Unit 3: A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS  
Theme: AMERICAN IDENTITY & DIVERSITY

Summary
A famous historian once said, that if we wanted to learn about a person, “we must watch the infant in his mother’s arms.” In other words, if you want to learn about anything (including the history of a country) go back to its very beginning… From the very first Europeans who settled in Jamestown and Plymouth, America’s legacy as a “nation of immigrants” is complicated, and at times, contradictory. American identity embraces this tradition, yet Americans have a long history of fear and distrust of “the other”. By exploring the changing face of immigration over time and Americans’ reaction to it, we will attempt to increase our understanding of what it means to be an American, as well as to explore the benefits and challenges that exist regarding immigration today.

Essential Questions
- What is the promise of America? How has America lived up to that promise?
- Is the United States a melting pot?
  - Have the multiple peoples, cultures and faiths of America merged to create a unique, stronger American culture?
  - Or have certain peoples and cultures dominated others socially and economically?

Critical Thinking Skills Emphasized
- Primary Document Analysis, application of reasoning: comparison, cause and effect, generalization
- Using evidence to support an argument

Documents
“A Model of Christian Charity” by John Winthrop
“The Gettysburg Address” by Abraham Lincoln
The Declaration of Independence
“American Progress” by John Gast
“The First Thanksgiving” by J.L.G. Ferris

Content Questions
1. What are the five fundamental American values? (Identify and apply them to historic documents)
2. What are the basic elements of the origin myth of the United States? How has this shaped American identity?
3. What have been the causes and the effects of immigrants coming to the United States? How have Americans reacted to immigration during different periods in history and how has U.S. immigration policy changed/remained the same over time?

Terms, Concepts & People:
1. liberty
2. equality
3. democracy
4. individualism
5. capitalism
6. origin myth
7. “City on a Hill”
8. The Declaration of Independence
9. Manifest Destiny
10. Gettysburg Address
11. Ellis Island
12. Angel Island
13. Chinese Exclusion Act
14. Bracero
15. nativism
16. Immigration Act of 1924
17. Immigration Act of 1965
18. The DREAM Act
19. “Path to citizenship”
20. Amnesty