Chinese Migration over the US-Mexico Border 1882-1943

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Texas Alliance for Geographic Education

Mission: To support and advocate for geographic education in the Texas educational community.

- Hosted at Texas State University in the Department of Geography
- Established in 1986 as one of eight original state alliances sponsored by the National Geographic Network of Alliance.
- Work with Texas educators (K-12 and university faculty) to develop programs and services in support of geography education.

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13) Geography. The student understands the causes and effects of migration and immigration on American society. The student is expected to:
   ◦ (B) analyze the causes and effects of changing demographic patterns resulting from legal and illegal immigration to the United States.

(15) Economics. The student understands domestic and foreign issues related to U.S. economic growth from the 1870s to 1920. The student is expected to:
   ◦ (C) explain how foreign policies affected economic issues such as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the Open Door Policy, Dollar Diplomacy, and immigration quotas;
Outcome

The students will be able to

Describe United States immigration policy from 1882 to 1943 in regards to Chinese migrants

Explain why the Chinese migrants crossed the US Mexico border

Draw connections to current immigration rhetoric in politics
Chinese Immigration to the US

Prior to 1882, railroad and mining contract laborers

Fear of Job loss and questions of Assimilation

Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882

Immigration Maps from 1880s
Chinese Immigration during Exclusion

Post-Exclusion Act, large numbers gathered at Mexican border cities

Chinese Mexican Diaspora

Exceptions - Pershing's Expedition

Repeal of Exclusion, 1943 “Magnuson Act”

Workers construct an anti-Chinese wall

Wikispaces biello6ushistory.wikispaces.com
United States – Mexico Border

Britannica.com

Federal Funded Border Patrol began in 1885
Historical migration of Chinese across the US Mexico border into Texas

July 1908, Toyah Texas
Sources

National Archives outside of Fort Worth

Review Historical Migration Policies

Interviews and Inspection Reports

Images from National Archives in Ft. Worth
El Paso, Texas,
Sept. 9th, 1908.

Inspector in Charge,
El Paso, Texas,

Sir:

I beg to report the capture of ONE (1) Chinaman this day at about 4 O’clock at Hadlock’s Gardens. Said Chinaman had no papers of any kind with him and his name could not be obtained.

Inspector Bernard accompanied me on this trip.

Respectfully,

[Signature]
Immigrant Inspector.
Current Migration

Migration Trends

Media Portrayals of Immigration

Current Migration Policies

A pair of fences separates Mexico, left, and the U.S. at the border south of San Diego. (Bill Wechter / AFP) LA Times

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**Figure 1. Number and Percent of Immigrants in the U.S., 1900-2010; Plus Census Bureau Projections to 2060**

- In 2023, the immigrant share of the U.S. population will hit its highest level in U.S. history (14.8 percent), and continue to rise.

- The number of immigrants (millions) is projected to increase from 10.3 million in 1990 to 78.2 million in 2060.

Historical Context for Current Migrations

Who is crossing the border
◦ Mandarin- versus Cantonese-speakers

Why they are crossing?
◦ Economic
◦ Political Asylum
◦ Human Trafficking

Surge between October and May 2016 in California

Ties between previous and current migrant cohorts?

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/55/China_linguistic_map.jpg
Thank you!

For assistance with geography education in your classroom, contact TAGE via

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