“The Peopling of America”

Student Organizer Answer Key

1. Prior to 1820, where did the single largest group of immigrants come from? (Africa.)
   What historical event(s) motivated their migration? (The slave trade.)

2. When was the slave trade banned in the United States? (1808)

3. During which period in American history did Irish immigration peak? (1820-1880)
   What historical event(s) motivated their migration? (The Irish Potato Famine)

4. Who were the Know-Nothings and what did they stand for? (A political party of the 1850s famous for its anti-immigrant and anti-Catholic leanings.)
   Which immigrant group in the 1850’s do you think would have been their main target? (Irish Catholics.)
5. What nation has supplied the greatest number of immigrants to the United States since 1965? (Mexico.)

At what other point in American history has a similarly-sized group of immigrants arrived from a single nation? (1880s-1930s)

What was that nation? (Italy.)

6. What nation was a major source of immigrants during every period prior to 1965? (Germany.)