

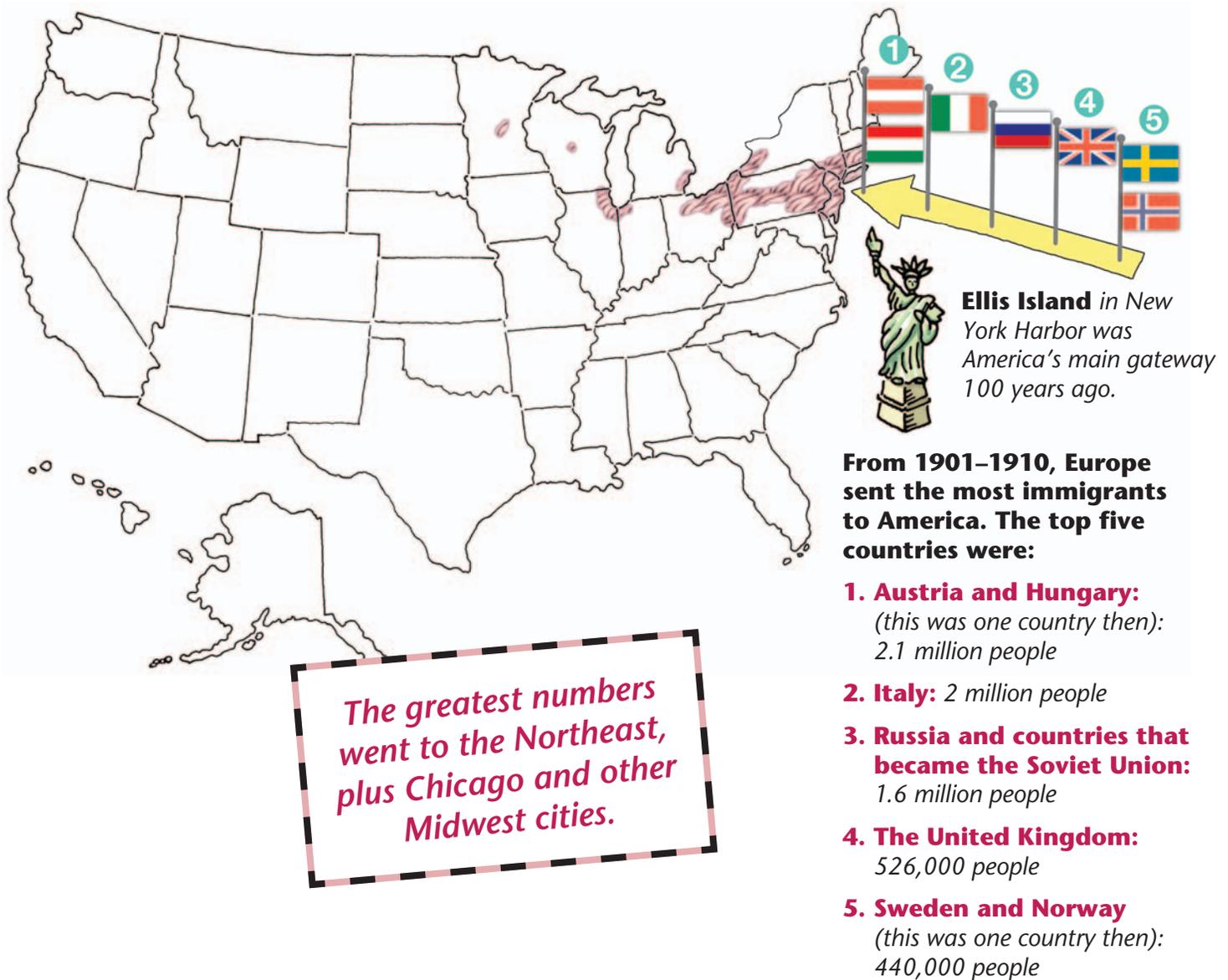
WHERE IN THE WORLD DID WE COME FROM?

Go way back in time, and all American families came from somewhere else. Some of the first Americans crossed an ancient land bridge that once linked Russia to Alaska. Others might have sailed across the Atlantic or Pacific oceans thousands of years ago. Other Native American people spread across the continent, living in tribes all over North America.

Europeans arrived and started colonies in the 1500s and 1600s. Settlers came to live here. After the United States became a nation, even more people came. Huge waves of people arrived in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Today, immigration continues.

See how today's newcomers compare with people who came a century ago.

U.S. Immigration: 1901–1910



U.S. Immigration: 2000

By the year 2000, immigrants came from around the world. They settled in cities across the United States. These are the top five countries from which new immigrants arrived in 2000:

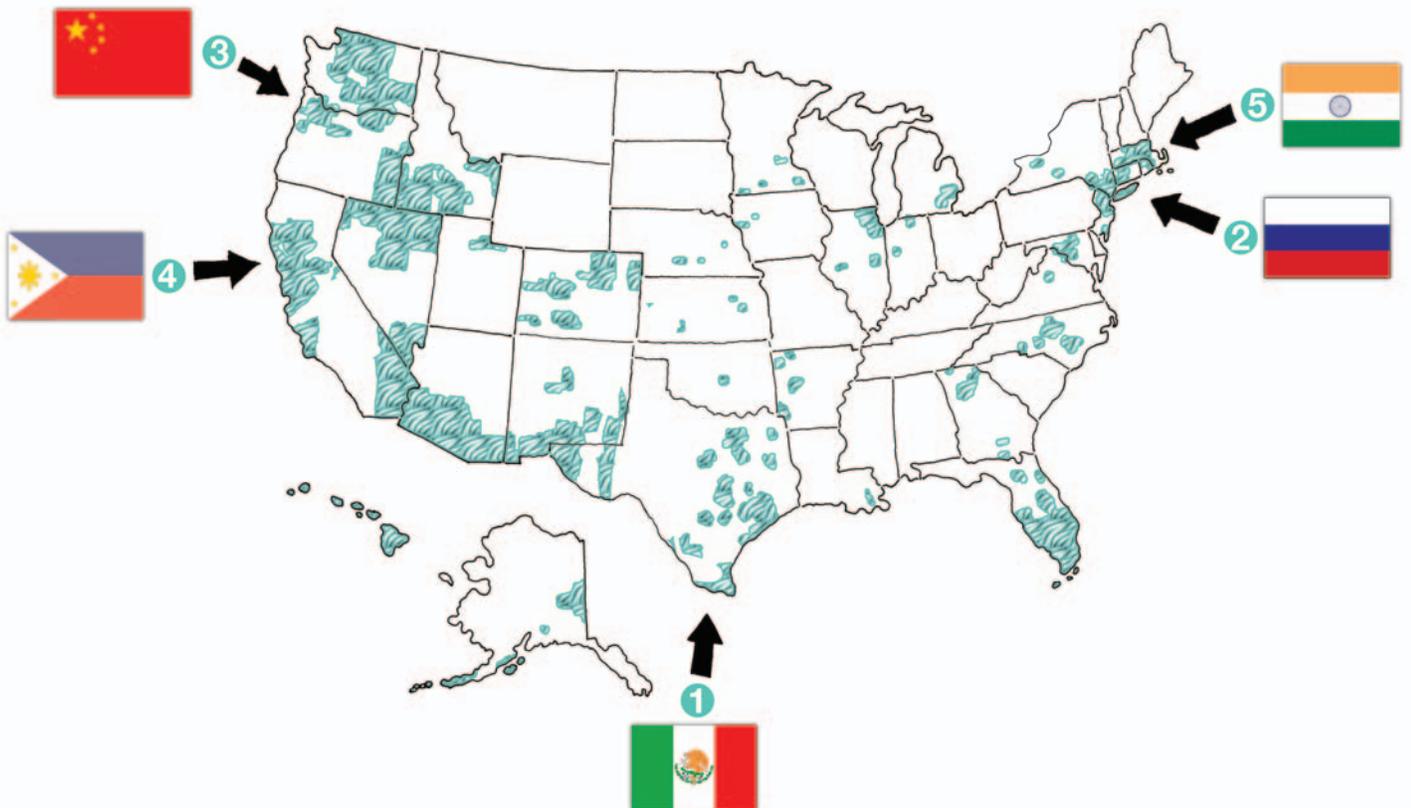
- 1 Mexico:** 172,000 people
California, Texas, Illinois, and Arizona have the most Mexican immigrants.
- 2 Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union:** 44,000 people
New York, California, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Illinois are top choices for new homes.
- 3 China:** 42,000 people
California, New York, and Washington state have large Chinese American communities.
- 4 Philippines:** 41,000 people
California, Hawaii, New York, and Illinois are top destinations for new Filipino immigrants.
- 5 India:** 39,000 people
California, New Jersey, New York, Illinois, and Texas have the most recent immigrants from India.

All numbers come from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

It's easy to confuse immigrant/immigrate with emigrant/emigrate. Here's a neat trick to help you remember which is which:

The i's: To **immigrate** is to move **into** a new country. A person **immigrates** to somewhere else. "Antonia immigrated to the United States last year."

The e's: To **emigrate** is to move **out of, or exit**, one's home country to go to another. A person **emigrates** from somewhere else. "Antonia emigrated from Italy."



Adapted from an article by Kathiann M. Kowalski
Illustrated by Heidi Graf