

INDUSTRIOUS NEW YORK

In the Gilded Age

A Lesson for the *Atlas of New York: Legacies of the Erie Canal*

In the late-1800s, the period of time known as “The Gilded Age,” New York was leading in many categories: population, commerce, agriculture. The “Empire State” was also a leader in manufacturing. Factories sprang up in cities and smaller towns all over the state. Why was this so?

EVIDENCE FROM THE MAPS: Open the *Atlas of New York: Legacies of the Erie Canal* to page 20. The largest map is titled, “_____”
To put this in context, this was five years after the end of the _____.
This is *thematic map*, which means it shows one kind of data. According to the map legend (key), this is “% of _____ that was employed in manufacturing.

Name five counties where over 9% of the population was employed in manufacturing: _____

(There is a county map on the inside of the back cover of the Atlas.)

Did the Erie Canal pass through or near these counties? _____

This is important! What do factories need to be successful (make a profit)?

Another way of saying this is, “New York had good *geographic connections*.”

There is a graph on the left side of page 20. It plots the **Manufacturing output per capita**. What does *per capita* mean? _____

During the years shown on the graph (1850 to _____), how did New York compare to the rest of the country? _____

This advantage was related to the Erie Canal and the _____ River, which connected the waterways to New York City and its great harbor.

There are two small maps at the bottom of the page. Pick one of them:

Title _____

What does this map show? _____

Are most of these counties on the Erie Canal or the Hudson River? _____

Finish this statement: "Factories in New York were profitable in 1880 because _____".

IMMIGRATION IN THE GILDED AGE

Factories need workers. No matter what product they are making, a reliable labor force is required. Since there weren't enough "native" New Yorkers available, they hired people who came here from other countries, especially Europe. They came across the Atlantic Ocean on steamships. Many of them arrived at New York City. These *immigrants* often stayed and worked in crowded NYC neighborhoods. Others moved on to other cities in New York State or farther west.

Look at the first map on the next page, "Foreign Born (Percent) by State in 1880."

What does *foreign born* mean? _____

Name two states with more than 30% of its population foreign born:

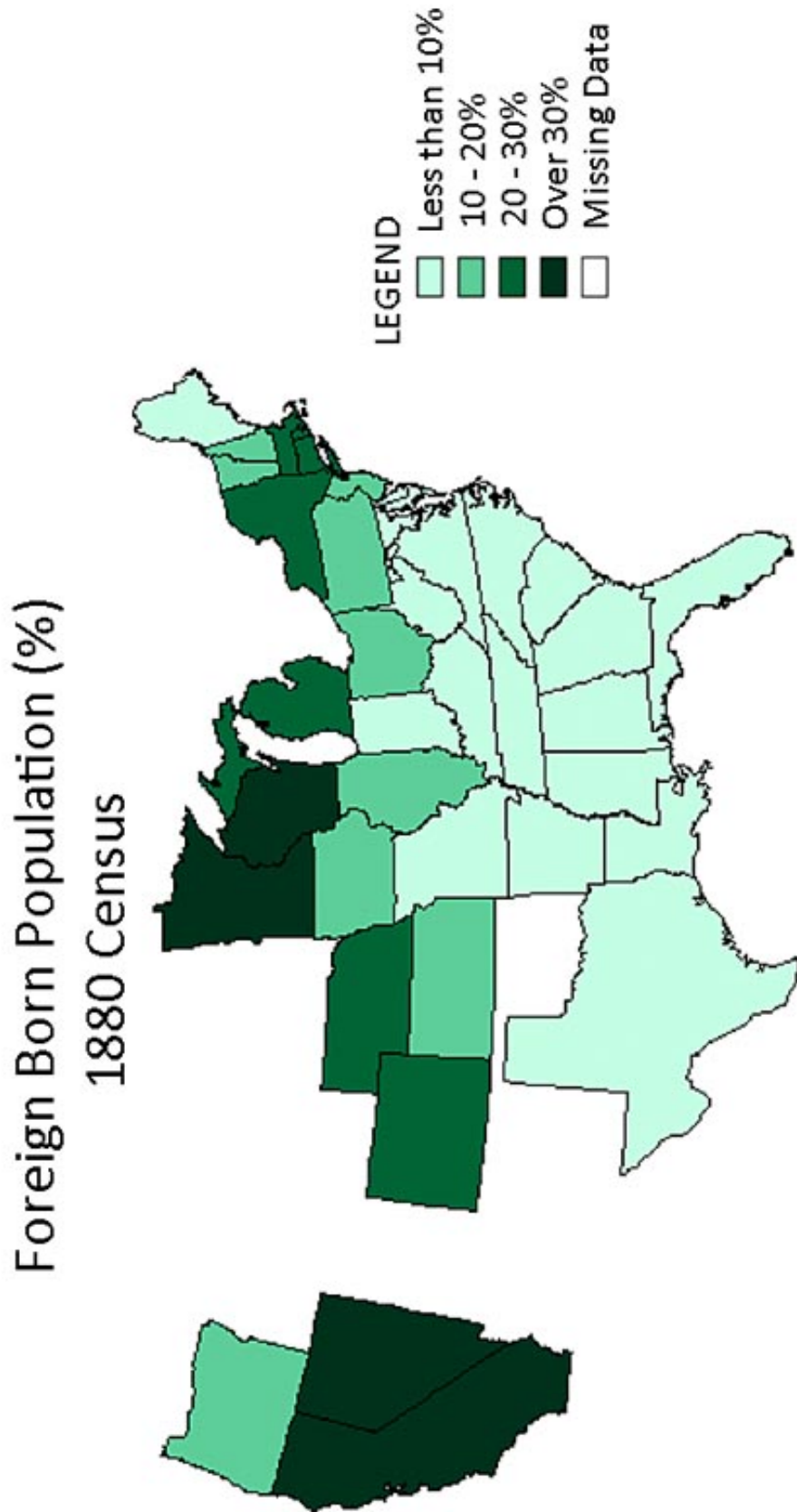
What part of the country has the smallest foreign born population by percent?

How about New York? Estimate the percent foreign born in 1880. _____

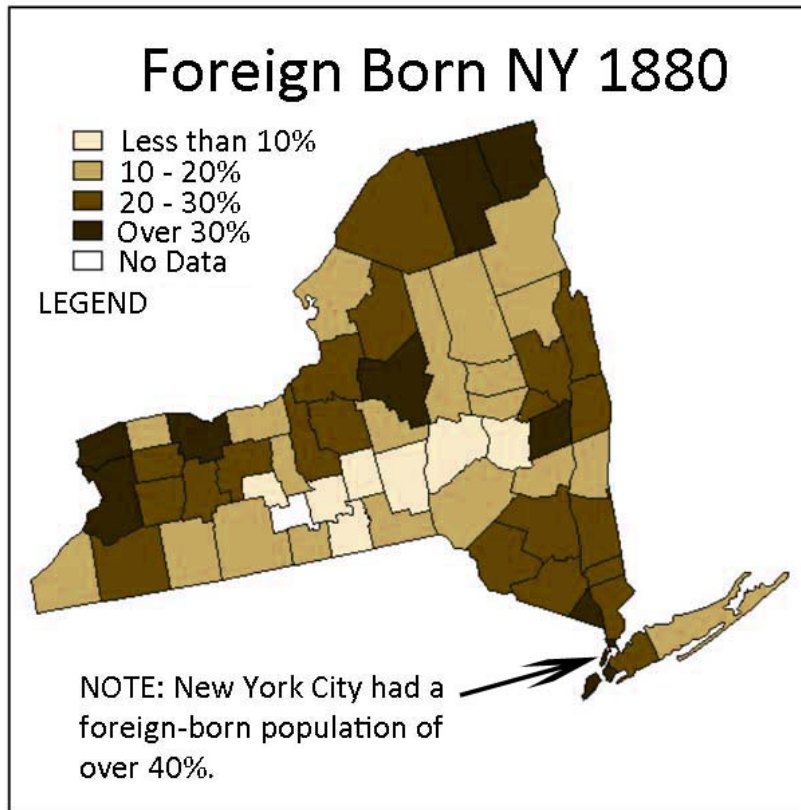
Where did these "new Americans" probably live and work? _____

Notice that much of the West is blank ("Missing Data"). In 1880, there were no states in that part of the country, so there is no data.

Foreign Born (Percent) by State in 1880



Foreign Born in New York (Percent) by County in 1880



We can get a better picture of New York if we zoom in to a county level map.
Name two counties with **less than 10%** foreign born residents in 1880:

Circle the counties that had **over 30%** foreign born populations in 1880:

Erie (Buffalo) Jefferson (Watertown) Albany Allegany

Oneida (Utica) Suffolk (Long Island) Monroe (Rochester)

CONCLUSIONS:

1. Those people born outside the United States (immigrants) tended to settle in places that were _____.
2. New York City was over 40% foreign born. Why do you think that was so?

3. Counties with industry had _____ immigrant populations.