

# Teaching 20th Century Immigration in New York City

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# Who is New York?

Mapping Immigration



# How did we choose to structure the program?

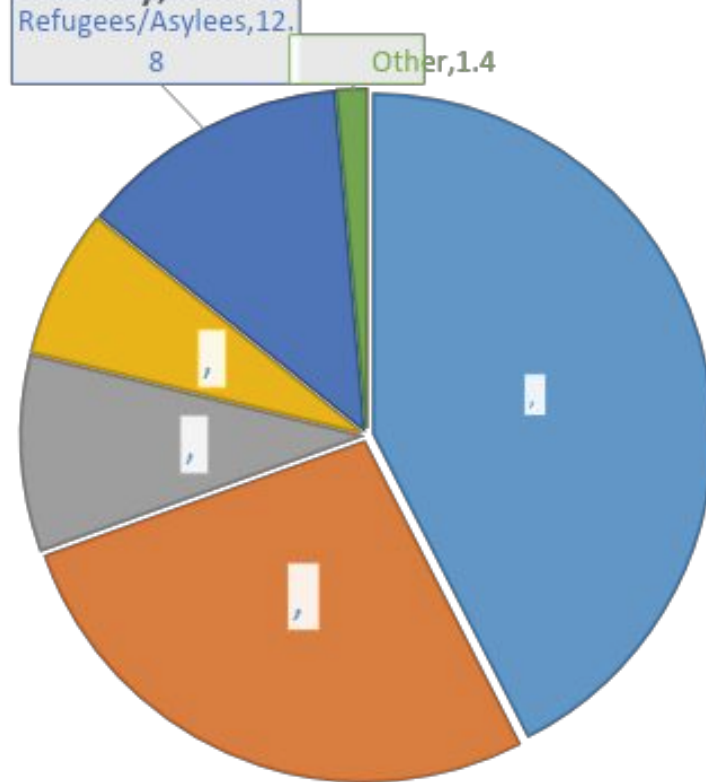
- Close looking
- Historical Context of the 1965 Immigration Act
- Process of immigrating, types of visas
- Demographics of US as a country and NYC as a specific subset
- Oral history read + respond
- Explore NYC by neighborhood/borough
- Introduce exhibit curation activity.
- Have students “explore” their neighborhood, research objects and photos
- Use prompts to have students create exhibition
- Students assemble exhibit
- Students present their exhibit.

# Charts and Demographics

# How Did the 1965 Act Change Immigration?

Immigrants Admitted by class of Admission

New York City, 2002-2011

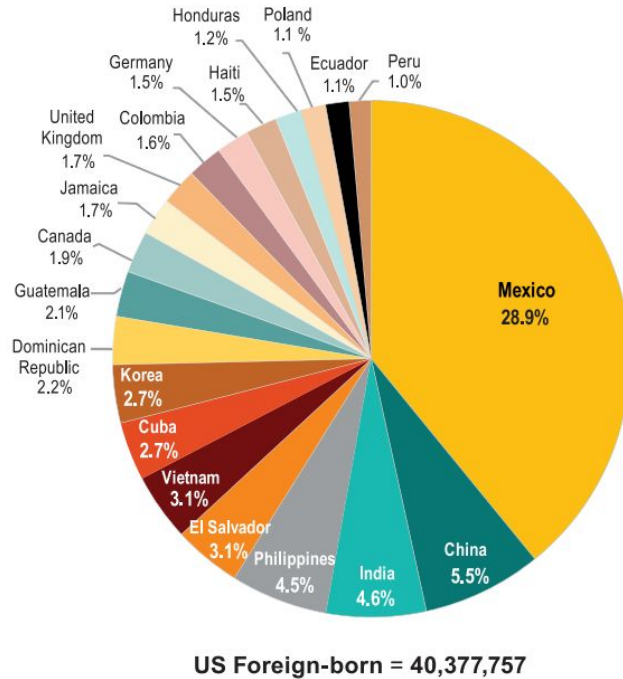


Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Immigration Statistics:

Special Tabulations for New York City, Fiscal Years 2002-2011

Population Division- New York City Department of City Planning

**Figure 2-6**  
**Foreign-born Population by Country of Birth,**  
**United States, 2011**



Sources:

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey-Summary File  
 Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

**Foreign-born Population by Country of Birth**

New York City, 2011

	RANK	NUMBER	PERCENT
<b>TOTAL, Foreign-born</b>	-	3,066,599	100.0
Dominican Republic	1	380,160	12.4
China*	2	350,231	11.4
Mexico	3	186,298	6.1
Jamaica	4	169,235	5.5
Guyana	5	139,947	4.6
Ecuador	6	137,791	4.5
Haiti	7	94,171	3.1
Trinidad & Tobago	8	87,635	2.9
India	9	76,493	2.5
Russia	10	76,264	2.5
Bangladesh	11	74,692	2.4
Korea	12	72,822	2.4
Colombia	13	65,678	2.1
Ukraine	14	59,820	2.0
Poland	15	57,726	1.9
Philippines	16	50,925	1.7
Italy	17	49,075	1.6
Pakistan	18	39,794	1.3
United Kingdom	19	34,134	1.1
El Salvador	20	32,903	1.1

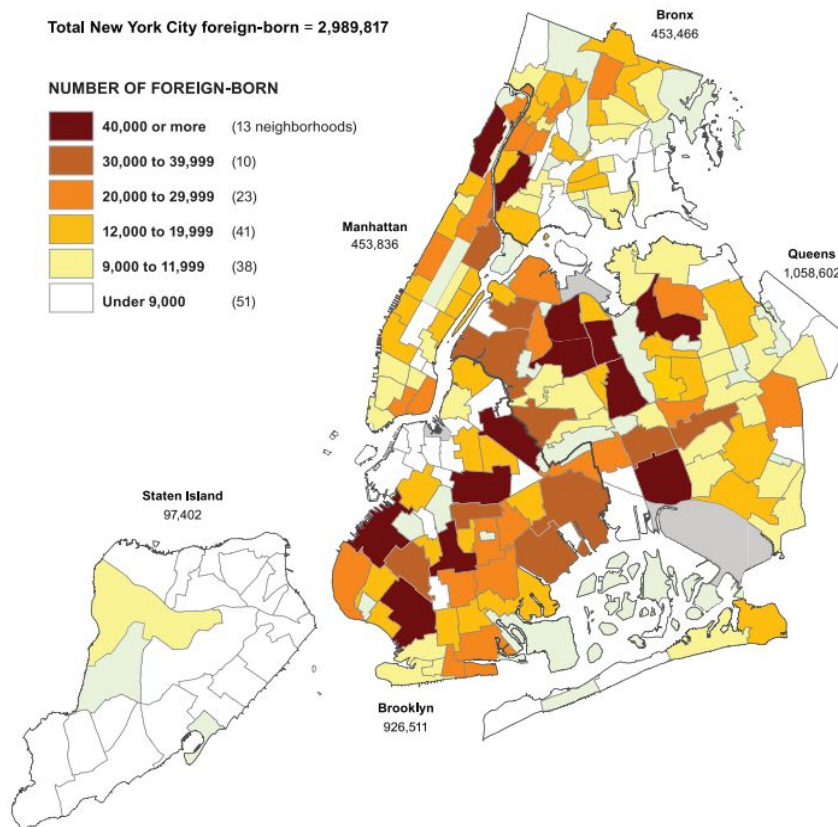
\*Includes the mainland, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census-Summary File 3; 2011 American Community Survey-Summary File Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

**Figure 3-3**  
**Foreign-born by Neighborhood**  
**New York City, 2007–2011**

Total New York City foreign-born = 2,989,817

**NUMBER OF FOREIGN-BORN**



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey-Summary File  
 Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

**Figure 3-2**  
**New York City Neighborhoods**



Source: Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

# Oral Histories

# Oral History Narratives

## XUEMEI ZOU

### First impressions of Chinatown

When I first saw Chinatown, I couldn't believe what I saw there. A crowd of people from different nations moved from one street to another street. There were so many more streets than I had ever seen in China, and they were organized by names or numbers...

The sound of the languages I heard was amazing. I could hear accents from people from my own province; I could also hear other Chinese accents that I had never heard growing up. In the street, Chinese people spoke with several Chinese accents—they spoke one dialect the first minute, then they spoke another dialect the second minute. Among the accents I heard were Fuzhounese, Cantonese and Mandarin. I also heard the languages of people who came from a variety of other countries: Spanish, French, German and some I didn't know. I found that all New York City was immersed in one big language party!

When I think back on my first day in New York City, I remember the street was bustling with life; the air was mixed with sweet bread smells, cold temperature and a sense of common humanity. The taste on my tongue was sweet and joyful; my ears were filled with languages. All those sensations created an awesome greeting for the first day of my American life...

QUESTIONS:

## Erica Ong

### From Cambodia to Vietnam

Many, many years ago during the regime of the Khmer Rouge, my family and I had the most miserable four years of our lives. We suffered from hunger and lack of freedom....

In the summer of 1979, after the Vietnamese soldiers conquered Cambodia, my family eventually left my hometown for Vietnam.

We didn't have passports or papers. My father paid ounces of gold to a Vietnamese person to bring us across the frontier. It would be dangerous if we were caught. He told us to dress like the Vietnamese and not to talk to each other in Chinese on the way. We hid in a cottage during daytime and walked at night. While we started our journey at night, we were told to follow the Vietnamese person's pace. We couldn't go wherever we wanted because the war had just ended, and there were mines everywhere. Many people became handicapped at that time, while crossing the frontier.

We ultimately arrived safely in Vietnam. Thinking back on my experience, I feel lucky.

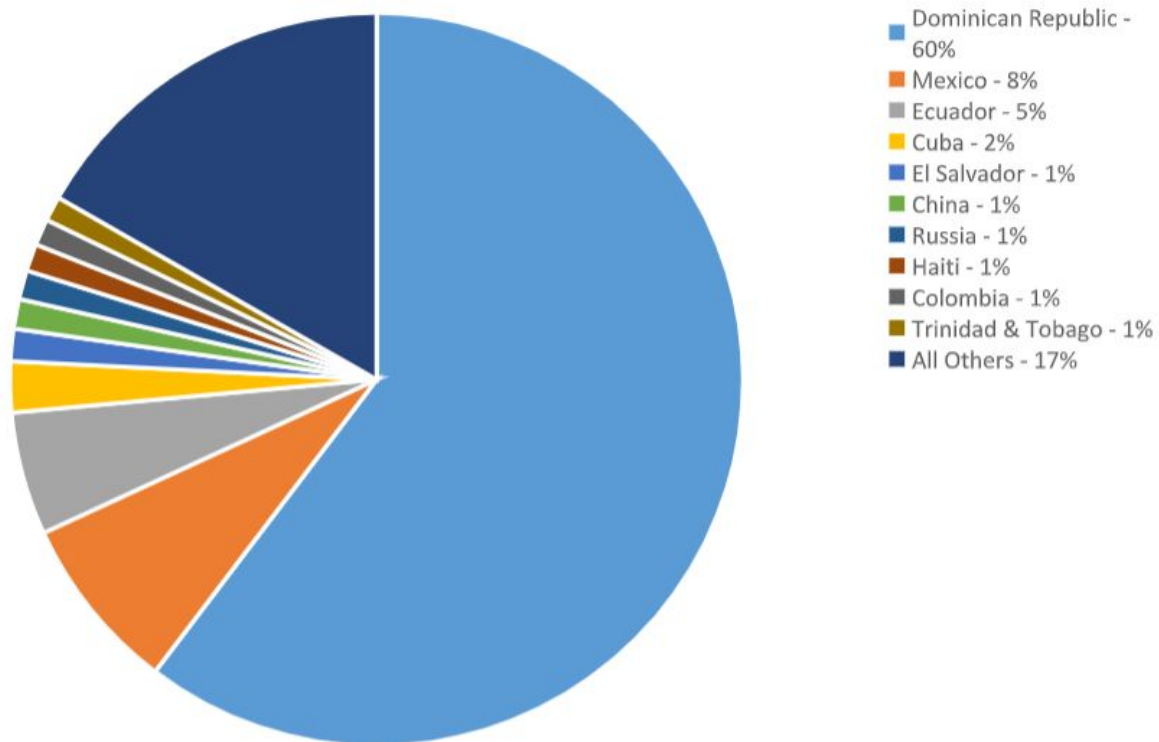
QUESTIONS:

Neighborhoods

# New York City Immigration, Then and Now

Top 5 Sending Countries, 1970	Top 5 Sending Countries, 2011
1. Italy	1. Dominican Republic
2. Poland	2. China
3. USSR (Russia)	3. Mexico
4. Germany	4. Jamaica
5. Ireland	5. Guyana

## Top 10 Immigrant Groups: Washington Heights









**O.L.P.H.**

由初級啟蒙班  
至八年級  
及課後補習班  
現已開始登記

電話:

711-4-8067

**O.L.P.H.**  
Elementary  
School  
**PRE K**   
**8<sup>th</sup> GRADE**  
—AND—  
**AFTER SCHOOL**

**OPEN**  
—FOR—  
**REGISTRATION**  
**NOW**

8-439-8067



# Public History

