


Module 6: A Nation Grows - 1877 to the 1900s

Topic 2 Content: Assimilation Notes

Introduction

Assimilation



- Learning to speak English
- Adopting American customs
- Becoming a citizen
- Attending public school

Introduction

Whether aware of it or not, any immigrant entering the United States instantly began the process of assimilation. In an attempt to resist assimilation, many immigrants settled in ethnic neighborhoods located in rapidly urbanizing cities. Although some immigrants resisted changes to their native culture and customs, adaptation became inevitable as they joined American society, coined the "melting pot."

In this interactivity, click **NEXT** to learn about the process of assimilation.

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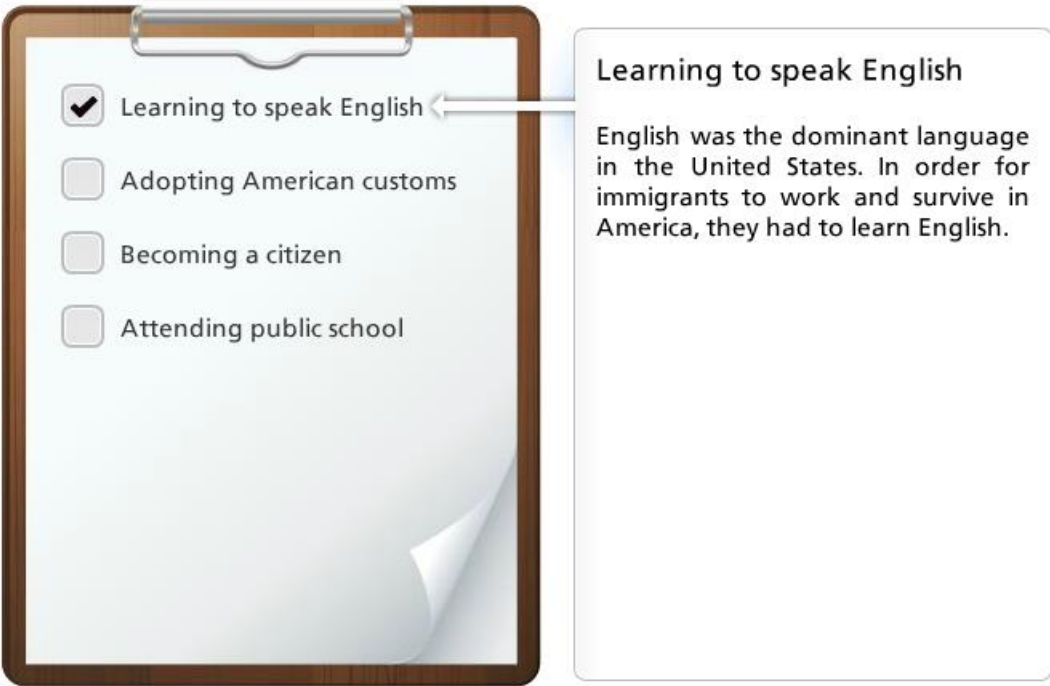
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Learning to speak English

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Learning to speak English

English was the dominant language in the United States. In order for immigrants to work and survive in America, they had to learn English.

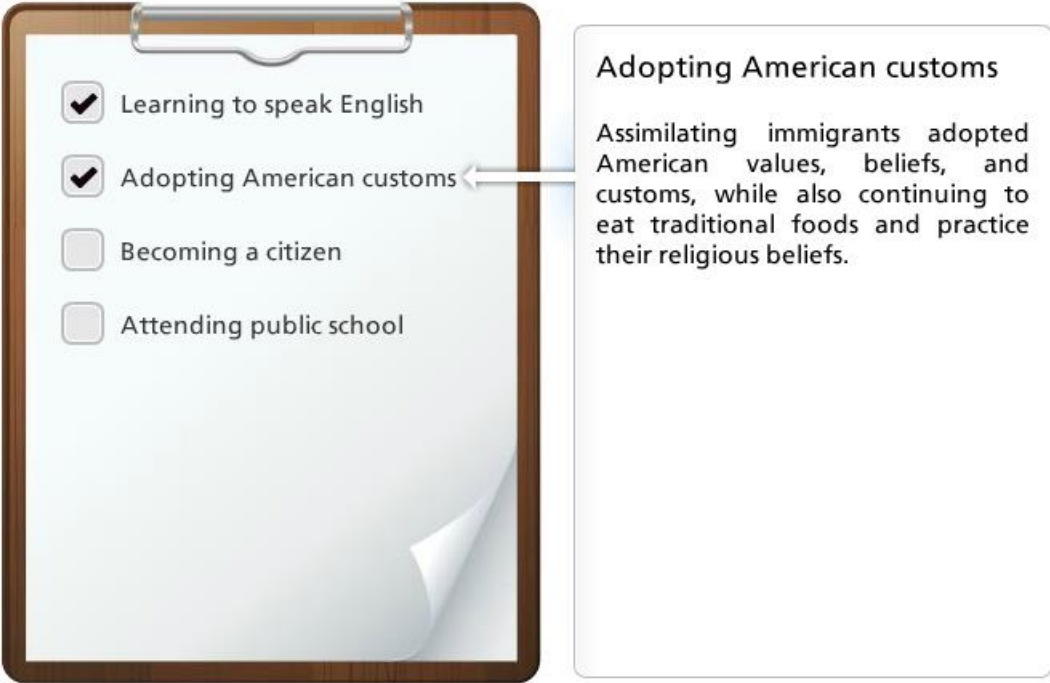
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Adopting American customs

Assimilation



The graphic features a clipboard with a checklist on the left and a text box on the right. The checklist includes four items: 'Learning to speak English' (checked), 'Adopting American customs' (checked), 'Becoming a citizen' (unchecked), and 'Attending public school' (unchecked). An arrow points from the text box to the 'Adopting American customs' item. The text box contains the title 'Adopting American customs' and a paragraph explaining that assimilating immigrants adopted American values, beliefs, and customs while also continuing to eat traditional foods and practice their religious beliefs.

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Adopting American customs

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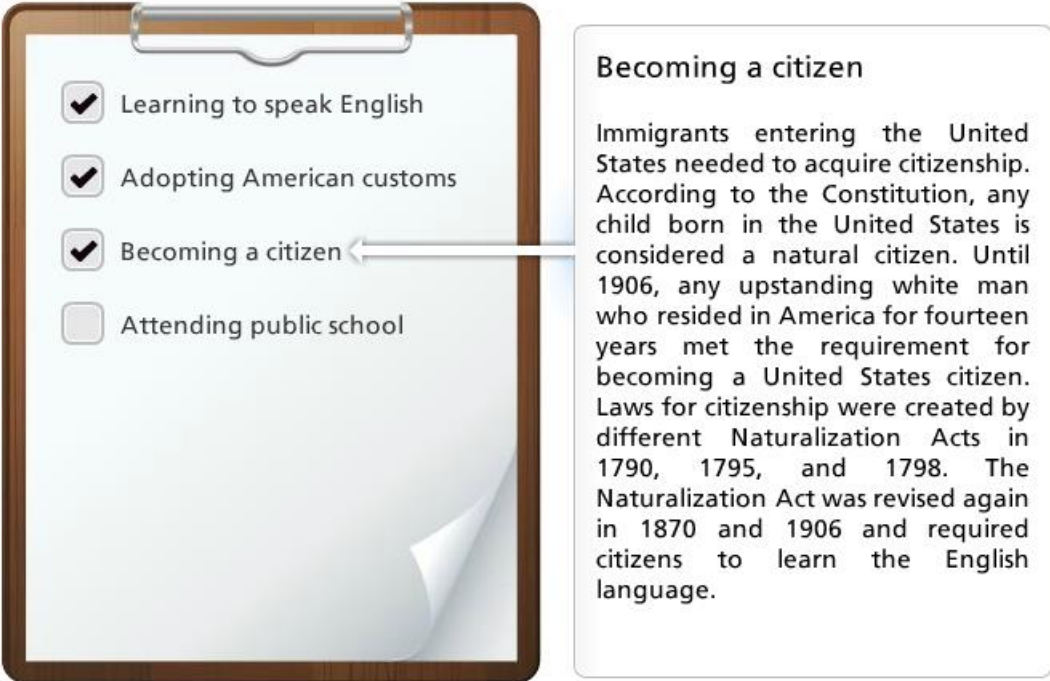
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Becoming a citizen

Assimilation



The graphic features a clipboard with a checklist on the left and a text box on the right. The checklist includes four items: 'Learning to speak English', 'Adopting American customs', 'Becoming a citizen', and 'Attending public school'. The first three items are checked, and the fourth is not. An arrow points from the 'Becoming a citizen' item to the text box. The text box is titled 'Becoming a citizen' and contains a paragraph of text explaining the requirements for citizenship in the United States.

- Learning to speak English
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Becoming a citizen

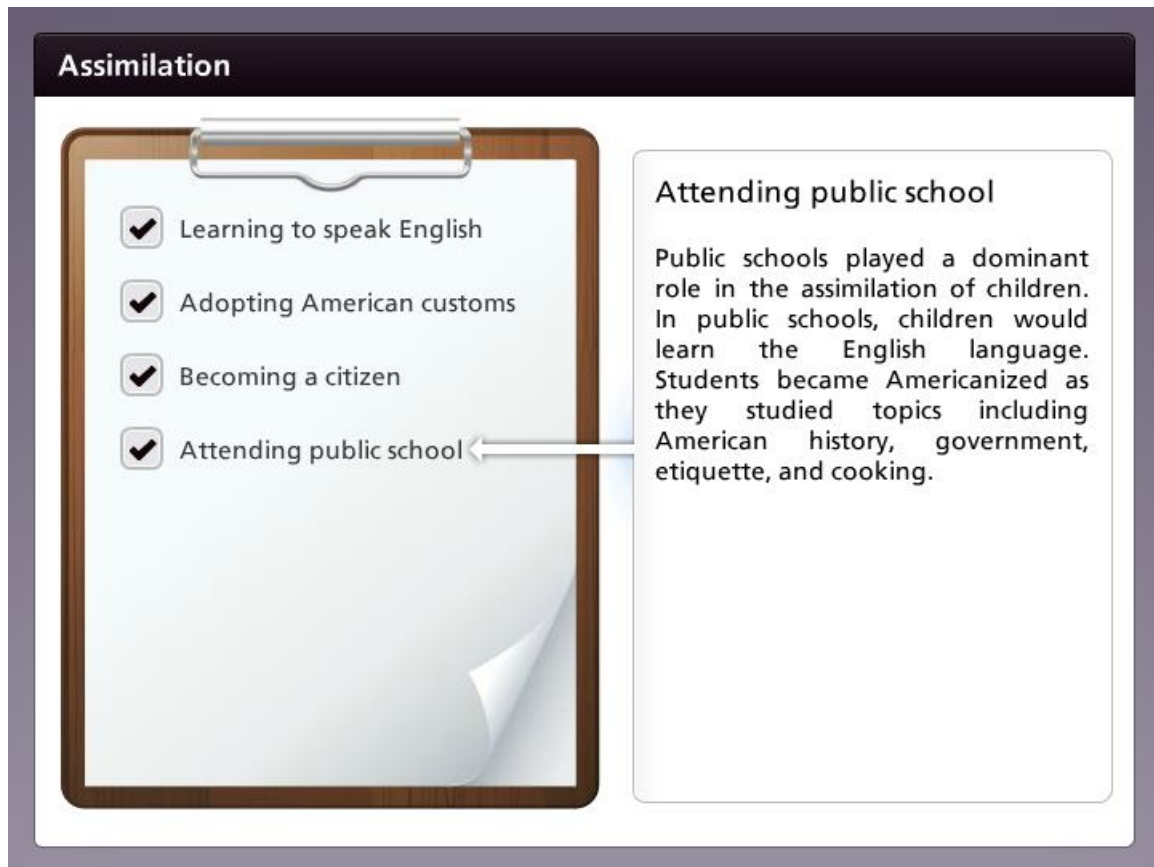
Immigrants entering the United States needed to acquire citizenship. According to the Constitution, any child born in the United States is considered a natural citizen. Until 1906, any upstanding white man who resided in America for fourteen years met the requirement for becoming a United States citizen. Laws for citizenship were created by different Naturalization Acts in 1790, 1795, and 1798. The Naturalization Act was revised again in 1870 and 1906 and required citizens to learn the English language.

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Attending public school

A graphic titled "Assimilation" featuring a clipboard with a checklist and a text box. The checklist on the clipboard includes: "Learning to speak English", "Adopting American customs", "Becoming a citizen", and "Attending public school". An arrow points from the "Attending public school" item to a text box on the right. The text box is titled "Attending public school" and contains the text: "Public schools played a dominant role in the assimilation of children. In public schools, children would learn the English language. Students became Americanized as they studied topics including American history, government, etiquette, and cooking."

Assimilation

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Attending public school

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