Free at Last? Civil Rights in the USA, 1918–1968
The Ku Klux Klan

Read pages 34 – 37 of textbook
Do activities 1 and 2
Complete the National 4 question on page 40
Complete the National 5 question on page 40
Between 1830 and 1930 many people from Europe went to the USA. They were attracted by the American __________ or by the Magnet of __________. They thought that if they worked hard they would become __________. They knew that if they stayed in their own country they would remain __________.
‘Helpful’ WASP politicians

Local politicians would help immigrants get jobs or help to get their landlords to repair broken cookers or baths.

In bad times, local politicians would help get coal and food and they always knew when a baby was coming and would get a doctor.

Never before had immigrants experienced the power of having a vote.

Immigrant families learned fast and many continued to support certain politicians, mainly because these politicians kept in touch with what the new Americans wanted.
US president John F Kennedy is an example of an immigrant who became politically powerful.

He was a descendant of Irish Catholics who had emigrated to the USA in the 19th century.

In New York city, an organisation called Tammany Hall influenced local politics. It attracted a lot of support from immigrant Irish people by helping immigrants to find jobs and become US citizens, and by assisting the poor.

Real power, however, was still in the hands of politicians, bankers and business men (who were mainly WASPs) and they tried very hard to keep it that way.
By the end of the 19th century, hundreds of thousands of ‘new’ immigrants were coming to the USA from poorer regions of Europe like Italy, Poland and Russia.

Average age of these immigrants was 24 (1910).
Italy was an overcrowded country with low wages and high tax. Many immigrants from Italy wanted to return to Italy after they had made their fortune.

Watch the clip and take a not of as many PUSH factors as you can – reasons why Italians wanted to leave their country.
Polish immigrants were initially intellectuals and poorer nobles who were go to America for political reasons.

Later on Polish people immigrated as a result of growing anti-Semitism within the country.

Watch the clip and take a note of as many PULL factors as you can – reasons why Polish people wanted to live in America.
Most of the Russian immigrants to America moved as a result of political reasons.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y83XW2x9lxo
Pull reasons included;
- Hope for a fresh start
- good wages
- More/better jobs
- Cheap land was a huge attraction for poor farm labourers who dreamed of owning their own farms.
Push factors. Many immigrants were;
- Jews who were persecuted and killed in Russia or Poland
- Germans who were forced into the army to fight against their wishes
- Peasants and poor people from across Europe who were forced to pay high taxes or were punished
- People who were arrested and tortured in prison just because they had different political or religious ideas.
Should black Americans be counted as immigrants?

No and yes. Most are descendants of Africans who were captured and enslaved over the past 400 years. However, most had been born in the USA, yet for them, America around 1918 was not a free and equal land of opportunity.

In the Southern states of the USA, black people were discriminated against by ‘Jim Crow’ laws and terrorised by the Ku Klux Klan. In the north, they suffered prejudice and discrimination.
Were ‘Red Indians’ counted as Americans?

By the middle of the 19th century many Native American tribes known as nations had been wiped out.

The US government forced Native Americans to live on small sections of poor quality land called reservations, where they were barred from hunting and relied on government rations to survive.

In 1868, the US government had declared that all people who were born in the USA or had become American were citizens of the USA.

However, the government ruled that Native Americans were not citizens and could not vote. It was not until 1924 that it was declared that all Native Americans born in the USA were citizens.
Assimilation- mixing together to become like everyone else.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8X4CypTaOQs

Ellis Island- History of immigration to the United States (1890-1920)- 28 mins

Read pages 3-6 inclusive of textbook.
Activity 2 on page 9 – do number 2 –
the anagram summary of the chapter
EXTENSION WORK
Page 11: National 5 question 1
Chapter 3

• Read pages 12 and 14
• Write a paragraph to summarize the information you have just read
• Give it the heading ‘The open doors begin to close’
• Read page 23
• Write a paragraph to summarise the information you have just read: heading ‘Restricting immigration’

• E.g. 1921 and 1924 Immigration Acts ............ (what they did) – explain quota system.
• 1929 changes ....