

Each suitcase symbol represents one half a million people. Two symbols in a stack therefore represent one million people. About one million people moved to the U.S. in the 1940s. About how many people moved to the U.S. in the 1920s?

The numbers below the graph tell you roughly how many millions of people immigrated (moved in) from different continents in each decade (a decade is ten years).

(A small "s" in the table indicates "some" people - many thousands but not half a million.)

Use different colors to shade in the proper number of symbols to show the immigration from each continent in each decade (or just write a letter in each symbol, E for Europe, N for North America, and so on).

After you have finished your graph, write several generalizations to describe the migration at several specific decades. Here is a sample generalization, in three short sentences:

In the 1860s, about 2 1/2 million people moved to the United States . Most came from Europe. A small number moved from other countries in North America and South America.

After you have written generalizations for several decades, share them with your partner(s). Then you can try to write a "super-generalization" to describe the trend in migration from one continent throughout the entire time period. Here is a sample of that kind of generalization:

Immigration from Europe started slowly. It soon increased to a kind of peak in the 1880s. There was an even higher peak in the 1900s. Then it decreased to almost nothing in the 1930s and 1940s. Our teacher told us that this was because there was a Depression and a World War at that time. Since 1950, immigration from Europe has been pretty steady, about one million people each decade. Many more people now migrate from other continents than from Europe.