

The Transformation of American Society

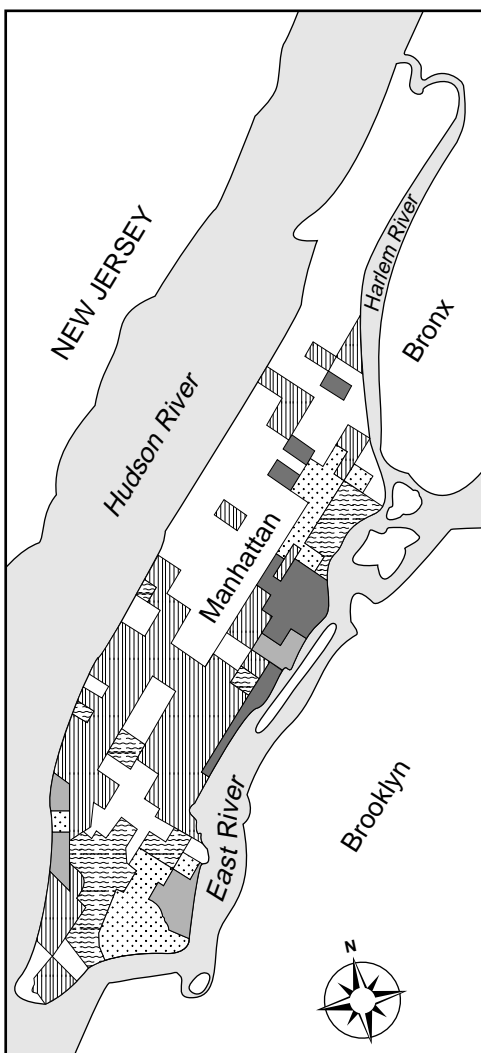
GEOGRAPHY ACTIVITY

Immigrant Groups in New York City

By 1900 some two million Russian, Irish, German, and Italian immigrants lived in New York City. These immigrants often clustered together by nationality, creating a patchwork quilt of ethnic neighborhoods across the city.

The map below shows this pattern in the borough of Manhattan in 1910. Floor plans of a row of typical New York City tenement buildings are also shown. Examine the map and the diagram and answer the questions that follow.

Immigrant Origins of Manhattan Residents, 1910



LEGEND:

Manhattan residents of foreign origin, 1910
(shading indicates at least 20% of population)



Irish



Russian



Italian

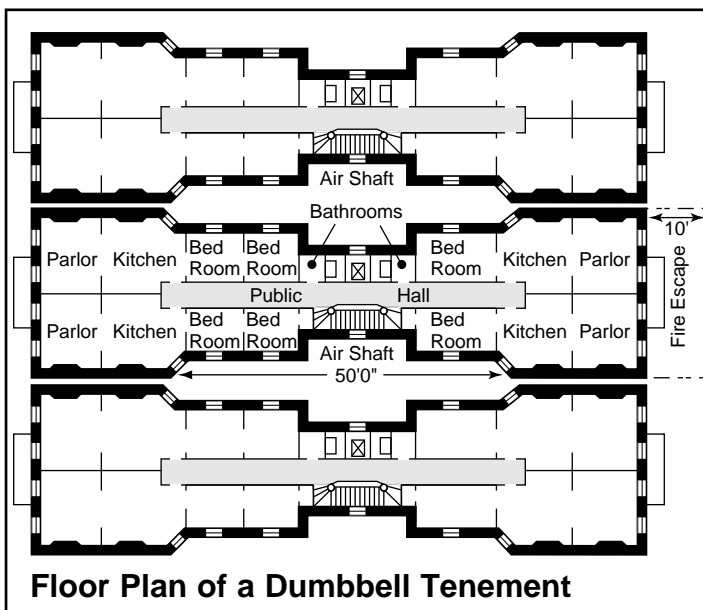


German



Austrian

Scale: 1 inch = 2.6 miles



Floor Plan of a Dumbbell Tenement

Adapted from "Floor Plan of a Dumbbell Tenement" from *America's History* by James A. Henretta et al. Copyright © 1987 by The Dorsey Press. Reprinted by permission of James A. Henretta.

1. What boroughs of New York City are labeled on the map? What state is labeled?

2. How long and wide is Manhattan? What national groups are shown there in 1910? What was the predominant immigrant group in Manhattan?

3. Where were Manhattan's nonimmigrant neighborhoods concentrated?

4. The tenement floor plan shows a single floor of three side-by-side buildings. What lay between each building? What emergency exits existed?

5. How many bathrooms were on each floor? Did each apartment have a bathroom? How can you determine the number of apartments?

6. **Critical Thinking: The World in Spatial Terms** Each floor of a “dumbbell” tenement, the kind shown in the diagram, was just 25 feet wide by 100 feet long. If four families lived on each floor, approximately how much space did each family have? What would be the drawbacks of living in such a place? What advantages might the community offer?

ACTIVITY



Review the chapter, and make a list of the immigrant groups that came to the United States between 1865 and 1910. Select one group, and do research to learn where these immigrants located. Then make a map of the United States with those areas shaded. In a paragraph, explore at least two reasons that may explain why the group chose this particular area.

church, market house, playground, and an athletic course

4. the Illinois Central; by boat, using the docks
5. It was very disruptive because Chicago was the major rail hub in the Midwest, connecting cities, industries, and agricultural areas in the East and West. Shutting down the rail lines had a disastrous effect on commerce and communication.
6. **Critical Thinking: Human Systems** Pullman and other factory owners built company towns because they considered them an efficient use of resources, consolidating factory operations and workers in one easily controlled space to make production more efficient. He also assumed that supplying workers' basic needs and keeping them dependent on the company would ensure stability in his operation. An examination of the map suggests a number of indications of planned order and control. The single church may represent a lack of choice in terms of religion, just as the existence of only one theater may indicate limited choices of entertainment. In addition, workers lived in company housing instead of choosing their own accommodations. Workers may have found this arrangement to be restrictive because of the lack of choices available in terms of living arrangements, religious expression, and entertainment facilities.

ACTIVITY

Answers will vary depending on the choices made by students. Students may concentrate on the positives (many people with common interests and lifestyles living closely together) or negatives (the conditions of housing, education, and labor).

CHAPTER 16

GEOGRAPHY WORKSHEET 16

1. Manhattan, Bronx, Brooklyn; New Jersey
2. approximately 13.5 mi. long and 2 mi. wide; Irish, Italian, Austrian, Russian, German; Irish

3. the northwest
4. an air shaft; a fire escape on each floor
5. two; no; there are four kitchens and parlors on each floor, as well as four doors that open to the public hall, indicating that there were probably four apartments
6. **Critical Thinking: The World in Spatial Terms** Each family would have around 625 sq. ft. of living space. The tenement apartments would have been very crowded for families, and two families would have had to share a bathroom. Tenement life may have fostered a sense of community because immigrants lived in close contact with others who shared their nationalities, cultures, and languages.

ACTIVITY

Answers will vary depending on the immigrant group that the student chooses.

CHAPTER 17

GEOGRAPHY WORKSHEET 17

1. Massachusetts and Rhode Island
2. Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York
3. Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Arkansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina; 0–19%
4. Its level of urbanization was 20–39% in 1870. It was 60–79% in 1920.
5. There was an increase in urbanization between those years.
6. **Critical Thinking: Human Systems** No, not all urban areas consist only of populated areas. Students should recognize that the level of urbanization depends on the definition of *urban*. Here it is determined by the source of the map, which in this case is the Census Bureau. The definition can cover a wide possible range of people per square mile. Students should also reason that the Census Bureau's definition of "urban" in 1920 might be different than the definition today. For instance, communities today called *suburban* would have been considered urban areas in 1920.