WAGNER CHRONOLOGY

June 8, 1877: Senator Robert F. Wagner born in Nastatten, Germany.

December 24, 1886: Reinhardt Wagner landed in Castle Garden immigrant station in lower Manhattan with three of his seven children.

August 11, 1908: Robert F. Wagner married Margaret McTeague in Brooklyn.

November 3, 1908: Robert F. Wagner elected to the New York State Senate.

April 20, 1910: Mayor Robert F. Wagner born on East 87th Street, New York City.

November 5, 1918: Future Senator Robert F. Wagner elected to the New York State Supreme Court.

July 28, 1919: Margaret McTeague Wagner died in Woodmere, Long Island of injuries suffered in an automobile accident.

November 2, 1926: Senator Robert F. Wagner elected to U.S. Senate for the first of four terms.

July 5, 1935: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Wagner Labor Relations Act, guaranteeing workers the right to organize and bargain collectively.

August 14, 1935: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act, providing for old-age pensions and unemployment insurance.

September 1, 1937: The National Housing Act of 1937 (also known as the Wagner-Steagall Act) inaugurated the Federal public housing program.


January 6, 1944: Their son, Robert F. Wagner, Jr., born.

November 30, 1946: Duncan E. Wagner born.

June 28, 1949: Senator Robert F. Wagner resigned from the U.S. Senate due to ill health.


November 3, 1953: Robert F. Wagner elected mayor of New York City for the first of three terms.

March 31, 1958: Mayor Wagner issued his Executive Order 49, legitimatizing collective bargaining for city employees.


November 6, 1973: Robert F. Wagner, Jr. elected to the New York City Council.


July 1, 1986: Robert F. Wagner, Jr. elected President of the New York City Board of Education.


Cover

Top: U.S. Senator Robert F. Wagner, center, in white pants, meeting a Lower East Side citizens' committee that supported the passage of his Wagner-Steagall housing bill, 1937.

Bottom: The U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding the constitutionality of the National Labor Relations Act, April 12, 1937.
Traveling Through Time

You are a historian. You will travel through time, into America's past. You will discover how millions of people, called immigrants, left their homelands, journeyed to the United States, and made our country a richer and more interesting place.

Your trip will have three parts. You will first look at the general history of immigration from 1820 to the present. You will learn the number of immigrants who came to the United States in different years and what parts of the world were their original homes.

Then you will examine one particular immigrant family, the Wagners. The Wagners arrived in New York City from their native Germany on Christmas Eve, 1886. They settled in Yorkville, a German neighborhood on Manhattan’s Upper East Side.

The Wagners were poor. The father, Reinhardt, and the mother, Magdalene, could not endure their poverty, and so they returned permanently to Germany in 1896. But Magdalene and Reinhardt’s original belief in the promise of America lived on with their children, who stayed in New York City. Their youngest child, Robert F. Wagner, grew up to be a famous U.S. Senator. In the 1930’s, Senator Wagner wrote laws for President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal that made life better for all Americans, the poor as well as the rich.

On the last part of your journey, you will explore your own family’s history. You will examine where your family members are from, when they were born, and what they did for a living.

This is going to be an unusual trip. You will not be taking a subway, a bus, a car, or a plane. You will not even leave your classroom. Instead, this will be a trip through your mind and your imagination. To get there, you will be using old documents like maps, passenger lists, and census records that tell us about history.
Line Graph

Here is a line graph about immigration. It shows how many people came to our country in different years. Below the line graph is a time line with major events that had an impact on immigration.

This graph is incomplete. The line stops at 1910. Can you finish it? Use the information below. To finish the graph, you need to know the number of people arriving after 1910.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>430,000 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>240,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>71,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>249,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>265,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>373,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>531,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>602,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hints to finish the graph: 1920 looks a lot like 1900.
The number for 1940 is very small.
1970 looks like 1870.
1. 460,000 people landed in America in 1880. In what years did about the same number of immigrants come here? ____________________________

2. The Wagners came to the United States in 1886. How many immigrants arrived around that time? ____________________________

3. Name the two years with the highest number of immigrants. ____________________________

4. Why do you think immigration dropped in 1940? Look at the time line. ____________________________

5. Do you expect the graph to go up or down in 1990? Why? ____________________________
Pie Graphs

Immigrants come from different countries and different parts of the world. These pie graphs tell what parts of the world the immigrants came from in different years. These pie graphs divide the countries of the world into four big regions. The regions are: (1) Northwestern Europe (2) Southern and Eastern Europe (3) Asia and (4) Latin America.

This exercise begins with the conditions in 1840. As you can see on the line graph on pages 2 and 3, the era of great immigration starts at that time. You should know, though, that many people were already in America by then — Indians, who had traveled from Asia thousands of years earlier; English Puritans, who had settled in New England during the seventeenth century; and African-Americans, who were brought over as slaves.

1. Which region did most of the immigrants come from in 1840? ________________

2. Compare 1840 and 1910. Did a greater percentage of immigrants come from Northwestern Europe in 1840 than in 1910? ________________

3. In 1910, what percentage of immigrants came from Southern and Eastern Europe? ________________

4. Are your family immigrants? ________________

5. Do you know when your family arrived in the United States? What year? ________________

6. What country did your family come from? ________________

7. In what region does your family's country belong? ________________

8. Is there a pie graph that reflects your family's experience? ________________

9. If yes, what percentage of immigrants came from your family's region in that pie graph? ________________

10. What are the most important changes between 1910 and 1987? ________________
IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES

1840
- Northwestern Europe: 95%
- Asia: 0.5%
- Latin America: 2%
- Other: 2%
- Southern and Eastern Europe: 0.5%

1910
- Northwestern Europe: 19%
- Asia: 2%
- Latin America: 3%
- Other: 6%

1987
- Latin America: 41%
- Other: 6%
- Southern and Eastern Europe: 5%
- Northwestern Europe: 5%
- Asia: 43%
II. THE WAGNER FAMILY

Learning About Maps

Reinhardt Wagner was born in the German village of Nastatten. He and his wife, Magdalene, had seven children. Reinhardt Wagner earned his living dyeing and printing woolens for local farmers. Although the family was not poor, the future did not look bright for Wagner as machines were replacing craftsmen like Reinhardt. The couple hoped to find a better life in America.

To get there, the Wagners first traveled from their village to Antwerp in Belgium. In Antwerp, they boarded a ship called the Noordland. The journey across the Atlantic Ocean took about twelve days. On December 24, 1886, the Wagners landed at the Castle Garden immigration station in lower Manhattan.

1. The Wagner family went from Germany to the United States. What direction did they travel?

2. How many miles is it from Antwerp to New York City?

3. If you went from Antwerp to New York City, would you have to go through Bermuda?

4. How many miles did the Noordland travel in one day?

5. If the Wagners' ship had not sailed to New York City, what other American cities could it have landed in?
6. Is Germany north or south of Italy?

7. What cities are on latitude 39 degrees?

8. What is the longitude and latitude of Antwerp?

9. What countries border France?

10. Do you see anything on the map that could not have been there in 1886?
Going To America

Here is a page from a document called a ship’s manifest. Another name for a manifest is a list. This document is more than 100 years old. This ship’s manifest lists some of the immigrants who crossed the Atlantic Ocean with the Wagner family on the Noordland in December 1886. Note that the Wagner name is spelled Wagener on the list.

1. Name two countries the immigrants are from.

2. Name the country where the Wagners come from. Can you locate it on the map? Circle it.

3. Find the Wagners on the list. Which family members are missing?

4. Can you find someone travelling without a family? How do you know?

5. List all the nine and ten year olds.

6. How old is John Schafer?

7. Are there more men or more women on this ship?

8. This manifest lists something known as a “calling.” A calling is like a job. List three callings.

9. What callings did women have?

10. Are there any callings you don’t understand? List them.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Calling</th>
<th>The country of which they are citizens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Adolph Schillius</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Emil Keller</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sophie Gans</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Clerk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ben Smythinski</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Gottf. Stein</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Vic Calkensen</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Carpenter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Anna Lehrmann</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>wife</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ursula Hipp</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Maria Revch</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Levon Christian</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Sailor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>George Heck</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Rheinh Wagner</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Sailor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Helene Hone</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Clara Robert</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Servant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Robert Reiner</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Wilhelm Hahn</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Baker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>John Schaffer</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Trueman Walter</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Christ Stuffer-Catt</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Thea Michaeli</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Ger. Grinswald</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Anna</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Wagner family was poor. All seven Wagner children had to work to help support the family. Only the youngest child, Robert, finished high school. Robert was very smart and graduated first in his high school class. His older brother, Gus, saved enough money from his job as a cook to pay for Robert to go to City College and New York Law School.

After law school, Robert F. Wagner entered politics. He was a Democrat. In 1904, he was elected to the New York State Assembly from his Yorkville neighborhood. In the Assembly, Robert F. Wagner fought to raise poor workers' wages and to make their jobs safer and healthier.

In 1908, Robert F. Wagner married Margaret Marie McTeague, a young Irish woman from Jersey City, N.J. That same year, he decided to run for the New York State Senate.

Here is part of the 1910 census. It tells you about Robert and Margaret Wagner.

You are managing Robert F. Wagner's 1908 campaign for the New York State Senate. Can you draw a campaign poster for him? Use the information from the description and from the census.
ELECT ROBERT F. WAGNER
Championing the New Deal

In September 1926, Robert F. Wagner won election to the U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C.

Senator Wagner made a great contribution to our country in the 1930's. At the time, the United States was suffering from the Great Depression. The country had experienced a major economic disaster, and many people were poor. Bread lines, bank closings, and shanty towns had turned the United States into a picture of misery and poverty.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt launched a program to lift the nation out of the depression and to improve people's lives. His program was called the New Deal.

Senator Wagner helped make the New Deal a success. Wagner wrote the National Labor Relations Act of 1935, which helped workers form labor unions. He wrote the Social Security Act of 1935, which gave pensions to old people. He also wrote the Public Housing Act of 1937, which built public housing projects like the Queensbridge Houses.

Robert F. Wagner was a great American. He fought to promote social equality and to guarantee that all citizens enjoyed "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

What did Robert F. Wagner accomplish? Read the description again, and then tell us in your own words by writing here.
III. YOUR FAMILY

Learning about Your Family History

Do you realize that your family has a history, too? It does.

Take this pamphlet home and ask an adult to help you answer the questions. The answers will tell you about your family history. Note that *maternal* refers to your mother’s family and that *paternal* refers to your father’s family.

**YOUR FAMILY**

1. What is your name?

2. Where were you born? [_________] What year were you born? [_________]

3. What are your parents’ names?
   - Father’s name [_________]
   - Mother’s name [_________]

4. Where were your parents born? What years?
   - Father’s birthplace [_________]
     - Town [_________]
     - Country [_________]
     - Year [_________]
   - Mother’s birthplace [_________]
     - Town [_________]
     - Country [_________]
     - Year [_________]

5. What kinds of work do your parents do?
   - Father [_________]
   - Mother [_________]

6. Do you have any brothers and sisters? How many? [_________]

*Margaret McT. Wagner and her son Robert F. Wagner, Jr., 1913.*
### YOUR FATHER'S FAMILY

7. What are the names of your father’s parents?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paternal Grandfather</th>
<th>Paternal Grandmother</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

8. Where were your father’s parents born? What year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paternal Grandfather’s birthplace</th>
<th>Paternal Grandmother’s birthplace</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Town</strong></td>
<td><strong>Country</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. What kinds of work did your father’s parents do?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paternal Grandfather</th>
<th>Paternal Grandmother</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### YOUR MOTHER'S FAMILY

10. What are the names of your mother’s parents?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maternal Grandfather</th>
<th>Maternal Grandmother</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

11. Where were your mother’s parents born? What year?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maternal Grandfather’s birthplace</th>
<th>Maternal Grandmother’s birthplace</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Town</strong></td>
<td><strong>Country</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. What kinds of work did your mother’s parents do?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maternal Grandfather</th>
<th>Maternal Grandmother</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Today's immigrants come from a variety of nations. Here is a chart showing the number of immigrants from different countries who planned to settle in New York City, from 1980 to 1986:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of Immigrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>92,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>66,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>42,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>38,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>33,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>21,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>20,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>17,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>11,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>9,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>8,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSR</td>
<td>7,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>7,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>7,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>6,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>5,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>5,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Draw a pie graph. Group the countries into the same regions as those on page 5. Figure out the percentage of each region, and put them on the graph.
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