

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Which event made one million Irish people leave Ireland in the mid-1800s?

- A. the Black Death
- B. World War I
- C. the American Civil War
- D. the Great Famine

2. Some Americans began to view the Irish as assets to the country. Which cause created this effect?

- A. 140,000 Irishmen enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War and proved their loyalty on the battlefields.
- B. The Irish were overcharged for smaller apartments when they moved to American cities.
- C. The Irish traveled to America in "coffin ships" and many died on the voyage across the Atlantic Ocean.
- D. By the twentieth century, Irish Catholics became a force to be reckoned with in American politics.

3. Read the sentences: "Many businesses that did need workers posted signs that said they were hiring, but added 'Irish need not apply' if they did not feel as though they were too desperate for laborers. Examples like these of pure hatred towards Irish immigrants have drawn comparisons to the American treatment of blacks at the time, which was still before The Civil War had been fought and the Emancipation Proclamation written."

This evidence supports which of the following conclusions about how the Irish were viewed in America at this time?

- A. The Irish were well-respected members of society.
- B. The Irish were considered to be the part of the lower classes of society.
- C. The Irish were hated more than the blacks in society.
- D. The Irish were considered slaves.

4. What can be concluded about the effect of the Irish on American history?
- A. The Irish had a very minimal effect on American history.
 - B. The Irish had a major effect on American history, from the Civil War to current politics.
 - C. The Irish had an effect only in American cities like Boston, New York, and Philadelphia.
 - D. The Irish only had negative effects on American history.
5. What is the main idea of this passage?
- A. While Irish immigrants have faced many challenges in America, they have overcome these challenges and contributed much to American society.
 - B. The Great Famine is a warning that crop yields can determine your future.
 - C. Racism in the 1800s and 1900s was not limited to those that were identified as black or African-American.
 - D. The best politicians and comedians of American history have been Irish, despite unique difficulties in their lives.
6. Read the sentences: "By the twentieth century, Irish Catholics became **a force to be reckoned with** in politics. Boston elected an Irish mayor, James Michael Curley. In the 1920s, New York State's Governor Al Smith was Irish. Both of them set the stage for the rise of John F. Kennedy to the White House."

What does the author mean by the term "**a force to be reckoned with**"?

- A. a negative force
- B. a debate team
- C. a powerful or influential force
- D. a judgmental group

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

The term "Irish need not apply" became very popular on store signs; _____, store owners shortened the term to "INNA" and readers still understood its meaning.

- A. as a result
- B. before
- C. however
- D. because

8. Describe at least two challenges the Irish faced when they moved to American cities. Use information from the passage to support your answer.

9. What benefits did the Irish enjoy when they began to fit into America a little more comfortably after the American Civil War?

10. The author notes that "Irish-Americans have been a resilient bunch." A person who is resilient is strong and able to recover from unpleasant or damaging events.

Using information from the passage, explain why Irish-Americans can be considered a "resilient bunch."

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8. Describe at least two challenges the Irish faced when they moved to American cities. Use information from the passage to support your answer.

Answers may vary and should include any of the following: Locals treated the Irish with hostility. Landlords would overcharge Irish tenants for small living spaces that often lacked ventilation and plumbing. Irish men had to perform physical labor, if they were able to get work at all. Money and food was scarce and the Irish were the last to be employed. The Irish faced the discrimination of Nativists who also led violent demonstrations against the Irish.

9. What benefits did the Irish enjoy when they began to fit into America a little more comfortably after the American Civil War?

They were able to form many of the early trade unions and found police and fire departments. Students should also note that by the twentieth century, Irish Catholics became a powerful force in American politics.

10. The author notes that "Irish-Americans have been a resilient bunch." A person who is resilient is strong and able to recover from unpleasant or damaging events.

Using information from the passage, explain why Irish-Americans can be considered a "resilient bunch."

Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage. Students should explain that the Irish who made it to America at all had to survive a period of famine in Ireland, and the perilous crossing of the Atlantic on "coffin ships" first. Then, Irish-Americans endured many hardships in America, from the discrimination and hostility that others treated them with, to the economic disadvantages they had to survive through as a lower and unwanted class of society. However, with perseverance the Irish were able to improve their social standing and increase their influence in society. After 140,000 Irishmen enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War, they began to be seen as an asset to America and were able to fit into America a little more comfortably. They were able to form many of the early trade unions and found police and fire departments. Students should also note that by the twentieth century, Irish Catholics became a powerful force in American politics.