

City of Immigrants Part 2 & Part 3

Exit Ticket Answer Key

1) Which of the following is **NOT** a task Lena has to do to help support her family?

- a) She shops for food.
- b) She tutors children at the tenement house.**
- c) She sews clothes in a sweatshop.
- d) She helps care for her nephew.

Answer Explanation: Like many young immigrants, Lena does a wide range of work and chores to help her family, but most teachers at the settlement houses would have been non-immigrant women, often middle class and college educated.

2) Why does Lena give her wages to her sister-in-law Sonya?

- a) The family needs her wages to cover their expenses.**
- b) They are using her wages to save for a new house.
- c) They need her wages to pay for new boarders.
- d) Sonya wants to start a college fund for her son.

Answer Explanation: Like many immigrant families, Lena's wages are needed to maintain basic needs. In the case of the Brodsky family, any additional funds were being saved to bring remaining family members to the United States.

3) Which is **NOT** a way that settlement houses helped new immigrants assimilate or become more "American"?

- a) The sewing classes at the settlement houses provided job training for immigrants.
- b) Settlement house teachers and workers provided models for American values.
- c) Settlement houses taught immigrants English.
- d) Settlement houses provided immigration lawyers to undocumented immigrants.**

Answer Explanation: At the turn of the 20th century, settlement houses provided many services to new immigrants including classes and instruction in "proper" American behavior. Immigrants from eastern and southern Europe did not need any documentation to reside in the United States so would not need immigration lawyers. The U.S. government restricted only the entry of Asian immigrants, and settlement houses in New York at the time did little to assist them.

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4) Why would Lena want to spend her hard-earned money on a dance hall, nickelodeon movies, or Coney Island?

- a) **She wants the chance to be social with other young people.**
- b) She gets coupons for free food at these amusements.
- c) These entertainments remind her of life in Russia.
- d) Her family wants her to become an actress.

Answer Explanation: Commercial entertainment such as dance halls, nickelodeons, and amusement parks were new business ventures at the turn of the 20th century. These businesses promoted themselves in immigrant communities and highlighted their mixed-gender social spaces as a new trend in American culture.

5) Lena's first job in her tenement building was sewing clothes in a _____. (Fill in the blank)

- a) factory
- b) fancy dress shop
- c) **sweatshop**
- d) workers' collective

Answer Explanation: The garment industry was changing at the turn of the 20th century with the formation of large factories with hundreds of workers. But much sewing work was still done at home or in small sweatshops in tenement apartments. These sweatshops usually paid less than factory work and did not require that the workers understand or speak English.