Immigrants and Urban Life  
Vocabulary Builder

Section 1

benevolent societies  Chinese Exclusion Act  new immigrants
old immigrants  tenements  steerage  sweatshops

**DIRECTIONS** Match the terms in the first column with the correct definitions from the second column by placing the letter of the correct definition in the space provided before each term.

_____ 1. Chinese Exclusion Act  a. immigrants from northern Europe
_____ 2. sweatshop  b. an area below a ship’s deck where steering mechanisms were located
_____ 3. benevolent societies  c. poorly built, overcrowded apartment buildings
_____ 4. steerage  d. a law that banned Chinese people from immigrating to the United States for 10 years
_____ 5. old immigrants  e. workplaces in which employees endured long hours and hot, unhealthy working conditions
_____ 6. new immigrants  f. organizations that offered immigrant families help in cases of sickness, unemployment, or death
_____ 7. tenements  g. immigrants from southern and eastern Europe

**DIRECTIONS** Use the seven words or phrases from the word list to write a summary of what you learned in the section.

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SECTION 1

1. d  
2. e  
3. f  
4. b  
5. a  
6. g  
7. c

Summaries will vary but might include the following: Immigrants known as the old immigrants mostly came from Great Britain, Germany, Ireland, and the countries of Scandinavia in the mid-1800s. During the 1880s alone, more than 5 million immigrants arrived in the United States and were called new immigrants. They were mostly from southern and eastern Europe. Most immigrants faced hot, cramped, and terrible smelling conditions when traveling in the steerage, an area below deck where steering mechanisms were located, to get to America. Upon arriving, immigrants underwent interviews and examinations at government-run processing centers such as Ellis and Angel Islands. In some communities, people formed benevolent societies that offered immigrant families help in case of sickness, unemployment, or death. Immigrants worked in sweatshops that consisted of little pay, long hours, and hot, unhealthy working conditions in small shops or mills located in their neighborhoods. They lived in tenements, which were poorly built, overcrowded apartment buildings. Some Americans welcomed new immigrants, while some labor unions and nativists opposed immigration. Nativists were Americans who feared that too many new immigrants were being allowed into the country. One result of their actions was the Chinese Exclusion Act, which banned Chinese people from immigrating to the United States for 10 years.

SECTION 2

1. giant retail shops; appeared in some cities during the late 1800s
2. large-scale landscape architect; designed Central Park in New York City
3. added a color comic to his newspaper in 1896; owned the New York World newspaper
4. leisure and cultural activities shared by many people; a boom in publishing contributed to this
5. public transportation designed to move lots of people; included elevated trains running on tracks above the streets
6. many middle-class Americans who could afford it lived here; residential neighborhoods outside of downtown areas
7. publisher of the New York Journal; saw that comics helped sell newspapers and thus added a color strip to his newspaper
8. Sentences will vary. Possible answer: The main factor that brought immigrants to this country was to start new lives.

SECTION 3

1. T  
2. T  
3. F; tenements  
4. T  
5. F; Jane Addams  
6. T

Biography–Joseph Pulitzer

1. Pulitzer was associated with the Westliche Post, the St. Louis Evening Dispatch, the Evening Post, the Post-Dispatch, and the New York World.
2. Possible answer: Yellow journalism was different from normal journalism, and it attracted more readers because it was more exciting and entertaining.
3. Students’ articles will vary but their headlines should reflect the event they chose and should be enticing to potential readers.

Biography–Alice Hamilton

1. Hamilton studied industrial and occupational diseases. She was an expert in health problems that resulted from slum housing, poor food, and lack of medical care.
2. Possible answer: Alice Hamilton helped bring about social reform and improved public health. She started by getting a