

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Understanding Chinese Immigration to the U.S. (19th–20th Century): Discussion Questions

Pre-Video Questions:

1. What do you already know about Chinese immigration during the 1800s?

2. Why might the U.S. government at that time decide to pass a law restricting immigration from one country or one ethnic group?

During Video Questions:

1. What was happening in the United States decades before 1882 that brought many Chinese to immigrate overseas?

2. How did this Act differ from prior U.S. immigration laws (or how was it a new kind of law)?

3. What effect did the law have on Chinese immigrant communities already living in the U.S.?

4. What were the reasons behind Congress's passing of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882?

Post-Video Questions:

1. What longer-term impacts did the video highlight on (U.S. immigration policy, on citizenship, on immigrant rights)?

2. How does the story of the Chinese Exclusion Act challenge or complicate the popular narrative that the U.S. is (or always has been) "a land of immigrants"?

3. If you were a historian writing in the year 2100 about this period, what "lessons" might you draw from the Chinese Exclusion Act and its aftermath?