**The Italian Immigration**

**Arriving to America**
Many Italian immigrants arrived in America at a place famously known as **Ellis Island**. In the **1880s**, **300,000** Italians arrived in America thenin the 1890s, it was 600,000. After ten years, more than two million Italians had travelled to America. About 5.5 million Italians immigrated to the United States from 1820 to 2004.

**The Places the Italians Settled**
Italians Americans usually settled in big cities where jobs were easy to find. The most popular cities for them to settle in were Boston, New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Rhode Island. Later groups of Italian Americans settled more in South America then in North America.

**Life for The Italian Immigrants**
At the turn of the 20th century, southern Italian immigrants were among the lowest-paid workers in America. Child labour was common, and even small children often went to work in factories, mines, and farms, or sold newspapers on city streets.

**Jobs**
Jobs as policemen, firemen and civil servants became available to Italian Americans; while others found employment as plumbers, electricians, mechanics and carpenters. Women found jobs as civil servants, secretaries, dressmakers, and clerks. With better paying jobs they moved to more affluent neighbourhoods outside of the Italian areas.

**What impact did Italian immigrants have on America?**
Italian immigrants helped provide the labour for American factories and mines and helped build roads, dams, tunnels, and other infrastructure. Italians brought with them a rich history and understanding of art and culture. Also, Italians brought with them famous sculptors and painters to opera singers.

**Food**
Adventurous immigrants opened restaurants providing the soldiers with the foods they had developed a craving for and introduced the soldiers' families to spaghetti and meatballs, sausage and peppers, lasagne, manicotti, baked ziti and pizza.

**Reason Why They immigrate to America**
By the late 19th century, Italy had finally been brought under one flag, but the land and the people were not united. There was violence, chaos, and widespread poverty. There were many poor Italians in the countryside. Diseases and natural disasters were everywhere, but the government did not help the people. That is why the Italians began to immigrate and move away from Italy.

**Challenges**
Labour struggles were not the only problem Italian immigrants faced. They also faced racism, violence and aggression.

**How long did it take immigrants to travel to America from Italy?**
96% of immigrants arriving in New York travelled directly to the United States by ship. The first Italian immigrants undertook the voyage which took something up to 3 months. The introduction of the steamship cut the travelling time to 10 days.

**Did you know…? Fun Fact:**

New York has the largest population of Italian Americans, at 3.1 million people.

**Questions:**

1. **How many Italians arrived to America in 1880?**
2. **How many Italians arrived to America in 1890?**
3. **Where did the Italian immigrants settle in America?**
4. **What was life like for Italian immigrants?**
5. **What did they work as?**
6. **What did Italian immigrants eat in America?**
7. **Why did Italians immigrate to America?**
8. **What challenges did they face?**
9. **How long did it take immigrants to travel to America from Italy?**