

Worksheet 1.1: Immigration and Settlement of the Nikkei Community

Year	Event	How did this event affect Japanese immigrants and Japanese-Americans?	How did Japanese immigrants and Japanese-Americans react?
1790	The Naturalization Act restricts the right of naturalized citizenship to “free white persons” only.		
1870	The Naturalization Act of 1870 extended citizenship rights to “persons of African descent”, but still restricts citizenship for people of Asian descent.		
1882	The Chinese Exclusion Act bars most Chinese from entering the U.S. and denies Chinese immigrants the right to become U.S. citizens.		
1886	White rioters drive Chinese residents out of Seattle.		
1886	Washington Territory adds a clause to its constitution barring aliens “ineligible for citizenship” from owning land.		
1890s	Japanese laborers begin immigrating to the Pacific Northwest.		
1905	Delegates from 67 organizations formed the Asiatic Exclusion League in San Francisco, California. Members of the league campaigned to stop all immigration of Asians to the U.S. Although primarily aimed at Japanese, it also affected other immigrants from Asia.		

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1907-08	The Gentlemen's Agreement between the governments of U.S. and Japan restricts Japanese immigration to the U.S.		
1907-1908	"Picture brides" from Japan begin immigrating to the U.S.		
1921	Washington State passes the Alien Land Law, barring "aliens ineligible for citizenship" from owning, renting, or leasing land.		
1922	The Supreme Court issues a ruling in <i>Ozawa v. United States</i> , declaring that immigrants born in Japan could not become U.S. citizens.		
1924	The Immigration Act of 1924 excludes all Asian immigrants except Filipinos.		
1929	The Japanese American Citizens League is formed; it holds its first national meeting in Seattle in 1930. Members lobbied for laws expanding citizenship rights of Japanese-Americans and encouraged Japanese-Americans to become more politically active.		