Immigration & Migration in the 19th Century - AHS Ms. Warnken
The Chinese Experience in America-beginning in 1848

http://www.english.uiuc.edu/maps/poets/a_f/angel/gallery.htm
On route to America.

Photo source: National Archives
Where will the Asian immigrants go when they get to the United States?

• Angel Island Immigration Station c. 1915

(Panoramic photo of the including the dock, the arrival point for detainees brought from San Francisco.)

Photo source: Library of Congress.
Angel Island

Where is it?
What happened there?
What memory is there of it?

http://www.angelisland.org/immigr02.html
Location-San Francisco Bay, CA

• What purpose did it serve?

   Point of entry for the majority of the approximately 175,000 Chinese immigrants between 1910 and 1940
What factors influenced the Chinese to leave China in the 19th Century?

• These reasons can be described as “push factors”
  – Declining influence of the Manchu/Qing Dynasty
  – Unprecedented natural disasters
  – Wars and rebellions against the throne
What attracts the Chinese to come to American in the 19th Century?

• We call these “pull factors”

1. 1848 ➔ GOLD MOUNTAIN!
   – Idea of the gold rush taking place in California brings idea of prosperity and imagination alive
2. 1864→ Central Pacific Railroad Co. Needed thousands of men for work on the western portion of the first transcontinental railroad.

*the vast majority from Kwangtung Province in southeastern China are recruited.
Illustrations from "Across the continent, the Frank Leslie transcontinental excursion, the excursion train rounding Cape Horn at the head of the great American canyon, with a view of the South Fork of the American River, where gold was first discovered in 1848." Printed April 27, 1878

Image Source: http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/asian_voices/railroad.cfm
Hawaii!

-Sugar cane plantations needed contract laborers
What is life like at Angel Island?

Three Chinese women in traditional clothing at Angel Island

Photo Source: California State Parks, State Museum Resource Center
What happened there?

• Comparable to Ellis Island in NY
• Used as an immigration detention headquarters for Chinese awaiting the outcomes of medical examinations and immigration papers, and as a holding ground for deportees awaiting transportation back to the motherland
• Closed in 1940
How does the US react to Chinese Immigration in the US?

What advice can the Native American give to the new immigrant?

Source: img0051 Cartoon. "'Every Dog' (No distinction of Color) 'Has His Day'." (February 8, 1879). Thomas Nast. (Bedraggled Native American to Chinese immigrant)
http://www.csub.edu/~gsantos/img0051.html
Examples of Legislation Passed in CA

- **Foreigner Miner's Tax** (1850)
  $20/month for non-native miners; exclusively Chinese in 1884

- **Capitation Tax** (1855)
  $50/per person a board any vessel not eligible for citizenship. *(ruled unconstitutional by State Supreme Court in 1857)*

- **Chinese Fisherman's Tax** (1860)
  $4.00/month fee for Chinese fishermen. *(repealed in 1864)*

- **Police Tax Law** (1862)
  $2.50/month fee for Mongolians. *(ruled unconstitutional by State Supreme Court, 1863)*

- **Cubic Air Ordinance** (1870)
  Prohibited rental of rooms with less than 500 cubic feet of air per person. *(voided by the County Court, 1873)*

- **Sidewalk Ordinance** (1870)
  Prohibited carrying loads on poles on sidewalks.

- **Queue Ordinance** (1873)
  Required every Chinese prisoner to cut hair to 1 inch. *(vetoed by mayor)*

- **Laundry Ordinance** (1873)
  Required laundries employing horse-drawn vehicles to pay $1 tax per quarter; those with no vehicles paid $15. *(vetoed by mayor)*

- **State Statute** (1880)
  Prohibited Chinese from taking fish out of California waters for sale. *(later ruled unconstitutional)*

What does this legislation have in common?
Is this what immigrants expect from their new homeland?
Laws passed by the US

• **The Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)**

  Suspended immigration of Chinese laborers. "Laborer" included skilled workers such as doctors, journalists and clergymen, as well as unskilled workers. Five classes were exempt: teachers, students, merchants, tourists and officials.
The Actual Document!
-Chinese Exclusion Act

http://www.usnews.com/usnews/documents/docpages/document_page47.htm
Food For Thought

"What This Country Needs Is a Good Mental Insecticide"
PM (June 11, 1942)
Dr. Seuss’s portrayal of the Japanese and Japanese Americans was not unlike other racist portrayals in the media during the Pacific War. This cartoon was drawn just days before the Roosevelt administration decided to put all Japanese Americans living on the West Coast into internment camps. This offensive cartoon pointed to the Japanese Americans as saboteurs for which there was no proof. Neither PM nor Seuss ever spoke out against the American concentration camps and there were no letters to the editor protesting this cartoon.