

1.1: Immigration Letters

Name: _____

Document #1: Barriers Facing Immigrants to Canada

George Lee - Pinetree Secondary

Every year, many people immigrate to Canada for better living conditions. Canada has fresh air, nice weather, easy access to jobs and many kinds of people can live here. However, it is really hard for us (not white people) to get permission to live here. I know that America is the hardest country to immigrate, but Canada is almost same. There are many strict rules and limitations to moving here.

One of the barriers to immigrate to Canada is “racism.” In 1900's, many people wanted to immigrate, but Canadian government limited them, so just men could come here to work for Canada. Nevertheless, they received white people whose skin colour is same as them. Most of the immigrants were Chinese, Sikhs or other people who did not have white skin.

The other barrier is language. In my home country, Korea, we spoke "Korean." However, Canada uses English for their native language. I learned Korean in school in Korea, but it was very simple English. It was really difficult for me to learn at school.

In my opinion, Canada is one of the best countries on the earth. Canada has many resources, a nice environment, and it is multicultural country. One is lucky to live this country, but I wish to remove the “racism.” For the language part, we have to learn to live foreign country. Also it could be a benefit that I can speak two different languages.

Document #2: The Ethnic Groups in Canada

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Ever since the Canadian Government accepted immigrants to come and live in Canada, many small ethnic groups have formed from that time. Due to a continually increasing immigration rate, the size of these ethnic groups continues to grow exponentially. What did these people do? Did they retain their traditions from their respective countries? Did they try to fit better into the Canadian society? These questions are pretty interesting and allow us to research and find out the answers.

Most ethnic groups have insisted on keeping their own traditions. Chinese immigrants, for example, never gave up their traditions, religions and cultures. We can, without doubt, see how Chinese immigrants have tried to maintain them. First of all, they have built many temples on Canadian land to allow the Chinese to keep their original religion and faiths. Secondly, cultural activities and the traditional holidays are maintained every year. These activities are important and meaningful to the Chinese because they can show their children what their own traditions and cultures are.

Thirdly, the Chinese also have maintained the same kind of food. As a result, some immigrants began to operate Chinese restaurants. Fourthly, the Chinese clothing was also kept. Lots of immigrants still wear clothes of Chinese style. These points explain how difficult it is for people to give up their traditions easily, and become assimilated into an entirely different society.

However, some immigrants actually accepted some cultural aspects of Canada. Some people began to learn English, because language is the most useful tool of communication. Others changed their lifestyles in Canada. Some people began to eat Canadian food, watch Canadian news and associate with Canadian friends. Moreover, some immigrants began to express their own opinions; some people started to work in government institutions and became members of legislative bodies to help immigrants express their aspirations and needs.

These immigrants' actions certainly are justifiable. It is evident that they are trying to live more easily in Canada. As for keeping one's traditions, the immigrants simply did not want to lose their identities. Perhaps they had also intended to promote and contribute to the *Canadian Mosaic*. Nevertheless, excessively maintaining the traditions would probably make Canadians feel uncomfortable and resentful because if the immigrants suddenly brought too many strange things into Canada, they would not be able to get along with them.

Hopefully in the future, ethnic groups can live in a harmonious society void of racism and other prejudices. Every immigrant should be entitled to air his or her grievances. Also, that every person in Canada would be totally willing to embrace the new immigrants.

Read the documents above and answer the following questions:

1. What are the **TWO** “Barriers Facing Immigrants to Canada?” Explain why they are barriers?

(4 Marks)

1.
2.

2. According to the first document, why is Canada the “best country in the world?”

(3 Marks)

1.
2.
3.

3. Define the terms “**PUSH** and **PULL**” factors.

(2 Marks)

4. From the first document, give **THREE** examples of a pull factor.

(3 Marks)

5. Was Canada at the turn of the century, a good inviting place for all immigrants? Explain. (**Hint:** *the answer to this question is in your textbook*) (5 Marks)

6. The second document explains how an ethnic group became a part of the “Canadian Mosaic.”

- (a) Define Canadian Mosaic: (4 Marks)

- (b) Explains the ways that this group of immigrants have retained their traditions from their respective countries. (6 Marks)
