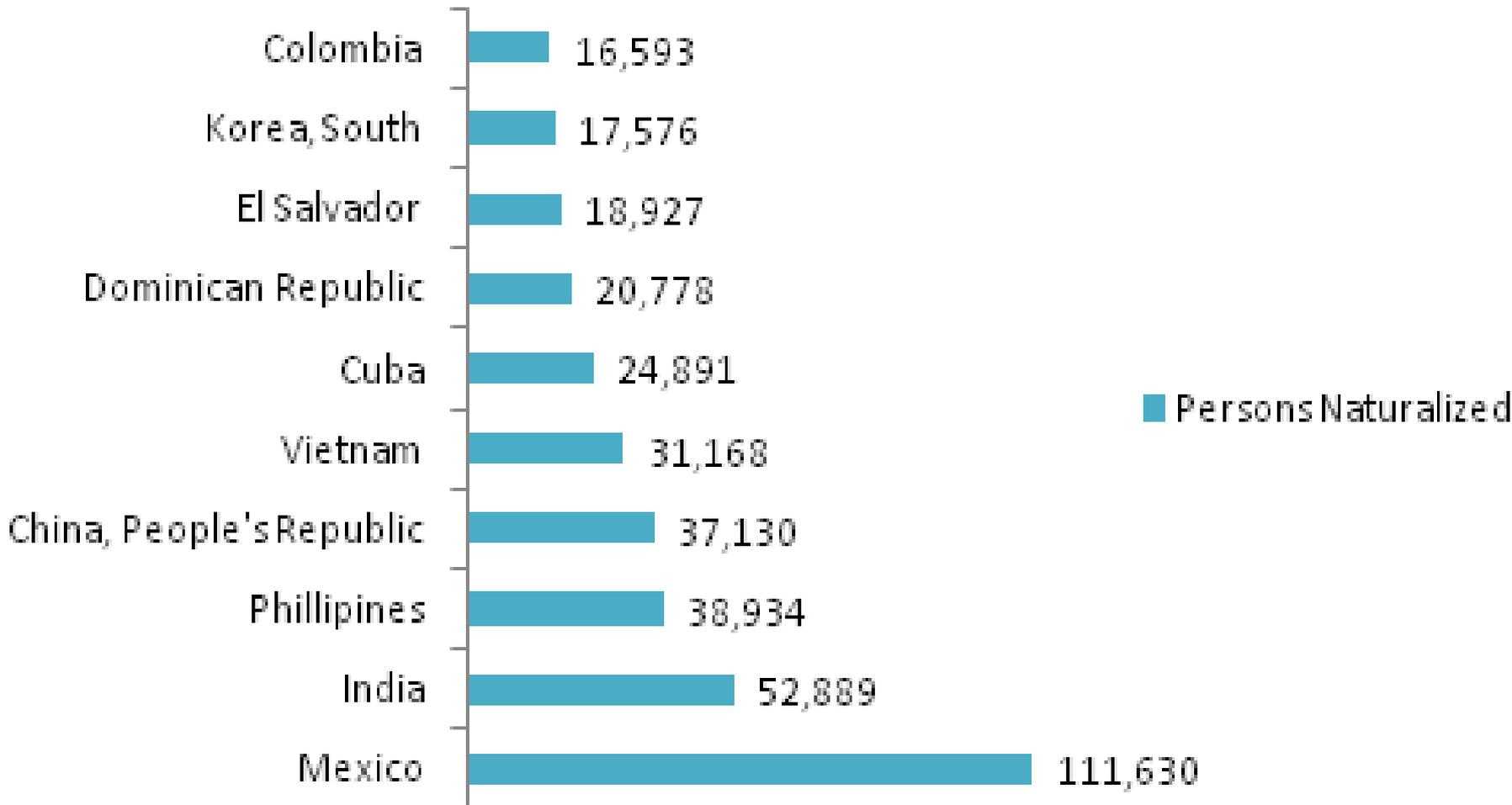
# 6. Sample 100 Question Citizenship Test

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. What are the colors of our flag?   | 26. Who makes the laws in the United States?   |
| 2. How many stars are there in our flag?  | 27. What is Congress?  |
| 3. What color are the stars on our flag?  | 28. What are the duties of Congress?   |
| 4. What do the stars on the flag mean?  | 29. Who elects Congress?   |
| 5. How many stripes are there in the flag?                                      | 30. How many senators are there in Congress?   |
| 6. What color are the stripes?  | 31. Can you name the two senators from your state?   |
| 7. What do the stripes on the flag mean?  | 32. For how long do we elect each senator?   |
| 8. How many states are there in the Union?                                      | 33. How many representatives are there in Congress?  |
| 9. What is the 4th of July?   | 34. For how long do we elect the representatives?  |
| 10. What is the date of Independence Day?                                       | 35. What is the executive branch of our government?  |
| 11. Independence from whom?   | 36. What is the judiciary branch of our government?  |
| 12. What country did we fight during the Revolutionary War?                     | 37. What are the duties of the Supreme Court?  |
| 13. Who was the first President of the United States?                           | 38. What is the supreme law of the United States?  |
| 14. Who is the President of the United States today?                            | 39. What is the Bill of Rights?  |
| 15. Who is the Vice-President of the United States today?                       | 40. What is the capital of your state?   |
| 16. Who elects the President of the United States?                              | 41. Who is the current governor of your state?   |
| 17. Who becomes the President of the United States if the President should die? | 42. Who becomes President of the United States if the President and the Vice-President should die? |
| 18. For how long do we elect the President?                                     | 43. Who is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?   |
| 19. What is the Constitution?   | 44. Can you name the 13 original states?   |
| 20. Can the Constitution be changed?  | 45. Who said, "Give me liberty or give me death."?   |
| 21. What do we call a change to the Constitution?                               | 46. Which countries were our enemies during World War II?  |
| 22. How many changes or amendments are there to the Constitution?               | 47. What are the 49th and 50th states of the Union?  |
| 23. How many branches are there in our government?                              | 48. How many terms can a President serve?  |
| 24. What are the three branches of our government?                              | 49. Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?   |
| 25. What is the legislative branch of our government?                           | 50. Who presides over your local government?   |

# 6. Sample 100 Question Citizenship Test (cont.)

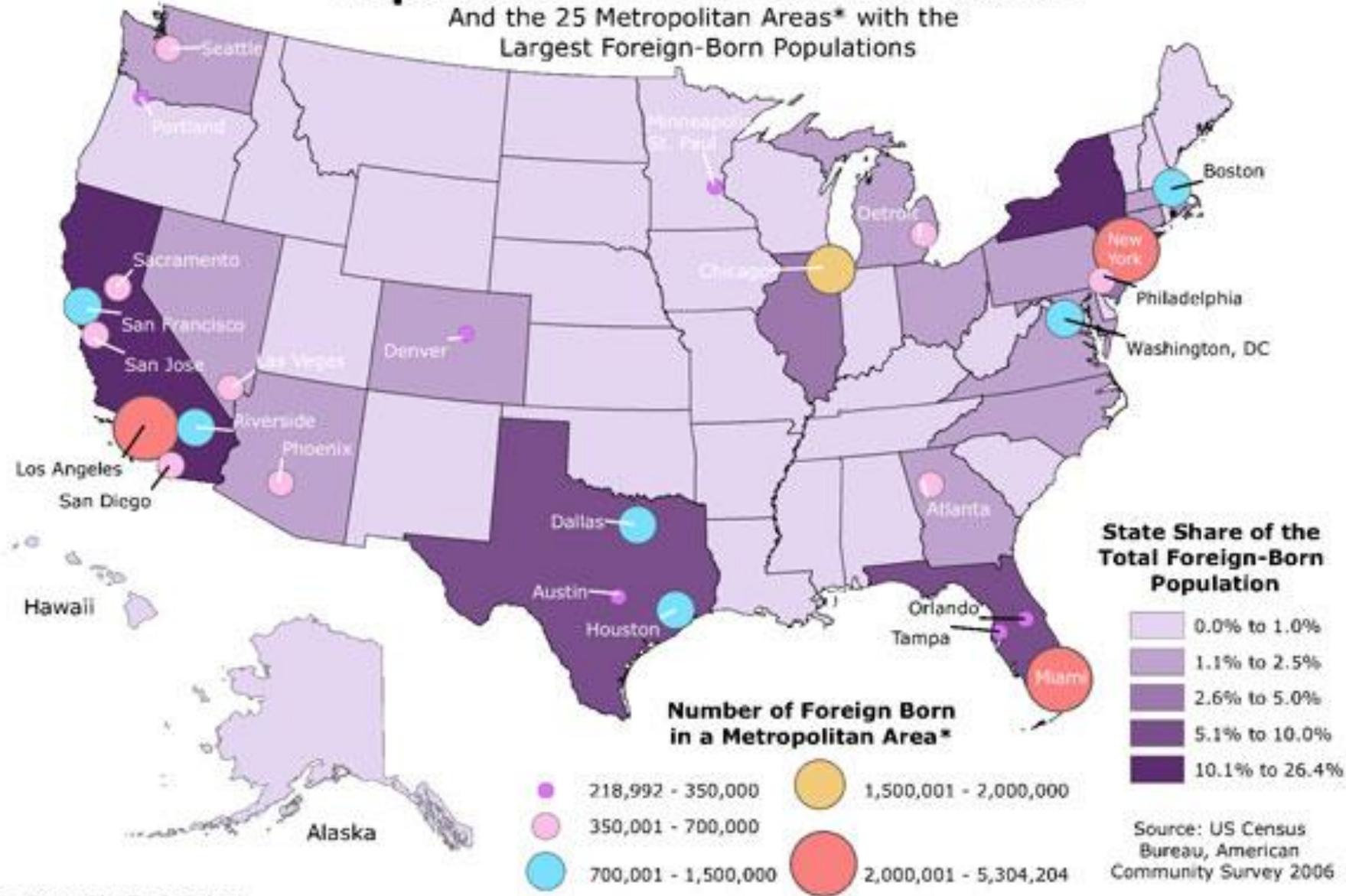
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 51. According to the Constitution, a person must meet certain requirements in order to be eligible to become President. Name one of these requirements. | 75. What were the 13 original states of the U.S. called?                    |
| 52. Why are there 100 Senators in the Senate?   | 76. Name 3 rights or freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.             |
| 53. Who selects the Supreme Court justices?   | 77. Who has the power to declare war?                                       |
| 54. How many Supreme Court justices are there?  | 78. What kind of government does the United States have?                    |
| 55. Why did the Pilgrims come to America?   | 79. Which President freed the slaves?                                       |
| 56. What is the head executive of a state government called?  | 80. In what year was the Constitution written?                              |
| 57. What is the head executive of a city government called?   | 81. What are the first 10 amendments to the Constitution called?            |
| 58. What holiday was celebrated for the first time by American colonists?   | 82. What is the supreme law of the land?                                    |
| 59. Who was the main writer of the Declaration of Independence?   | 83. Where does Congress meet?   |
| 60. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?   | 84. Whose rights are guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights? |
| 61. What is the basic belief of the Declaration of Independence?  | 85. What is the introduction to the Constitution called?                    |
| 62. What is the national anthem of the United States?   | 86. Name one benefit to being a citizen of the United States?               |
| 63. Who wrote the Star-Spangled Banner?   | 87. What is the most important right granted to U.S. citizens?              |
| 64. Where does freedom of speech come from?   | 88. What is the United States Capitol?                                      |
| 65. What is the minimum voting age in the United States?  | 89. What is the White House?  |
| 66. Who signs bills into law?   | 90. Where is the White House located?                                       |
| 67. What is the highest court in the United States?   | 91. What is the name of the President's official home?                      |
| 68. Who was President during the Civil War?   | 92. Name one right guaranteed by the first amendment.                       |
| 69. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?  | 93. Who is the Commander in Chief of the U.S. military?                     |
| 70. What special group advises the President?   | 94. Which President was the first Commander in Chief of the U.S. military?  |
| 71. Which President is called the "Father of our country?"  | 95. In what month do we vote for President?                                 |
| 72. What Immigration and Naturalization Service form is used to apply to become a naturalized citizen?  | 96. In what month is the new President inaugurated?                         |
| 73. Who helped the Pilgrims in America?   | 97. How many times may a Senator be re-elected?                             |
| 74. What is the name of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America?  | 98. How many times may a Congressman be re-elected?                         |
|   | 99. What are the 2 major political parties in the U.S. today?               |
|   | 100. How many states are there in the United States?                        |

# 6. Top Ten Source Countries for Persons Naturalized in the 2009 Fiscal Year\*



# State Proportion of the Foreign-Born Population in the United States

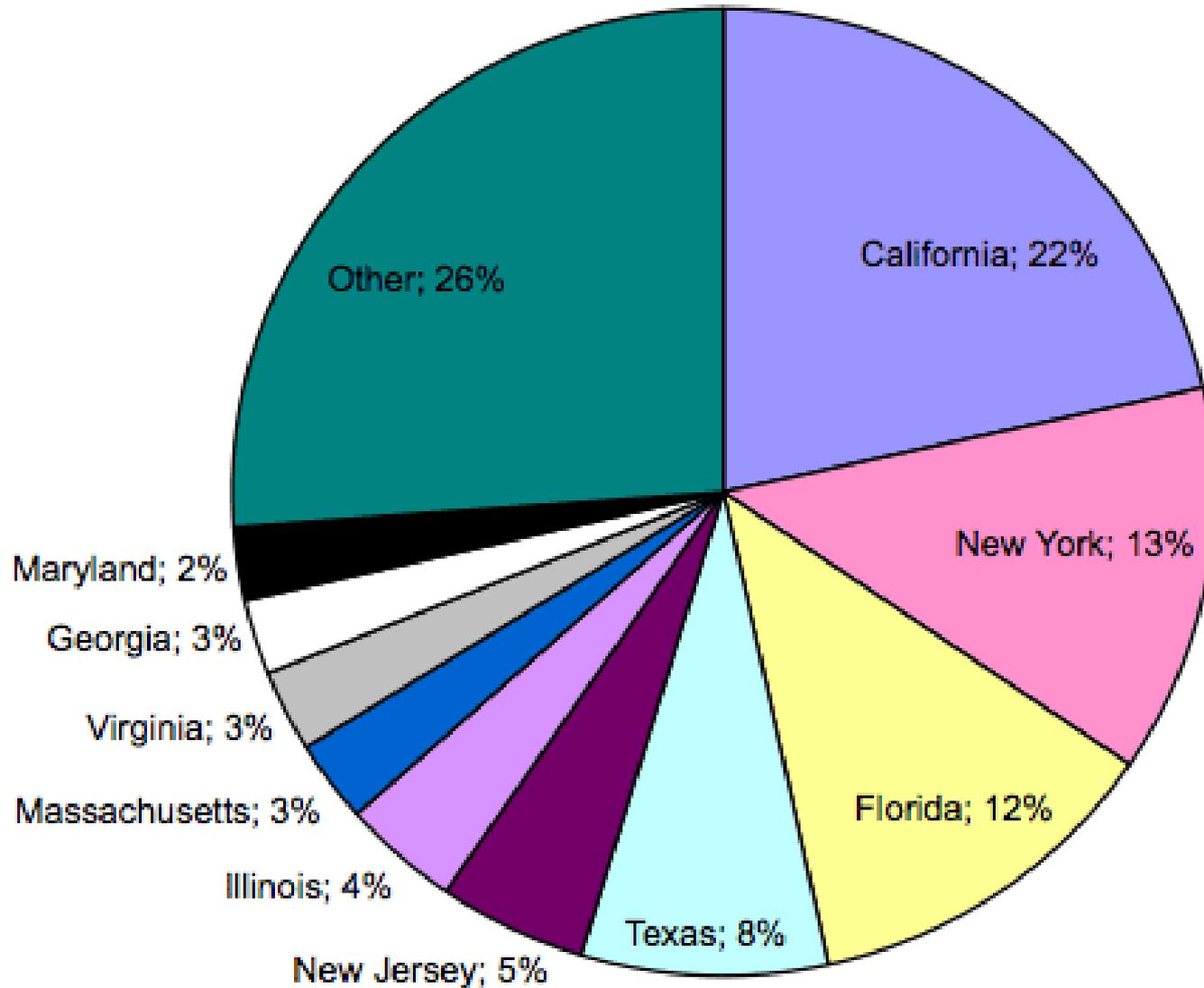
And the 25 Metropolitan Areas\* with the Largest Foreign-Born Populations



Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2006

\* Refers to Metropolitan Statistical Areas

# 6. Immigrants by State, 2008



# 7. Inventions

## Alexander Graham Bell

Next to the light bulb, the most dramatic invention was the telephone. Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Watson unveiled it in 1876. Bell and Watson, located in different rooms, were about to test the new transmitter described in the patent. Watson heard Bell's voice saying, "Mr. Watson, come here. I want you." It opened the way for a worldwide communications network.

## Bessemer Process

Iron is a dense metal, but it is soft and tends to break and rust. It also contains carbon; removing the carbon from iron produces a lighter, more flexible, and rust-resistant metal—steel. The raw materials needed to make steel were readily available; all that was needed was a cheap and efficient manufacturing process. The Bessemer process, developed by British manufacturer Henry Bessemer in 1850, soon became widely used.

## Wright Brothers

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright, bicycle manufacturers from Dayton, Ohio, experimented with new engines powerful enough to keep "heavier-than-air" craft aloft. First the Wright brothers build a glider. They then commissioned a four-cylinder internal combustion engine, chose a propeller, and designed a biplane with a 40'40" wingspan. Their first successful flight—on December 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina—covered 120 feet and lasted 12 seconds. Within 2 years, the Wright brothers had increased their flights to 24 miles. By 1920, convinced of the great potential of flight, the U.S. government had established the first transcontinental airmail service.

## Photography

Before the 1880s, photography was a professional activity. Because of the time required to take a picture and the weight of the equipment, a photographer could not shoot a moving object. In addition, photographers had to develop their shots immediately. New techniques eliminated the need to develop pictures right away. George Eastman developed a series of more convenient alternatives to the heavy glass plates previously used. Now photographers could use flexible film and could develop it in a studio. In 1888, Eastman introduced his Kodak camera. The purchase price of \$25 included a 100-picture roll of film. After taking the pictures, the photographer would send the camera back to Eastman's factory. For \$10, the pictures were developed and returned with the camera reloaded. Kodak prompted millions of Americans to become amateur photographers. The camera also helped photojournalism.

# 7. Inventions

- 1855 – Isaac Singer patents the sewing machine motor; Georges Audemars invents rayon
- 1858 – Hamilton Smith patents the rotary washing machine
- 1862 – Alexander Parkes invents the first man-made plastic
- 1866 – Alfred Nobel invents dynamite; Englishmen Robert Whitehead invents a torpedo
- 1867 – Christopher Scholes invents the first practical and modern typewriter
- 1868 - J P Knight invents traffic lights
- 1873 – Joseph Glidden invents barbed wire
- 1876 – Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone;
- 1877 – Eadweard Muybridge invents the first moving pictures
- 1881 – Alexander Graham Bell invents the first crude metal detector
- 1884 – George Eastman patents paper-strip photographic film; Frenchmen, H. de Chardonnet invents rayon; James Ritty invents the first working, mechanical cash register
- 1885 – Gottlieb Daimler invents the first gas-engine motorcycle
- 1886 – Josephine Cochrane invents the dishwasher; Gottlieb Daimler builds the world's first four-wheeled motor vehicle
- 1891 – Jesse W. Reno invents the escalator
- 1898 – Edwin Prescott patents the roller coaster
- 1901 – The first radio receiver, successfully received a radio transmission
- 1902 – Willis Carrier invents the air conditioner
- 1903 – Bottle-making machinery invented by Michael J. Owens; The Wright brothers invent the first gas motored and manned airplane
- 1904 – Benjamin Holt invents a tractor; John A Fleming invents a vacuum diode or Fleming valve

# 7. The Kodak Camera



*“You press the button,  
we do the rest.”*

OR YOU CAN DO IT YOURSELF.

The only camera that anybody can use without instructions. As convenient to carry as an ordinary field glass World-wide success.

*The Kodak is for sale by all Photo stock dealers.*

*Send for the Primer, free.*

**The Eastman Dry Plate & Film Co.**

Price, \$25.00 — Loaded for 100 Pictures.

Re-loading, \$2.00.

**ROCHESTER, N. Y.**

# 8. Slums and Sanitation

Lights, trolleys, skyscrapers, romance, action. These were among the first words to enter the minds of Americans when contemplating the new urban lifestyle. While American cities allowed many middle- and upper-class Americans to live a glamorous lifestyle, this was simply a fantasy to many poorer urban dwellers. Slums, crime, overcrowding, pollution, disease. These words more accurately described daily realities for millions of urban Americans.

## **Tenements**

Much of the urban poor, including a majority of incoming immigrants, lived in tenement housing. If the skyscraper was the jewel of the American city, the tenement was its boil. In New York City--where the population doubled every decade from 1800 to 1880--buildings that had once been single-family dwellings were increasingly divided into multiple living spaces to accommodate this growing population. Known as tenements, these narrow, low-rise apartment buildings--many of them concentrated in the city's Lower East Side neighborhood--were all too often cramped, poorly lit and lacked indoor plumbing and proper ventilation. By 1900, some 2.3 million people (a full two-thirds of New York City's population) were living in tenement housing.

Because of the massive overcrowding, disease was widespread. Cholera and yellow-fever epidemics swept through the slums on a regular basis. Tuberculosis was a huge killer. Infants suffered the most. Almost 25% of babies born in late-19th century cities died before reaching the age of one.

## **The Stench of Waste, the Stench of Crime**

The cities stank. The air stank, the rivers stank, the people stank. Although public sewers were improving, disposing of human waste was increasingly a problem. People used private cesspools, which overflowed with a long, hard rain. Old sewage pipes dumped the waste directly into the rivers or bays. These rivers were often the very same used as water sources.

Trash collection had not yet been systemized. Trash was dumped in the streets or in the waterways. Better sewers, water purification, and trash removal were some of the most pressing problems for city leadership. As the 20th century dawned, many improvements were made, but the cities were far from sanitary.

Poverty often breeds crime. Desperate people will often resort to theft or violence to put food on the family table when the factory wages would not suffice. Youths who dreaded a life of monotonous factory work and pauperism sometimes roamed the streets in gangs. Vices such as gambling, prostitution, and alcoholism were widespread. Gambling rendered the hope of getting rich quick. Prostitution provided additional income. Alcoholism furnished a false means of escape. City police forces were often understaffed and underpaid, so those with wealth could buy a better slice of justice. The glamour of American cities was real indeed. As real was the sheer destitution of its slums. Both worlds — plenty and poverty — existed side by side. As the 20th century began, the plight of the urban poor was heard by more and more reformers, and meaningful change finally arrived.

# 8. Crowded Italian Neighborhood, NYC, early 1900s



# 8. “Five-cents-a-spot” Lodging



# 9. City Issues

## Transportation

Innovations in mass transit, transportation systems designed to move large numbers of people along fixed routes, enabled workers to go to and from jobs more easily. Street cars were introduced in San Francisco in 1873 and electric subways in Boston in 1897. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, mass transit networks in many urban areas linked city neighborhoods to one another and to outlying communities. Cities struggled to repair old transit systems and to build new ones to meet the demands of expanding populations.

## Water

Cities also faced the problem of supplying safe drinking water. As urban population grew in the 1840s and 1850s, cities such as New York and Cleveland built public waterworks to handle the increasing demand. As late as the 1860s, however, the residents of many cities had grossly inadequate piped water—or none at all. Even in large cities like New York, homes seldom had indoor plumbing, and residents had to collect water in pails from faucets on the streets and heat it up for bathing. The necessity of improving water quality to control diseases such as cholera and typhoid fever was obvious. To make city water safer, filtration was introduced in the 1870s and chlorination in 1908. However, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, many city dwellers still had no access to safe water.

## Crime

As the populations of cities increased, pickpockets and thieves flourished. Although New York City organized the first full-time, salaried police force in 1844, in most other city law enforcement units were too small to have much impact on crime.

## Fire

The limited water supply in many cities contributed to another menace: the spread of fires. Major fires occurred in almost every large American city during the 1870s and 1880s. In addition to lacking water with which to combat blazes, most cities were packed with wooden dwellings, which were like kindling waiting to be ignited. The use of candles and kerosene heaters also pose a fire hazard. In San Francisco, deadly fires often broke out during earthquakes.

At first, most city firefighters were volunteers and not always available when they were needed. Cincinnati, Ohio tackled this problem when it established the nation's first paid fire department in 1853. By 1900, most cities had full-time professional fire departments. The introduction of a practical automatic fire sprinkler in 1874 and the replacement of wood as a building material with brick, stone, or concrete also made cities safer.

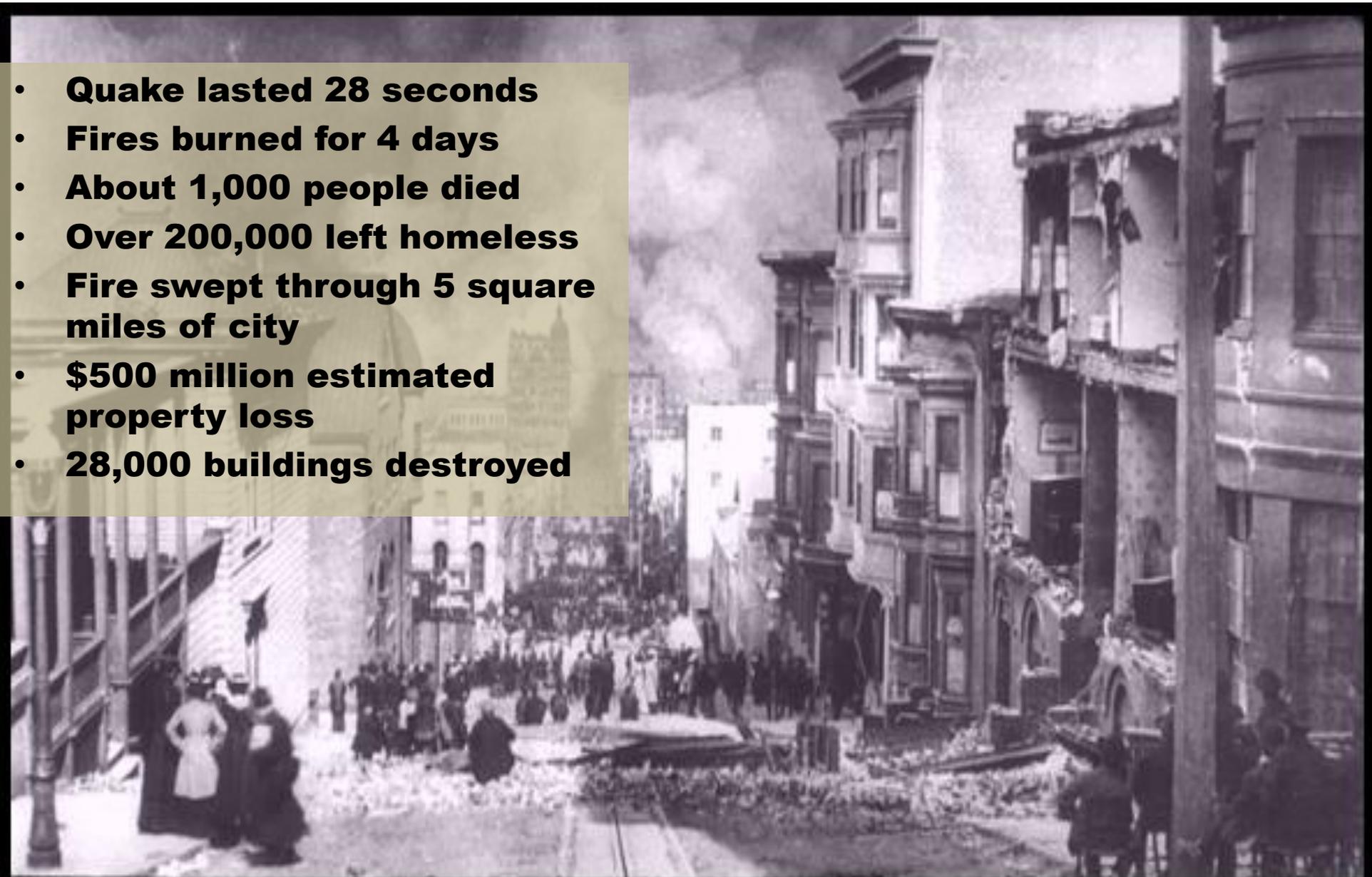
# 9. The Great Chicago Fire, Oct. 8-10, 1871

- Fire burned for over 24 hours
- About 300 people died
- 100,000 were left homeless
- More than 3 square miles of city center destroyed
- \$200 million estimated property loss
- 17,500 buildings destroyed



# 9. The San Francisco Earthquake, April 18, 1906

- **Quake lasted 28 seconds**
- **Fires burned for 4 days**
- **About 1,000 people died**
- **Over 200,000 left homeless**
- **Fire swept through 5 square miles of city**
- **\$500 million estimated property loss**
- **28,000 buildings destroyed**



# 10. Mass Culture

## **Leisure**

To meet the recreational needs of activity dwellers, Chicago, New York, and other cities began setting aside green space for outdoor enjoyment. Many cities built small playgrounds and playing fields throughout their neighborhood for their citizens' enjoyment.

Some amusement parks were constructed on the outskirts of cities. The roller coaster drew daredevil customers to Coney Island in 1884. In 1885, the first commercial successful bicycle made the activity popular. It had a special appeal to women. Women wore shirtwaists (tailored blouses) and "split" skirts to ride bikes. The bicycle freed women from the scrutiny of the ever-present chaperone.

Tennis

## **Urban Shopping**

Growing city populations made a promising target for enterprising merchants. The nation's first shopping center opened in Cleveland, OH in 1890. The glass-topped arcade contained 4 levels of jewelry, leather goods, and stationery shops. It also provided band music on Sundays.

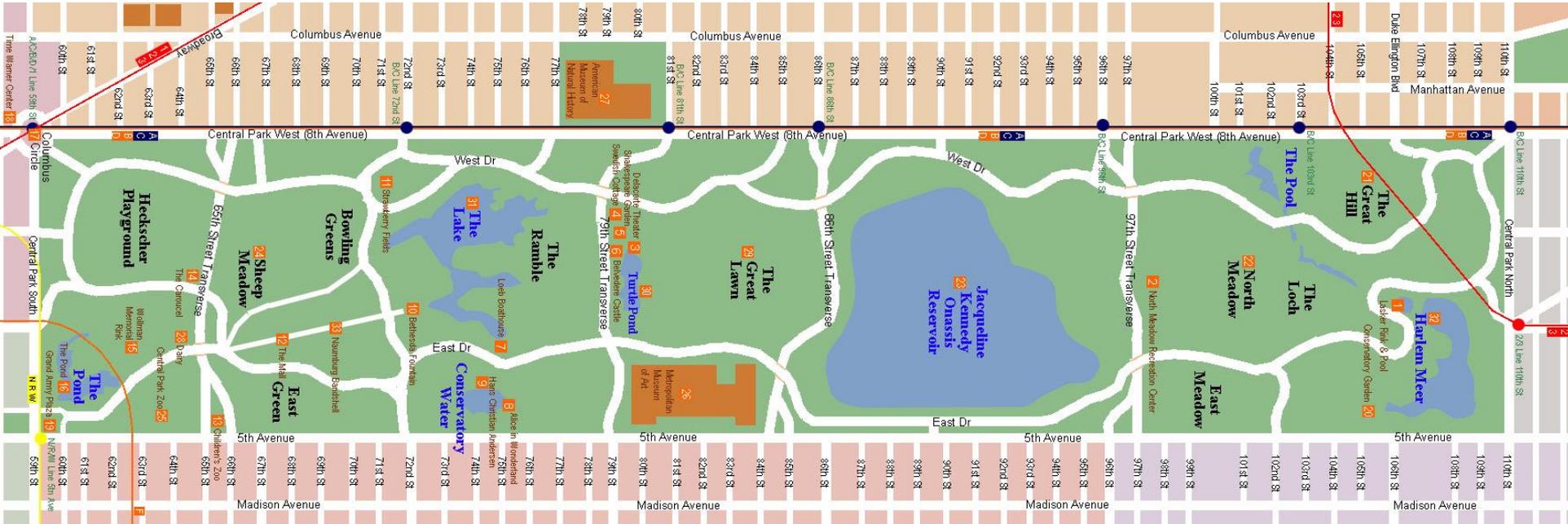
Retail shopping districts formed where public transit could easily bring shoppers from outlying areas. To anchor these retail shopping districts, ambitious merchants started something quite new, the modern department store.

Marshall Field of Chicago first brought the department store concept to America. While working as a store clerk, Field found that paying close attention to women customers could increase sales considerably. In 1865, Field opened his own store, featuring several floors of specialized departments. Field's motto was "Give the lady what she wants." Field also pioneered the bargain basement, selling bargain goods that were "less expensive, but reliable."

New chain stores—retail stores offering the same merchandise under the same ownership—sold goods for less by buying in quantity and limiting personal service. In the 1870s, F.W. Woolworth found that if he offered an item at a very low price, "the consumer would purchase it on the spur of the moment" because "it was only a nickel." By 1911, the Woolworth chain boasted of 596 stores and sold more than a million dollars in goods a week.

Montgomery Ward and Sears Roebuck brought retail merchandise to small towns. Wards catalog, launched in 1872, grew from a single sheet the first year to a booklet with ordering instructions in 10 languages. Richard Sears started his company in 1886. Early Sears catalogs stated that the company received "hundreds of orders every day from young and old who had never [before] sent away for goods. By 1910, about 10 million Americans shopped by mail.

# 10. New York's Central Park



- **843-acre oblong area in center of Manhattan**
- **Completed in 1863**
- **Design for a rural scenery**
- **Small lakes**

# 10.

# Sears Catalog

## Make Your Daughter the Best Dressed Girl in the Neighborhood



**\$1 19**  
**MISSES' PLAID PERCALE DRESS WITH SOLID COLOR TRIMMINGS.**  
 The picture shows a one-piece open back dress, perfectly practical for every day, yet made in such good style and pretty color combination that it is suitable for street or school wear. Material is splendid quality Allee blue and white percale, trimmed with solid color percale to match and pipings in a lighter shade. Dress is made in plain open back style. Average sweep, 34 inches. Shipping weight, 26 ounces. Give measurements. **EACH \$1.19**  
 No. 31H9410 Blue.

**\$1 89**  
**MISSES' DRESS OF PLAID GINGHAM WITH SOLID COLOR TRIMMINGS.**  
 An especially attractive and girlish looking frock is here shown. Made of a splendid quality gingham in a pretty gray, rose and blue plaid with trimmings of solid color Allee blue percale. Dress closes at side front and has a large sailor collar and removable dickey. Skirt has full length panel front and back with plaited flounce at side, which gives plenty of fullness. Average sweep, 104 inches. Shipping weight, 29 ounces. Give measurements. **EACH \$1.89**  
 No. 31H9420 Plaid with Allee blue trimmings.

**\$1 69**  
**MISSES' CHARMING ONE-PIECE DRESS IN OPEN FRONT STYLE.**  
 Made of a splendid quality washable percale in white with cadet blue dots and trimmed with solid color cadet blue percale and smart pipings of black and white stripe. Dress is cut in one-piece effect, having plain habit back and panel front. Closes invisibly at left front. The collar is a new feature, being cut in large circular style and forming large revers in front. Sweep of skirt, 2 1/2 yards. Shipping weight, 26 ounces. Give measurements. **EACH \$1.69**  
 No. 31H9430 Blue polka dot with blue trimmings.

**\$1 98**  
**MISSES' EFFECTIVELY TRIMMED DRESS OF TAN LAWN.**  
 The material is a fine soft washable lawn in natural tan shade with ring dot design in Allee blue. Made in one-piece open back style and charmingly trimmed in solid color to match dots. White pipings, white buttons and fine Swiss embroidery. Fullness of skirt is held in at waist in deep plaits. Average sweep, 3 1/2 yards. Shipping weight, 23 ounces. Give measurements. **EACH \$1.98**  
 No. 31H9425 Tan with blue trimmings.

**\$1 89**  
**MISSES' JAUNTY LINEN FINISH DRESS IN SAILOR STYLE.**  
 Just the thing for outings and general summer wear. Made of good quality linen finish, sailing in white with cadet blue trimmings or cadet blue with white trimmings. Cut in one-piece style, closing down center front. Large sailor collar and dickey trimmed with emblems. Skirt made with full length box plait panel back and front with folds at side. Shipping weight, 32 ounces. Give measurements. **EACH \$1.89**  
 No. 31H9435 Blue with white trimmings.  
 No. 31H9436 White with blue trimmings.

**\$1 48**  
**MISSES' PINK FLOWERED LAWN WITH SOLID PINK PIPINGS.**  
 This is a very pretty and effective dress. Made of good quality white lawn with dainty pink flowered design. Dress closes in back, has plaited skirt and Gibson waist and is trimmed with insertion in Cluny design and narrow pipings of solid pink to match flowers. Skirt has inverted plait in back and an average sweep of 2 1/2 yards. A splendid value at this price. Shipping weight, 21 ounces. Give measurements. **EACH \$1.48**  
 No. 31H9415 White with pink flowers.



31H9415



31H9420



31H9425



31H9430



31H9435

**SIZES READ CAREFULLY BEFORE ORDERING.**  
 All Misses' Dresses are furnished in sizes from 14 to 20 years, or from 32 up to and including 38 inches bust measure, and 32 up to and including 38 inches front length of skirt. We do not furnish these dresses in larger sizes. If larger sizes are required, selection must be made from our line of ladies' dresses. Small or short women who wear misses' clothing will please remember that a misses' dress size 38 is no larger in the bust than a ladies' dress size 36. All dresses on this page will be sent with skirt finished with wide basted hem so that alterations will be easy. See page 2 for simple measuring instructions.

# 10.

YOUR MONEY WILL BE IMMEDIATELY RETURNED TO YOU FOR ANY GOODS NOT PERFECTLY SATISFACTORY.

195

## 24 GENUINE COLUMBIA P RECORDS AND THE OXFORD JR. TALKING MACHINE ALL COMPLETE

YOUR OWN SELECTION OF SUBJECTS

THE NEW OXFORD JR. TALKING MACHINE IS A STRICTLY HIGH CLASS TALKING MACHINE FOR REPRODUCING STANDARD SIZE WAX CYLINDER RECORDS. IT IS A THOROUGHLY WELL MADE MACHINE AND NOT TO BE COMPARED IN ANY WAY WITH THE CHEAP MACHINES THAT HAVE BEEN SO GENERALLY ADVERTISED RECENTLY.

**IT IS A HIGH CLASS MACHINE, MADE IN AMERICA.** Made by expert and experienced workmen from the largest and best equipped talking machine factory in the world. It is made of good materials throughout, fitted with a high class spring motor, with machine cut gears, everything about it strong and substantial. It is made without the device which makes the records dirty in place as it travels along over the surface of the record. There are cheap talking machines made without food device, and with such machines the reproducer slips and slides off the surface of the record, but this trouble is avoided in the Oxford Jr. Talking Machine, as the reproducer is held firmly and steadily in its course over the surface of the record by the patent feed device, exactly the same as the highest priced machines. This machine is made with heavy, solid and substantial iron base, machine cut gears, with gold stripe decorations. It is made with standard size tapered mandrel, and will use any standard size of wax cylinder record, Columbia, Edison or any other standard make.

### THE REPRODUCTION

of the human voice or of instrumental music, as rendered by the Oxford Jr. Talking Machine, is just exactly as good as with machines costing ten and fifteen times the price. It is made with a high class, high style D reproducer with mica diaphragm and has an extra reproducing cone. It is equipped with black and gold horns with large extra wide bell. The body of the horn frame of the best sheet steel, with fine black enamel finish; the bell made of solid brass, highly polished, giving the machine a novel, modern, some and ornamental appearance. The tone qualities of the large black and gold horns are unexcelled, adding greatly to the volume of sound and naturalness and sweetness of tone.

### THE OXFORD JR. TALKING MACHINE

is not a toy. It is a high class machine, a machine that cannot be purchased in the ordinary market at less than double our price. Made of good materials all the way through, strong and substantial, easy to operate, made with fine clock work motor, automatic feed device and extra large black and gold horns.

### FIFTY THOUSAND RECORDS PER MONTH.

Use of our contract with the largest manufacturer of records in the world they are to furnish us for these outfits 80,000 high class standard size Columbia P Records, the records we have ordered that have for years been sold at 50 cents, and today cannot be purchased in any other market for less than 25 cents each. By contracting for this enormous quantity of one million records (more than fifty car loads), the largest order ever placed for talking machines records by any dealer anywhere in the world, we have succeeded in reducing the cost to us just the correct fraction over the actual cost of labor and materials, the lowest cost at which high class first quality records have ever been purchased by any dealer, and in making up these outfits, consisting of the OXFORD JR. TALKING MACHINE AND TWENTY-FOUR OF THESE HIGH CLASS STANDARD SIZE RECORDS AT \$8.75, we are giving you the benefit of the saving which we effect by means of our tremendous purchase power.

UNDERSTAND, OUR SPECIAL PRICE \$8.75 includes the 24 Columbia P Records, the Oxford Jr. Talking Machine complete with clock work motor, style D reproducer, large black and gold horns, an outfit that a few months ago could not have been purchased for less than \$15.00. No. 20K5010 Oxford Jr. Talking Machine and 24 Columbia P Records, complete outfit, just as illustrated and described above. Shipping weight 35 pounds. Price..... \$ 8.75 No. 20K5011 Oxford Jr. Talking Machine, consisting of Oxford Jr. Machine and 24 Columbia P Records, complete outfit, just as illustrated and described above. Shipping weight, 30 pounds. Make your selection of Records from the list on pages 199 and 200, the list of genuine Columbia P Records. Price..... \$ 2.50

## THE TYPE F H HARVARD DISC TALKING MACHINE

The Large Flower Horn with which this machine is equipped, possesses, to an unusual degree, the magnificent acoustic or tone qualities which are peculiar to the latest type of flower horns. The unusual musical qualities of the flower horn, its ability to reproduce sound more absolutely true to the original music, is due to the peculiar curves and the extra wide flaring bell, which avoids the usual retardation of the sound waves, thereby giving a deep, clear and natural tone to every note.

**THIS HORN** is made with fine baked on enamel finish, ornamented with gold stripes, and besides the great improvement which it makes possible in the musical quality of the machine, also contributes greatly to the beautiful appearance of the outfit.

**THE MELLOWNESS OF TONE AND REAL MUSICAL QUALITY** of the reproduction, as rendered by the Type F H Harvard Talking Machine, is due partly to the new sound analyzing reproducer with which it is equipped and partly to the special acoustic properties of the flower horn, or rather to the combination of these two features. This reproducer is the latest product of the largest talking machine manufacturer in the world and represents the result of years of constant experiment and improvement. It is called the "sound analyzing" reproducer because of its ability to bring out every tone clearly and with the exact tone quality of the original music. It not only increases the volume of sound, but enriches the quality and reveals tones which with the earlier and less perfect types of reproducers were lost entirely. It is equipped with the automatic needle holder by which the needle is clamped into place and held securely by a spring lever; a slight pressure upon this lever instantly releases the needle, thus avoiding the use of the annoying set screw arrangement used in other reproducers.



**\$15.90**

**GENERAL CONSTRUCTION.** The Type F H Harvard Disc Talking Machine is made with golden oak cabinet of plain but elegant design, substantially made, all corners dovetailed and with removable top to afford access to the motor for oiling or occasional cleaning. The swinging arm and bracket, supporting the horn and reproducer, are beautifully designed and made from aluminum, highly ornamental and non-tarnishable. The turntable, of a special composition metal is 10 inches in diameter, the cabinet measures 11 1/2 inches square by 5 3/4 inches high, the horn is 10 inches long with bell 17 inches in diameter. This machine is equipped with a powerful spring clock work motor, made throughout from brass and the best quality of steel, all gears and pinions machine cut to insure absolutely essential to perfect reproduction, is obtained by the improved automatic governor and worm gear, perfect control of the speed is obtained by the new tension screw speed regulator, and the motor is stopped or started simply by pressing in or pulling out a small knobbed rod.

**USES ANY KIND OF DISC RECORD.** This machine is adapted to any style, any size or any make of flat disc record. Just think of the great variety of selections available for use with this machine and the wonderful possibilities for entertainment which it affords.

No. 20K5048 The Type F H Harvard Disc Talking Machine, with golden oak cabinet, large flower horn, sound analyzing reproducer, exactly as illustrated and described above. Shipping weight, 35 pounds. Price... **\$16.90**

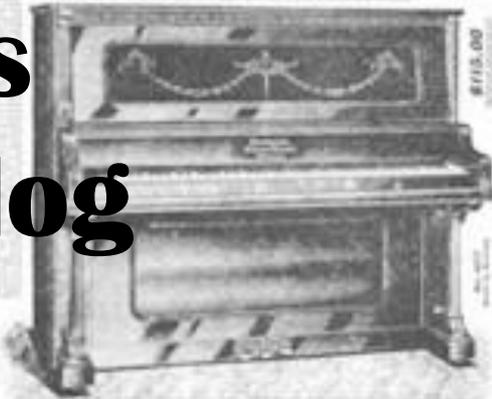
# Sears Catalog



# 10. Sears Catalog

THE BECKWITH PALACE GRAND PIANO

**\$115.00**

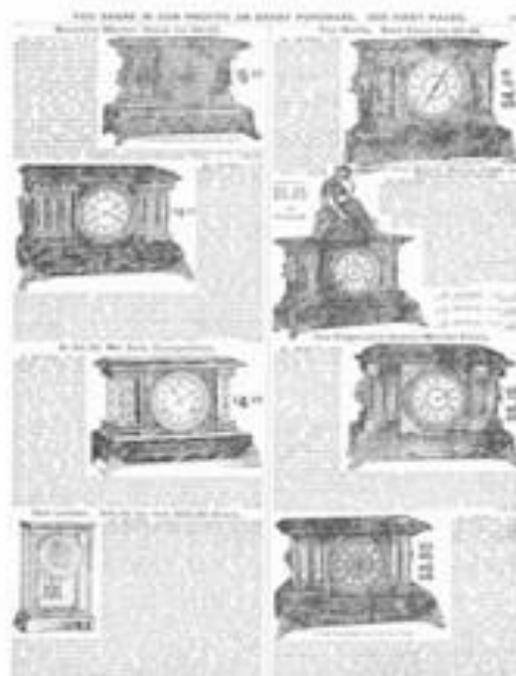


THE BECKWITH PALACE GRAND PIANO is a masterpiece of art and science. It is built of the finest materials and is guaranteed to give you the most perfect tone and the longest life.

SEE IT IN REALITY - VISITORS INVITED TO SEE IT.

THE BECKWITH PALACE GRAND PIANO

THE BECKWITH PALACE GRAND PIANO is a masterpiece of art and science. It is built of the finest materials and is guaranteed to give you the most perfect tone and the longest life.



SEE IT IN REALITY - VISITORS INVITED TO SEE IT.

AUBREY ENGRAVED HAMMERLESS

**\$16.35**



THE AUBREY ENGRAVED HAMMERLESS is a masterpiece of art and science. It is built of the finest materials and is guaranteed to give you the most perfect tone and the longest life.

SEE IT IN REALITY - VISITORS INVITED TO SEE IT.

NEW AUTO SEAT BUGGY

**\$56.50**



THE AUTO SEAT BUGGY is a masterpiece of art and science. It is built of the finest materials and is guaranteed to give you the most perfect tone and the longest life.

SEE IT IN REALITY - VISITORS INVITED TO SEE IT.

THE AUTO SEAT BUGGY

THE AUTO SEAT BUGGY is a masterpiece of art and science. It is built of the finest materials and is guaranteed to give you the most perfect tone and the longest life.



SEE IT IN REALITY - VISITORS INVITED TO SEE IT.

THE WONDERFUL WASHING MACHINE

**\$5.75**

SIX MONTHS' TRIAL



THE WONDERFUL WASHING MACHINE is a masterpiece of art and science. It is built of the finest materials and is guaranteed to give you the most perfect tone and the longest life.

SEE IT IN REALITY - VISITORS INVITED TO SEE IT.