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| 1790 | The federal government requires two years of residency for naturalization | All Groups |
| 1819 | Congress establishes reporting on immigration. | All Groups |
| 1845 | Potato crop fails in Ireland sparking the Potato Famine which kills one million and prompts almost 500,000 to immigrate to America over the next five years.  | Irish |
| 1848 | The Mexican-American War ends: U.S. acquires additional territory and people under its jurisdiction.  | Mexican |
| 1849 | The California Gold Rush sparks first mass immigration from China.  | Chinese |
| 1860 | Poland’s religious and economic conditions prompt immigration of approximately two million Poles by 1914. | Polish & Russian |
| 1861 | Abraham Lincoln takes the presidential oath of office. The Southern Confederacy ratifies a new Constitution and elects Jefferson Davis as the first Confederate president. The Civil War begins with Confederate soldiers firing upon Fort Sumter.  | African American |
| 1864 | Congress legalizes the importation of contract laborers.http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/immigration/images/spacer.gif |   |
| 1868  | Japanese laborers arrive in Hawaii to work in sugar cane fields.  | Japanese |
| 1876 | California Senate committee investigates the “social, moral, and political effect of Chinese immigration.”  | Chinese |
| 1877 | United States Congress investigates the criminal influence of Chinese immigrants.  | Chinese |
| 1880 | Italy’s troubled economy, crop failures, and political climate begin the start of mass immigration with nearly four million Italian immigrants arriving in the United States.  | Italian |
| 1881 | The assassination of Czar Alexander II in 1881 prompts civil unrest and economic instability throughout Russia.  | Polish & Russian |
| 1882 | Russia’s May Laws severely restrict the ability of Jewish citizens to live and work in Russia. The country’s instability prompts more than three million Russians to immigrate to the United States over three decades.http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/immigration/images/spacer.gif | Polish & Russian |
|   | The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 suspends immigration of Chinese laborers under penalty of imprisonment and deportation.  | Chinese |
| 1885 | Congress bans the admission of contract laborers. |   |
| 1898 | The Spanish-American War begins with a naval blockade of Cuba and attacks on the island. The four-month conflict ends with Cuba’s independence and the U.S. acquisition of Puerto Rico and Guam.  | Cuban & Puerto Rican |
| 1900 | Congress establishes a civil government in Puerto Rico and the Jones Act grants U.S. citizenship to island inhabitants. U.S. citizens can travel freely between the mainland and the island without a passport.  | Cuban & Puerto Rican |
| 1907 | The United States and Japan form a “Gentleman’s Agreement” in which Japan ends issuance of passports to laborers and the U.S. agrees not to prohibit Japanese immigration.  |   |
| 1911 | The Dillingham Commission identifies Mexican laborers as the best solution to the Southwest labor shortage. Mexicans are exempted from immigrant “head taxes” set in 1903 and 1907.  | Mexican |
| 1913 | California’s Alien Land Law rules that aliens “ineligible to citizenship” were ineligible to own agricultural property.  | Japanese |
| 1922 | The Supreme Court rules in Ozawa v. United States that first-generation Japanese are ineligible for citizenship and cannot apply for naturalization.  | Japanese |
| 1924 | Immigration Act of 1924 establishes fixed quotas of national origin and eliminates Far East immigration.http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/immigration/images/spacer.gif | Japanese |
|   | President Calvin Coolidge signs a bill granting Native Americans full citizenship.  | Native American |
| 1929 | Congress makes annual immigration quotas permanent. |   |
|  1942 | Congress allows for importation of agricultural workers from within North, Central, and South America. The Bracero Program allows Mexican laborers to work in the U.S.  | Mexican |
| 1943 | The Magnuson Act of 1943 repeals the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, establishes quotas for Chinese immigrants, and makes them eligible for U.S. citizenship.  | Chinese |
| 1945 | The War Bride Act and the G.I. Fiancées Act allows immigration of foreign-born wives, fiancé(e)s, husbands, and children of U.S. armed forces personnel.  | Chinese |
| 1948 | The Supreme Court rules that California’s Alien Land Laws prohibiting the ownership of agricultural property violates the Constitution’s 14th Amendment. http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/immigration/images/spacer.gif | Japanese |
|   | The United States admits persons fleeing persecution in their native lands; allowing 205,000 refugees to enter within two years. |   |
| 1952 | The Immigration and Nationality Act allows individuals of all races to be eligible for naturalization. The act also reaffirms national origins quota system, limits immigration from the Eastern Hemisphere while leaving the Western Hemisphere unrestricted, establishes preferences for skilled workers and relatives of U.S. citizens and permanent resident aliens; and tightens security and screening standards and procedures.http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/immigration/images/spacer.gif |   |
| 1953 | Congress amends the 1948 refugee policy to allow for the admission of 200,000 more refugees. |   |
| 1959 | Fidel Castro’s Cuban revolution prompts mass exodus of more than 200,000 people within three years.  | Cuban & Puerto Rican |
| 1961 | The Cuban Refugee Program handles influx of immigrants to Miami with 300,000 immigrants relocated across the U.S. during the next two decades.  | Cuban & Puerto Rican |
| 1965 | The Immigration Act of 1965 abolishes quota system in favor of catergory systems with 20,000 immigrants per country limits. Preference is given to immediate families of immigrants and skilled workers.http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/immigration/images/spacer.gif | Chinese |
|   | “Freedom flight” airlifts begin for Cuban refugees assisting more than 260,000 people over the next eight years.http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/immigration/images/spacer.gif | Cuban & Puerto Rican |
|   | The Bracero Program ends after temporarily employing almost 4.5 million Mexican nationals.  | Mexican |
| 1966 | The Cuban Refugee Act permits more than 400,000 people to enter the United States. | Cuban & Puerto Rican |
| 1980 | The Refugee Act redefines criteria and procedures for admitting refugees.  |   |
| 1986 | The Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) legalizes illegal aliens residing in the U.S. unlawfully since 1982.  |   |
| 1990 | Increased total, overall immigration to allow 700,000 immigrants to come to the U.S. per year for the fiscal years ’92-’94, and 675,000 per year after that. It provided family based immigration visa, created five distinct employment based visas, categorized by occupation, as well as the diversity visa program which created a lottery to admit immigrants from “low admittance” countries or countries where their citizenry was underrepresented in the U.S. | All |
| 2012 | Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that allowed young immigrants, under 30 years old, who arrived as children to apply for a deportation deferral  | All |
|  | Potential- President Obama’s Executive Action made in late 2014:The executive action will have two key components:1. It would offer a legal reprieve to the undocumented parents of U.S. citizens and permanent residents who've resided in the country for at least five years. This would remove the constant threat of deportation. Many could also receive work permits.
2. It would expand the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that allowed young immigrants, under 30 years old, who arrived as children to apply for a deportation deferral and who are now here legally. Immigrants older than 30 now qualify, as do more recent arrivals.

People in both groups will have to reapply every three years. The executive action will also include:* A program to facilitate visas for people who invest in the United States and those who pursue science, technology, engineering and math degrees
* Modifying federal immigrant detention procedures
* Adding resources to strengthen security at the border

The action will not:* Extend protections to hundreds of thousands of parents of young immigrants who participated in the DACA program -- a group totaling 671,000 people.
* Expand visas for migrant farm workers. According to The Times, "farm workers, for example, will not be singled out for protections because of concerns that it was difficult to justify legally treating them differently from undocumented workers in other jobs, like hotel clerks, day laborers and construction workers."
* Expand the existing H-1B visa program for highly skilled foreigners
* Offer access to the [Affordable Care Act](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/11/19/obamas-order-wont-extend-obamacare-to-undocumented-immigrants/) for newly protected immigrants
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Adapted from: http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/immigration/timeline.html