Lesson 2 – The First Wave (1845 – 1855)

Objectives - Students will:
- analyze information from the 1845 and 1855 NYS Census,
- predict why certain immigrants immigrated to the U.S.

Materials
- Census Data Sheet
- Student Activity Sheet 2

Background Information
Several years after the colonists declared their independence from England, our new government created a constitution that required conducting a census of all "Persons...excluding Indians not taxed" be conducted to determine the collection of taxes and the appropriation of seats in the House of Representatives. From 1790 until the present, the federal government has conducted a census every ten years. New York State conducted its own census every ten years beginning in 1825 up until 1875. They also took a census in 1892; then every ten years from 1905 to 1925. Many of these early census records have been lost or destroyed. No information was taken as to a person’s country of birth until the 1845 NYS Census.

Teaching Sequence
1. Interpreting information from the census
   a. Explain why and when censuses were first introduced in the United States. Remind students that the last federal census was taken in 2000. Explain that the information on these two charts was taken from the 1845 and 1855 NYS Census.
   b. Distribute the Census Data Sheet and the accompanying Activity Sheet #2 to each pair of students. After the students complete their sheets, call on speakers to discuss their findings. This activity will lead into the question: Why did immigrants come to this county?
Ulster County 1845 Census Summary
Total Countries of Foreign Birth
Total Population of Ulster County – 48,907

Ulster County 1855 Census Summary
Top Five Countries of Foreign Birth
Total Population of Ulster County – 67,936
Total Immigrant Population – 13,201
Activity Sheet 2
1845 and 1855 NYS Census

Name/s

1. Use the information from the 1845 and 1855 Census Summaries to fill in the following charts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Population of Ulster County in 1845</th>
<th>Total Population in Ulster County in 1855</th>
<th>Total Immigrant Population in Ulster County in 1845</th>
<th>Total Immigrant Population in Ulster County in 1855</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. The 1845 Census Summary lists several countries as well as continents of foreign birth. Fill in the chart with the names of the six countries listed.

   1845 Countries of Foreign Birth
   
   

3. The 1855 Census Summary only lists the top five countries of birth. Fill in the chart with the names of those five countries. Place a check next to the countries that appear on both the 1845 and 1855 Census Summaries.

   1855 Top Countries of Foreign Birth
   
   

4. How many immigrants from England, Scotland and Ireland came to Ulster County in 1845? In 1855?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Immigrants in 1845</th>
<th>Total Immigrants in 1855</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

5. How many more immigrants came to live in Ulster County in 1855 than 1845? Why do you think this change occurred?

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