The Melting Pot

Immigrants in New York
The large number of immigrants and people from other parts of the country who moved to New York in the 1800s made the city a melting pot.

Immigration Patterns
Hundreds of thousands of Irish people moved to New York City in the mid-1800s to escape the potato famine in Ireland. Other immigrants, including Germans, Swedes, and Czechs, also came to the city. In the late 1800s, immigration to New York City increased, with people coming from southern and eastern Europe. Most of these immigrants stayed in New York because the city had many jobs.

The Experiences of Immigrants
Immigrants made a difficult journey across the Atlantic Ocean. People immigrated for many reasons. Some came to the United States to escape unfair treatment, poverty, or war. Others wanted religious freedom.

Daily Life of Immigrants
Immigrants in New York had to adjust to a new way of life. Many lived in crowded tenements, faced discrimination, and worked at unsafe jobs. Over time, immigrant families created better lives for themselves.

A World City
Many recent immigrants to New York City have come from Puerto Rico, Africa, Latin America, and Asia. New York City is a world business capital. It has a large economy that is interdependent with New York State and the rest of the world.