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On the Move

In the 1800s and early 1900s, millions of **immigrants** moved to the United States. They were searching for a better life. Back home, they lived poor lives and were often hungry. They had little hope of having better lives if they stayed. Some people were not allowed to talk about what they believed. Others had to deal with wars waging around them.

On top of all that, Europe was too crowded. The people there heard of jobs and lots of available land across the ocean. People left behind everything. Some people sold all they owned to buy ship tickets.

Huge crowds entered the United States daily. They hoped to get jobs and own homes. They wanted to worship in their own ways. Many had their hopes fulfilled. These immigrants went on to change the United States into the nation it is today.



These men board a ship to travel from Italy to the United States in 1900.

An Exploding Population!

By 1860, four million immigrants had already entered the nation. And this was before the Great Migration years of 1900–1930!

Walt Whitman Says . . .

Walt Whitman was a famous poet. He described the United States with these words: "Here is not merely a nation, but a **teeming** nation of nations." In other words, the United States is made up of people from all over the world.



The Statue of Liberty welcomed immigrants to America.