

Sikh and Indian Australians

TEACHER RESOURCE 1 - MAIN SOURCES OF IMMIGRANTS TO AUSTRALIA 1949 to 2000

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN (a)	1949-50 %	1959-60 %	1969-70 %	1979-80 %	1989-90 %	1999-00 %
New Zealand	1.9	1.3	2.7	16.3	9.2	23.7
United Kingdom and Ireland	28.2	36.1	41.6	21.5	21.1	10.8
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan Province)	0.8	0.4	0.2	1.6	2.5	7.4
South Africa	0.3	0.4	0.5	3.4	2.0	6.2
India	0.7	0.4	2.1	1.0	2.5	5.0
Former Yugoslavia	0.8	6.0	14.2	2.1	1.6	4.6
Philippines	n.a.	n.a.	0.1	2.5	5.0	3.5
Malaysia	0.4	0.2	0.5	2.0	5.3	1.9
Vietnam	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	16.0	9.2	1.6
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	0.3	0.0	0.2	1.0	6.6	1.6
Germany	34.6	9.0	2.2	1.5	0.9	0.8
Netherlands	1.7	8.9	1.5	1.5	0.4	0.5
Poland	3.0	1.8	0.3	1.7	1.4	0.2
Italy	9.3	15.4	5.6	1.3	0.3	0.2
Austria	3.7	1.9	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.1
Greece	1.1	5.9	5.9	1.1	0.3	0.1
Other	13.3	12.2	21.9	25.4	31.5	31.7
Total (b)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total (c)	184.9	105.9	185.1	80.7	121.2	92.3

(a) Countries of birth of permanent arrivals except for the 1949-50 column which is the country of last residence for at least one year of permanent and long-term arrivals.

(b) Immigrants whose country of origin was not known were excluded prior to the calculation of percentages.

(c) Includes immigrants whose country of origin was not known.

Source: Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Australian Immigration: Consolidated Statistics, various nos., various years; Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Immigration Update: June Quarter 2000.

SAR - The Special Administrative Regions which include Hong Kong and Macau.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/>

(SCSA HASS Skill: Draw and justify conclusions, and give explanations, based on the information and/or data in texts, tables, graphs and maps (e.g. identify patterns, infer relationships)

Use evidence from the table to support all your answers:

1. Describe the changing percentage of migrants from the UK and Ireland from 1949 to 2000 and suggest reasons for this change.

2. What is important about the immigration from New Zealand in 1999 to 2000 compared to other years and countries?

3. Describe the changing pattern of migration from Germany and the Netherlands over the whole period (1949 to 2000). Suggest reasons for the higher percentage up to 1960.

4. What percentage of Australia's migrants came from Vietnam in 1979 to 1980? Give reasons for this figure.

5. When does the percentage of immigrants from most Asian countries start to increase? Give reasons for this change.

6. Explain how the changing Australian government immigration policies from 1949 to 2000 are reflected in the table. (Populate or perish, end of the White Australia policy, Numerical Assessment)

Sample answers:

1. Migrants from the UK and Ireland formed the highest percentage of intake from 1949 to 1990, ranging from 41.6% in 1969-70 to 21.1% in 1989-90. The reasons for this included the assisted migrant schemes, “£10 Poms” and the active promotion of British migration to Australia. The decline in immigration from the UK by 2000 was due to the end of assisted passages and the growth of immigration from New Zealand and Asian countries.
2. In 1999-2000 for the first time at 23% of all migrants, immigrants from New Zealand overtook migrants from all other countries to Australia (especially from the previously predominant UK).
3. The migration of Germans was very high at 34.6% of immigrants in 1949-50, reflecting the push of Germans out of war-torn Europe, where many Germans became displaced persons, and the pull of Australia which offered assisted passages and a new life. After the peak in 1949-50 the percentage of German immigrants declined to 2.2% in 1969-70 and under 1% of all immigrants in 1999-2000. Immigrants from the Netherlands were never such a high percentage, but they rose to 8.9% in 1959-60 when assisted passages were still operating and declined dramatically to 0.5% by 1999-2000.
4. Sixteen percent of Australia’s immigrants came from Vietnam in 1979-80. This was due to the agreement by the Commonwealth Government from 1976 to accept refugees from Vietnam. This occurred at end of the Vietnam War. Australia was involved in the war from 1962-1972.
5. The increase of Asian migration occurred from 1979-80 with the end of the White Australia policy from the early 1970s. There was also the agreement to take refugees from Vietnam and the introduction of the NUMAS policy in 1979. China’s immigration provides evidence of this change, as the source of 0.2% of the immigrants in 1969-70, to 1.6% in 1979-80 and an increase to 7.4% twenty years later.
6. The high percentage of migrants from Europe in 1949-50 through to 1959-60 came through the Displaced Persons program and the Australian Government’s “White Australia” preferences. The high percentage of immigrants from UK and Ireland, over 20% of all immigrants up until the 1990s, was overtaken by New Zealand in 1999-2000. However, the growth of immigration from China, India and other Asian countries over the 30 years from 1969-1970 through to 1999-2000 clearly reflects the end of the White Australia policy and the application of the Numerical Assessment System where selection intake was based on age, work skills and sponsorship.