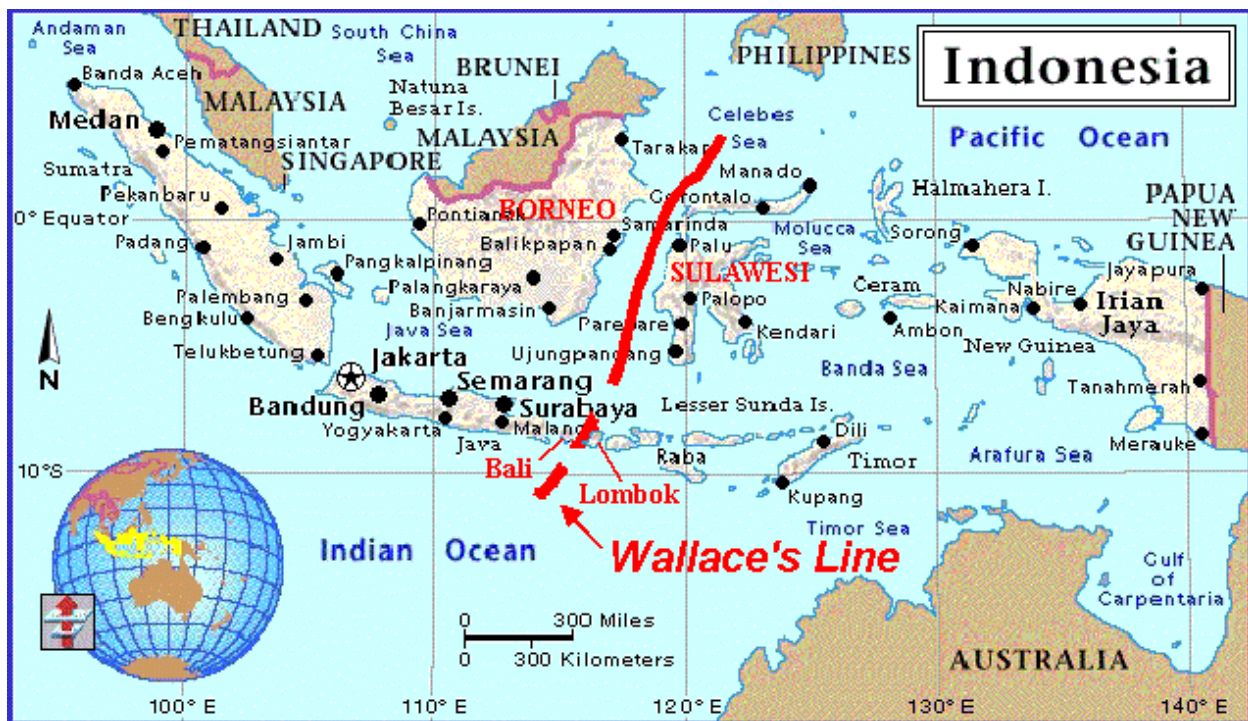


H

Where Did They Come From? Graphing Migration to Australia

Background

Australia is a land of immigrants. Animals could walk on dry land from Asia to Australia during times of low sea level in the past. Human beings took the same route and arrived in Australia long before they crossed the Bering Strait from Asia to the Americas. When sea level rose, however, the land between the islands of Indonesia was flooded. Migration from other regions slowed to a trickle, and Australia began to develop its own unique mix of plants, animals, and human cultures. Forests became dominated by trees like the Eucalyptus, which were unknown in other parts of the world until people began to travel across the oceans. Animals also developed independently, with marsupials like the Kangaroo becoming the most important large animals (a marsupial is an animal that carries its young inside a pouch of skin for the first months or even years of their lives).



Like the plants and animals, the original human cultures of Australia developed with few influences from other parts of the world. The Polynesian people on the islands to the north were expert navigators, but there is little evidence that they sailed to mainland Australia. The native languages of Australia have few words in common with other languages in Asia or elsewhere in the world. By contrast, many of the languages of Europe, North Africa, or East Asia are quite similar to their neighbors. For example, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian are distinct languages, but they have similar sounds, share the same alphabet, and often borrow words from each other. Likewise, Japanese and Chinese are distinct, but Japanese people used Chinese characters in their writing.

In the early 1400s, Chinese fleets under Admiral Zheng Ho often had as many as 60 large ships and ranged widely throughout Southeast Asia, Arabia, and East Africa. Some of those ships probably reached the coast of Australia, but those explorers were looking for treasures to take back to China, and they spent most of their time in places like Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Arabia.

British sailors “discovered” Australia more than 300 years later, but their goal was to find colonies to settle. Some of the first colonies in Australia were basically prisons: mining and tree-cutting camps where the workers were prisoners from England. Later, English and Irish people moved to Australia to make farms and towns, much like the ones they started East Africa and North America. In the late 20th century, immigration laws were changed, and people began to move from India, Vietnam, and other parts of Asia.

To investigate the changes in migration patterns that have occurred as a result of these changes in laws, you will make graphs of immigration through time.

Push factors

People move for a variety of reasons. Forces or events that make people want to move away from a place are termed “pushes.” For example, a crop failure or a disease might persuade some people to move. Others migrate to escape religious persecution. Many leave because they do not want to work for a landlord any more. Others choose to move rather than get drafted into an army.

Pull factors

Migrants could choose to move to many different destinations, but something (good land, jobs, relatives, easy access by ocean or land transportation) usually attracts them to one particular place rather than another. Such reasons for choosing a specific destination are termed “pulls.”

Migrations to Australia up to about 1970 are collectively referred to as the Old Migration. The annual flow of migrants was small until the mid-1800s, when large numbers of people from northern and western Europe began moving to both Australia and the United States.

America had another major “wave” of immigrants in the late 1800s. This consisted of people from eastern and southern Europe, who were recruited to work in factories and mines. This migration was not very important in Australia, because the country was far from international markets, and people did not build many factories there. Migration to both countries declined sharply during the Depression of the 1930s and World War II.

The next wave of migration came in the late 1900s. Some people sought refuge from wars in Southeast Asia. Others left to get away from repressive governments. Many came just to work; these people send money home to help support relatives left behind, and they plan to return to their home country when they have earned enough money.

It is not always easy to identify the particular pushes and pulls that cause a particular group of people to migrate at a particular time. The first step is to identify the major “pulses” or “waves” of migration – the years when especially large numbers of people moved from a particular source region. One strategy for doing this is to make a time-graph of migration from various world regions. You can get data from the United Nations Demographic Yearbooks, country almanacs, and various web sites. Data Sheet H lists the migrants to Australia from two major source areas.

DATA SHEET H – ORIGINS OF MIGRANTS TO AUSTRALIA

Time Period	Origin of Immigrants	
	UK & Ireland	Asian countries
1961-65	267,300	0
1971-75	227,200	<1000
1981-85	116,800	62,600
1991-95	59,400	113,800

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MIGRATION-GRAPH ACTIVITY

Situation

You are a Census analyst who has been asked to brief some politicians about ethnic groups in Australia (definition: an ethnic group consists of people who think of themselves as belonging to the group and share a number of features, such as family origin, language, home country, or religion). Many Americans and Australians think of themselves simply as Americans or Australians. But in 1980, when the United States Census Bureau asked people to list their heritage, more than 70% of the population (almost 165 million people) declared an ethnic identity other than American. Likewise, more and more Australians are claiming “roots” that reach back into another world region. This raises several questions: Where did these people come from? When did they migrate from their homelands? Why? Where did they go in Australia?

Information source

A table that shows the number of immigrants that entered Australia from selected countries during particular periods of time.

Procedure

To get you started, we have already graphed the number in in-migrants from the United Kingdom during 1961-65 and 1971-75. Following this example, you should first graph immigration from the United Kingdom for the other time periods, and then from other world regions for all time periods. We will help you with the first few time intervals.

- 1) Look at the Table on page 2 and find the year 1981-85. The number of immigrants from the United Kingdom recorded during that time was about 117,000. You should put a blue dot on the vertical line for 1981-85 a short distance above the second horizontal line up from the bottom line. This dot represents 117,000 people; check the position of your dot in comparison to the dot for 1971-75 (227,000, about twice as high above the zero horizontal line).
- 2) Now find the number of migrants (59,400) for the next time interval. Put a dot for that value on the vertical line that represents the interval 1991-95.
- 3) When all the values for the United Kingdom have been plotted, connect the dots with a colored line to represent the migration pattern over time (red might be a good color to use, since many people used to refer to the British as “redcoats”!)

Research

Follow steps 1 through 4 for in-migrants from Asian countries. Label each line on your graph clearly by region of origin.

Summarize

Following your teacher's directions, answer the questions on the Response Sheet.

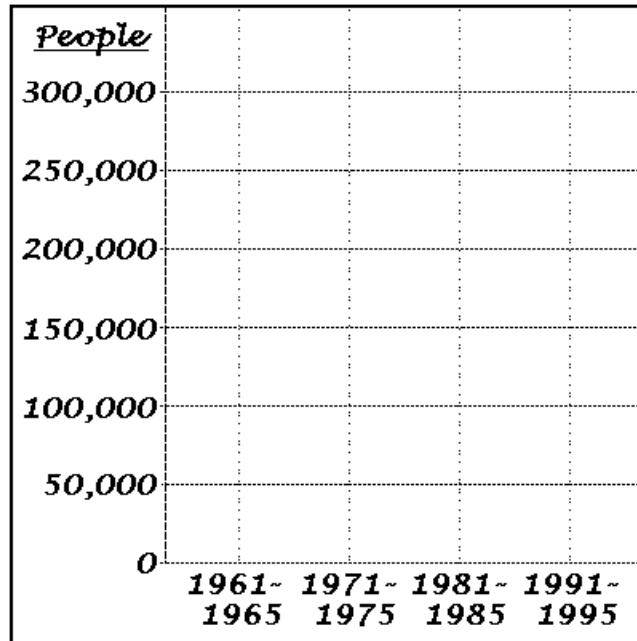
RESPONSE SHEET H – GRAPHS OF IN-MIGRATION

Finish the graph of in-migrants from the United Kingdom by adding dots in the appropriate places for the other time periods.

Connect the dots with a line. You may wish to use a distinctive color for this line, so that it does not get confused with other lines you may add later.

Then follow steps 1 through 4 for in-migrants from Asia.

Label each line clearly by region of origin.



1) Write a short essay in which you describe the migration pattern that you have graphed. What time period has the highest migration of people from each world region? Which time periods had the lowest? Why might this be? What was happening in the United States, Australia, and other countries that might explain this pattern?

2) In general, where was the settlement frontier during each peak of migration?

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA SHEET H -- IN-MIGRATION

The people in many large cities of the world are a mixture of ethnic groups and cultures. This is also true of small towns and rural areas in some countries, such as the United States and Australia. If you live in some places, your neighbors might be part of the same ethnic group. In other places, you might see people of many ethnic backgrounds every day.

Think about where you live. What ethnic groups live there? When did these groups move into the area? What landscape features (house types, churches, restaurants, etc.) did people of various ethnic groups make? Did the people moving to the area bring any special skills that made jobs? You can begin to answer these questions by looking at local sources of migration information and by carefully observing features of your community.

Many local history societies collect information about where people lived before they moved to your community. City or county governments have official birth and death records that are open to the public. Death records typically include age and place of birth, as well as other interesting facts. Land records can tell when people moved in or bought property. Telephone books can give us lists of names that are often associated with particular countries or world regions. Finally, cemeteries can be interesting sources of information (names, dates, and other data on tombstones).

Here is a short activity: Go to a local cemetery and record some information from the older tombstones. At first, this may seem like a hopeless job, but in most places it doesn't take long for some patterns to begin to emerge. After you have recorded information for about 20 or 30 burial markers, try to see if there are any common characteristics. For example, people from particular countries often have distinctive combinations of letters in their names. Here are a few clues to get started:

- Arabia and other countries of northern Africa or eastern Asia: names that contain ali or begin with al' or el', such as al'Madan or el'Kader
- Ireland: names that begin with O', such as O'Gara or O'Malley
- Scotland: names that begin with Mac or Mc, such as MacNamara or McEwan
- Germany: names that begin or end with Sch, such as Schmidt, Schneider, or Gensch
- Italy: names that end in vowel groups like -ino or -oli, such as Marino or Pizzoli
- Poland: names that end in -icz or -ski, such as Ostrowicz or Pulaski
- France: names that end in -eau or -ux, such as Marceau or Rubidoux
- Spain or Mexico: names that end in -ez, such as Gomez or Martinez
- Netherlands: names that contain aa or the word van, such as van der Waal or van Raalte
- Japan: four-syllable names that end like -saki, or -shita, such as Yamasaki or Hirohito
- India: names that include or end in -nagar, -patel, or -singh
- China: short names that end in a vowel or -n, such as Chu, Yu, Sen, or Lin

Obviously, this list is not complete: for example, where the author of this page teaches in Minnesota, his class usually has a large number of students with names like Anderson, Hanson, Larson, Nelson, Olson, or Swenson (or similar names ending in -sen), because many of the families in this area originally came from Norway or Sweden. Ask a librarian or some old people about the names of the first settlers and later arrivals in your area.