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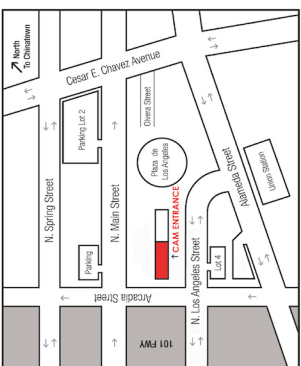


Illustration: “Throwing Down the Ladder by Which They Rose” by Thomas Nast, 23 July 1870
Photo by Jorge Duenas for Reuters
Zine by Janelle Sangalang and Hannah Yang

The Anti-Chinese Movement and Violence

In the 19th century, Chinese American immigrants were confronted with racism and prejudice. Many of them faced resistance and adversity when they settled in the United States.

Following the economic depression of the 1870s, some politicians and labor organizations blamed the Chinese and held anti-Chinese rallies. Slogans such as “The Chinese Must Go!” were used to support the enactment of discriminatory laws. Violent attacks against Chinese were common in the West. In Los Angeles, a mob of vigilantes including prominent citizens lynched 18 Chinese men and boys in 1871.

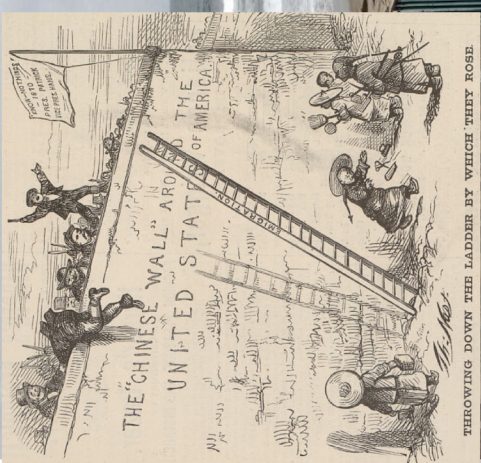
CHINESE?

NO! NO! NO!

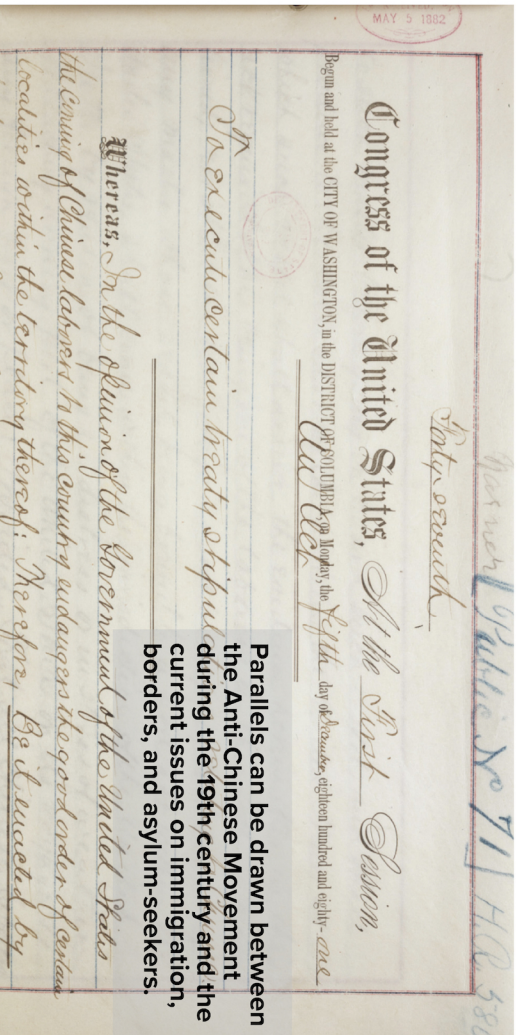
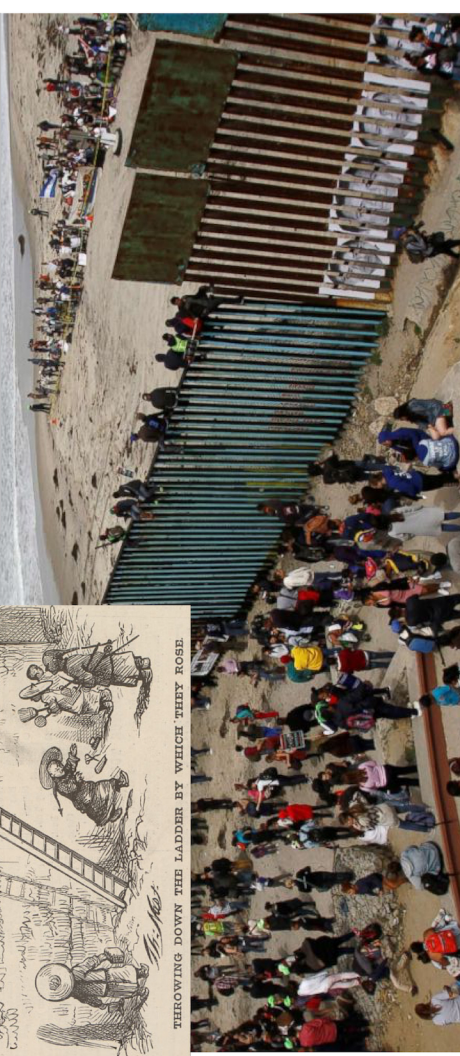
THE CHINESE MUST GO!

Replace the word in the boxes with your ethnicity and repeat the statement to yourself. Recount on times in your life that you felt discriminated against or excluded because of your ethnicity, gender, religion or orientation.
Write or draw about your experience below:

Why knowing about the Chinese Exclusion Act is important today?



The 1870 cartoon (left) depicts the political party, the Know-Nothings, throwing down the ladder to prevent Chinese laborers from climbing the wall. The 2018 photo shows Central American migrants and Central American reporters at the US border for a demonstration. Comparing the two images: what similarities and differences do you see?



Parallels can be drawn between the Anti-Chinese Movement during the 19th century and the current issues on immigration, borders, and asylum-seekers.

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 prohibited Chinese laborers

from entering the country. Some merchants, scholars, and diplomats were exempt and permitted to immigrate. The law also prevented Chinese from becoming United States citizens. The Chinese Exclusion Act inhibited the development of Chinese communities across the nation.