

## Summary: Coming to America

### People from Many Places

The United States is a land of great diversity. People from many different places settled here. But not all Americans chose to come. For more than 300 years, millions of people from Africa were brought to the Americas and forced into slavery. Enslaved Africans had no freedom and were forced to work for no pay.

Some slaves resisted. Others escaped or bought their freedom. In the 1700s and 1800s, free Africans were farmers, ministers, teachers, and lawyers and worked in businesses. In the 1860s, slavery was made illegal.

### Moving to the West

Europeans first went to California in 1542, when California belonged to Spain. People from Spain and Mexico brought their language and traditions to California. In 1848, California became part of the United States. Gold was found there that year. People rushed to California to look for gold.

Many immigrants settled in the West. Immigrants from China worked for money to send home to their families. Farmers came from Japan, Korea, and the Philippines. Immigrants also came from Mexico and Central America.

### Moving to the East

Millions of immigrants came to America from Europe in the 1800s and early 1900s. They took tough jobs for little pay. Some immigrants were not treated fairly.

Immigrants worked hard and helped make the United States a better country. Chinese workers helped build railroads that crossed the country. A Russian American named Vladimir Zworykin helped invent television.

#### Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

**diversity** *noun*, variety  
**slavery** *noun*, a system under which people have no freedom and are forced to work for no pay

**immigrant** *noun*, someone who leaves one country and moves to another

#### After You Read

**REVIEW** What types of jobs did free Africans in the United States have? Circle the words that tell the work that free Africans did.

**REVIEW** Why did many immigrants leave their home countries to move to a new country? Draw a box around the sentence that tells why many people went to California in 1848. Circle the sentence that tells why Chinese immigrants came to the United States.

**REVIEW** In what ways have immigrants contributed to our country? Draw a box around the paragraph that tells the answer.