

**Lesson #2 – Graph of Immigrants to Aquidneck Island and Surrounding Areas
(as of 1895)**

Subject Area: Social Studies and Math

Grade: 4/5

Time Frame: 1 – 2/ 45-minute lessons

Objectives: In this lesson, the students will learn how to make and read a graph and why it is an important tool in looking at history. They will be familiar with the number of people who immigrated to Aquidneck Island from each ethnic group.

Standard: III

Materials:

- *Immigrants* By: Martin W. Sandler (enclosed)
- Graph paper for each student
- A xerox copy, for each student, of the population of Aquidneck Island and surrounding areas as of 1895. (Enclosed)

Learner Factors: This lesson will benefit the visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learners by the presentation and participation of making a graph individually and as a whole class.

Motivational Activity: The teacher will read aloud excerpts and show the pictures to the students, from the book *Immigrants*. Define the word immigrant and discuss different types of immigrants that came to the United States. Discuss why they came, for example for religious freedom, forced as slaves, wanting a better life, etc. As a whole class, predict countries of immigrants to Aquidneck Island. List the predictions on the board.

Lesson Development: As a class, produce a graph of the number of people in each ethnic group who came to Aquidneck Island. With the help of the enclosed information, the teacher will direct the whole class in producing a graph of the main groups (Portuguese, Irish, and English) of immigrants settling on Aquidneck Island.

Closure: As a class, the students will compare and contrast the results and formulate speculations of why more of some groups came and settled on Aquidneck Island during this time period.

Follow-Up: In the next lesson, the students will understand the value of customs and traditions within their families and the Aquidneck Island Community. They will investigate their own heritage and cultural background so they can appreciate how diversity adds to their everyday life.

Extended Activity:

- Visit your favorite ethnic restaurant on Aquidneck Island
- Make your favorite ethnic dish to share with the class
- Break the class into groups and have them produce a menu for their own ethnic restaurant.

Student Assessment: As the lesson is progressing, the teacher will assess that the students are producing their individual graphs.

Narragansett and West Warwick were not created until 1901 and 1913 respectively.) The greatest concentrations occurred in the industrial communities. After Lincoln, Central Falls had 47.2%, Woonsocket 45.7%, and Cumberland 41.1%. These municipalities had grown around textile mills situated at water power sites.

Eight communities were in the 30 - 39% range: Warwick (39.1%), North Smithfield (36.3%), North Providence (35.1%), Pawtucket (34.4%), Warren (34.4%), Johnston (34.0%), Providence (31.8%), and Burrillville (30.5%). The populations of these communities reflected the same industrial employment.

Nine municipalities had concentrations between 20% and 29%, while nine more were between 10% and 19%. Less than 10% of the population was foreign-born in seven communities, generally located in the western and southern parts of the state.

The foreign-born were widely spread in the state, as measured by percentages of the population. The concentrations are also worth examining by numbers of persons. Providence led with 46,217 foreign-born in 1895, which constituted 37.6% of the 122,755 foreign-born in the state. Pawtucket and Woonsocket followed with just over 11,000 in each city. These 3 municipalities had 45.8% of the total foreign-born. Adding Warwick gave the 4 communities 52.5%. Central Falls and Newport were the only other communities with over 5,000 foreign-born. There were 17 municipalities with more than 1,000 foreign-born residents.

In 1895 each of nine national groups consisted of more than 1,000 foreign-born Rhode Island residents. Ireland ranked first with 38,226, or 31.1% of the 122,755 foreign-born in the state; Canada was second with 33,056. The 1895 census divided Canadian immigration by linguistic heritage into English- and French-speaking immigrants, and such a division provides significant information for understanding choice of residence, type of employment, religion, and other cultural characteristics. The French-speaking Canadians numbered 26,627, or 21.7% of the state's foreign-born population.

In total, the British component — composed of immigrants from England, Scotland, and Wales (and undoubtedly some of Irish ancestry) — numbered 28,740. Since the state census provided a national breakdown, these groups can be considered separately. The remaining eight groups, in order of their number and proportion of the state's foreign-born population, were as follows: England, 22,820 (18.6%); Canada (English-speaking), 6,429 (5.2%); Italy, 5,717 (4.7%); Scotland, 5,677 (4.6%); Sweden, 5,112 (4.2%); Germany, 4,126 (3.4%); Russia, 2,284 (1.9%); and Portu-

Ethnic Historical Perspective: 1895 **Maps 74 - 75)**

much of Rhode Island's ethnic character, hidden in current census counts because of the technical definition of foreign stock, is revealed by the state census of 1895. This count identified "foreign-born," the first generation of new residents in Rhode Island.

Foreign-Born: 1895 (Map 74)

Seventeen municipalities had more than 1,000 foreign-born, ranging from 1,025 in North Smithfield to 46,217 in Providence. The percentage of population represented varied from 1.4% in Exeter to just over 50% of the population in Lincoln, where 50.3% were foreign-born. Foreign-born in the entire state made up 39.1% of the total population.

The map shows the distribution of foreign-born by municipality. (Note that there are only 37 divisions;

gal, 2,241 (1.8%).

The census reported that 588 of the total coming from Russia designated themselves as Polish. (At that time Poland was partitioned among her three stronger neighbors.) Of the total from Portugal, 40.1% listed their origin as the Western Islands (Azores) and 2.6% came from the Cape Verde Islands. There were 291 persons from Norway and 231 persons from Denmark. (The total of all Scandinavian foreign-born would occupy the same relative position in rank as the Swedish foreign-born alone.) France was the only other country to contribute more than 500 foreign-born residents.

Immigration from 1885 to 1895 was substantially greater than in the previous decade. The total proportion of Canadians had increased from 21.7% to 29.9%. The English had decreased slightly, while the foreign-born from Ireland had decreased from 45.5% in 1885 to 31.1% in 1895.

Foreign-Born Ranked by Nation of Origin (Map 75)

In 1895 persons from Ireland ranked first among the foreign-born in 7 municipalities, ranging from South Kingstown with 238 residents to Providence with 18,746, or 40.6% of the state total. Pawtucket and Newport ranked second and third with 3,971 and 3,114 persons. In 18 additional municipalities persons from Ireland ranked second in number, and in 9 additional communities they ranked third. There were only 3 municipalities where persons from Ireland failed to rank first, second, or third in number: Foster, Jamestown, and Richmond. In Newport the Irish constituted 50.9% of the foreign-born; in Providence, 31.2%; and in Pawtucket, 12.2%.

French Canadians ranked first in number in 15 communities, mostly in the northern and western portions of the state. The actual numbers ranged from 7 persons in Exeter to 7,481 in Woonsocket. In 3 communities they ranked second, and in 5 communities third.

Foreign-born from England ranked first in 8 municipalities, second in 13, and third in 13. The English equaled the Irish in the number of rankings of first, second, or third, but their total number of 22,820 was 10,236 less than the total number of immigrants from Ireland. England ranked first in Johnston and Cumberland, with 1,529 and 1,316 persons respectively, and second in Providence, with 8,376 persons. The English ranked first in the southwest municipalities of Westerly, Hopkinton, Richmond, and Charlestown, as well as in Tiverton and New Shoreham.

English-speaking Canadians ranked first in only

one community, Foster. In East Providence and Jamestown they were second. In Providence the English-speaking Canadians, most of whom came from the Maritime Provinces, ranked fourth with 3,189 persons, who made up 49.6% of the state total for the group.

In 1895 large numbers of Italians had not yet arrived, and Italian foreign-born numbered only 5,717, or 4.7% of the state's foreign-born population. They ranked first in Barrington and North Kingstown with 114 and 264 persons, and third in Providence with 3,606, or 63.1% of the state total. In Westerly and Johnston, Italians also ranked third. The brickyard in Barrington and the quarries in Westerly were single-focus employment attractions. Growth in Providence, which would become a major Italian center, and Johnston, which ranked first in Italian stock in 1970, was yet to develop.

Foreign-born from Sweden ranked first in East Greenwich (212), second in Warwick (1,127), and third in Newport (406). In New Shoreham, which had 35 foreign-born in a population of 1,300, there were an equal number of Swedes and Germans among the foreign-born residents. In Providence there were 2,140 Swedes, or 75.5% of the state total.

Portuguese foreign-born residents ranked first in Portsmouth (251), Middletown (175), and Little Compton (86). In Bristol they ranked third with 203 residents. In Providence their number was only 2.1% of the foreign-born, but the 912 residents constituted 43.8% of the state's population from Portugal. These centers of residence would continue, with the Portuguese attracted by rural employment in the southern part of the state and urban employment on docks and in factories at the head of the Bay.

In addition to the seven groups included in **Map 75**, three others also contributed more than 1,000 foreign-born residents in 1895. Scots numbered 5,677 in the state and ranked third in Hopkinton. Germans numbered 4,126, ranking seventh in the state with 3.4%; nearly half of them resided in Providence, where they ranked seventh with 1,961 persons (4.2% of the foreign-born population). Russians, including Poles, made up 1.9% of the state's population, with 1,607 living in Providence, where they were eighth in rank and included 70.4% of the state's residents. Most of those listed as Russians were Jewish. Providence had eight foreign-born national groups with over 1,000 persons each.

In 1895 the peak of what is referred to as the "old immigration" from northern and western Europe had passed, although the numbers of foreign stock from these regions would swell with counts which included the first generation born in Rhode Island. The "new

immigration," from southern and eastern Europe, was yet to peak. The changes brought by these waves of immigration came in sequences. The impact in the labor market was immediate; some immigrants were recruited for particular jobs. By 1905 the state would become predominantly Roman Catholic (**Map 87**). The political impact would be longer in coming.

TABLE 1
MAJOR FOREIGN - BORN POPULATION GROUPS: 1895
(Percentage of Foreign-Born Population)

	Ireland	Canada (Fr.)	England	Three-Group Total
Central Falls	20.1 (3)	47.9 (1)	22.2 (2)	90.2
Lincoln	21.8 (2)	45.3 (1)	20.1 (3)	87.2
Pawtucket	35.4 (1)	14.7 (3)	28.2 (2)	78.3
Warwick	13.1 (3)	48.4 (1)	8.2 (4)	69.7
Newport	50.9 (1)	1.0 (8)	14.1 (2)	66.0
Providence	40.6 (1)	4.9 (5)	18.2 (2)	63.7
Woonsocket	18.2 (2)	30.1 (1)	5.8 (3)	54.1

() Rank of group in municipality

In summary, the three dominant national groups in 1895 were from Ireland, Canada (French-speaking), and England. **Table 1** demonstrates their ranking in communities where they exceeded half the population.

In Central Falls, Lincoln, Pawtucket, and Woonsocket, the three groups were dominant, although they varied in rank. In each of the remaining municipalities, only two of these groups were among the three largest in the foreign-born population. In Warwick (which included West Warwick in 1895) Sweden ranked second as a source nation. In Newport, Sweden ranked third with 6.6%, while Canada (English-speaking), Germany, Italy, and Portugal outranked the French-speaking Canadians in number. Providence had a similar variety. Residents from Italy (7.8%) and English-speaking Canadians (6.9%) outranked the French-speaking Canadians.

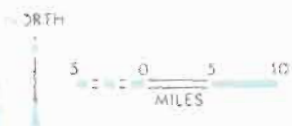
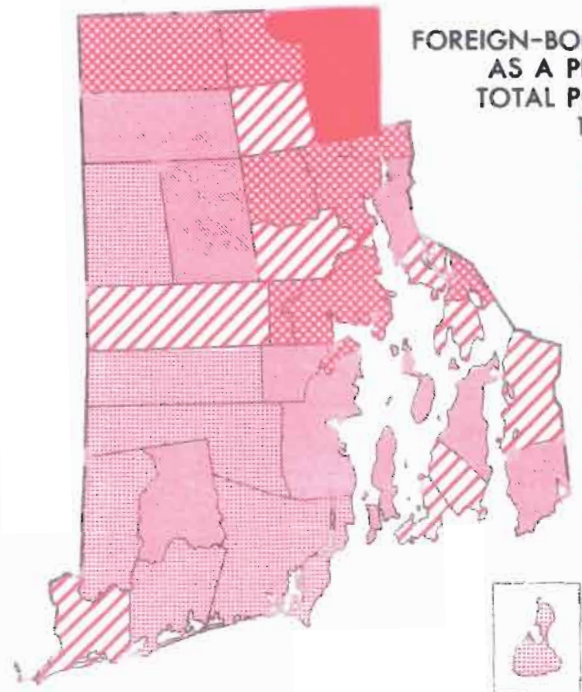
The 1895 state census demonstrates the great national variety in nineteenth-century immigration, whereas the 1970 census report mirrors the end of the nineteenth-century era of immigration and reflects the "new immigration" that followed.



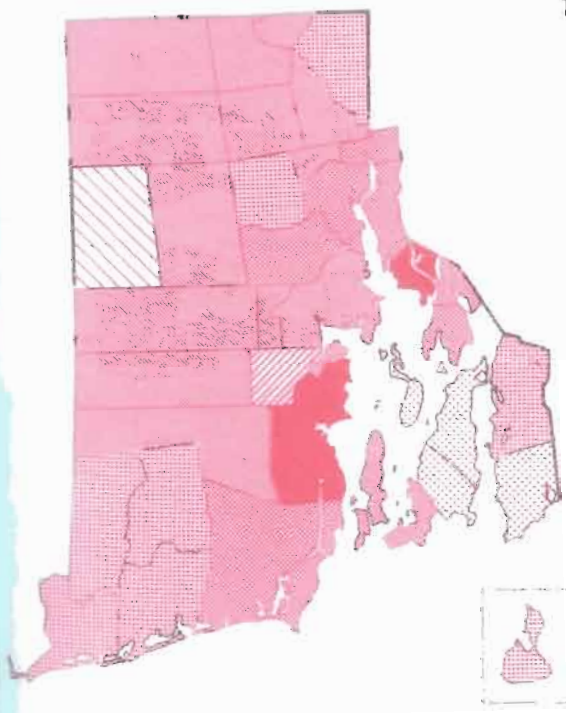
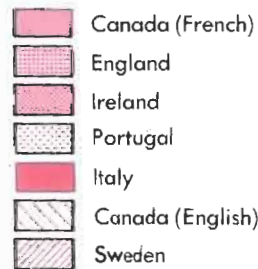
Textile workers, largely foreign stock, at the Royal Weaving Company, Pawtucket (c. 1910 - 15 photo)

ETHNIC HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: 1895

FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION 1895



SOURCE NATION OF GREATEST NUMBER OF FOREIGN-BORN RESIDENTS 1895



FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION: 1895

	Number of people	Percent of population
Barrington	391	23.4
Bristol	1,947	28.9
Burrillville	1,731	30.5
Central Falls	7,470	47.2
Charlestown	61	6.2
Coventry	1,360	26.9
Cranston	2,775	26.2
Cumberland	3,492	41.1
East Greenwich	594	19.2
East Providence	1,843	18.1
Exeter	13	1.4
Foster	28	2.4
Glocester	176	10.8
Hopkinton	244	4.0
Jamestown	109	13.0
Johnston	3,812	34.0
Lincoln	4,199	50.3
Little Compton	161	14.5
Middletown	326	23.1
Narragansett	Part of South Kingstown until 1901	
Newport	6,116	28.4
New Shoreham	35	2.7
North Kingstown	719	16.5
North Providence	855	35.1
North Smithfield	1,025	36.3
Pawtucket	11,213	34.4
Portsmouth	357	19.5
Providence	46,217	31.8
Richmond	195	11.8
Scituate	437	12.4
Smithfield	648	27.7
South Kingstown	640	9.9
Tiverton	785	26.5
Warren	1,315	34.4
Warwick	8,268	39.1
Westerly	2,009	26.3
West Greenwich	25	3.5
West Warwick	Part of Warwick until 1913	
Woonsocket	11,184	45.7
RHODE ISLAND	122,755	39.1

Contemporary political divisions are shown.