

The First Measured Century

Lesson Plan 2 Handout

Writing a Play about Immigrant Life in America around 1910

Instructions:

You are going to watch a video about immigration to America around 1900. Pay special attention to the part about the play, *The Melting Pot*, by Israel Zangwill. Read the following questions in preparation for watching the video. You will want to take notes during the video so you can answer these questions afterwards.

1. About how many immigrants came to America from 1880 to 1930?

2. Where did most of the immigrants come from?

3. Where in America did most of the immigrants go?

4. What problems did the immigrants encounter?

5. Who helped immigrants with these problems?

6. Who was Israel Zangwill?

7. What is the "melting pot"? Why did Zangwill use this term? What is a metaphor?

8. What is Zangwill's point?

9. What is assimilation?

10. Did Zangwill think assimilation was possible without relinquishing the old hatreds from the immigrant's country of origin? Why or why not?
