**A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS**

1492: discovery of America by Columbus; he called the inhabitants “Indians” because he thought he was in India. Today they’re called “Native Americans”.

Europeans began arriving in the New World for many reasons:

1) Some wanted to live the “American Dream”: the idea that anyone can become rich in the USA

2) Other people escaped persecution and wars.

Many people first arrived on Ellis Island (an island in New York harbour where people asked for permission to stay in the country). 50% of all Americans have an ancestor who passed through Ellis Island. 1954: a Norwegian sailor was the last person to arrive.

Many Chinese people went to California in the 19th century to work on the railways and in mines. San Francisco has the largest Chinese community in the USA (around 100,000 people)

In the 18th and 19th centuries people captured Africans and brought them to America to work as slaves in states such as Virginia and Louisiana. These slaves worked on farms called plantations. (cotton and tobacco).

1865: abolition of slavery at the end of the American Civil War