**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_**

**AMERICA: THE STORY OF US: Cities**

Between 1880 and 1930, nearly 24 million new immigrants arrive in the United States. Many go to work building a new frontier: the modern city. The high cost of land in cities like New York and Chicago means the only way to build is up. A new kind of building, the skyscraper, is made possible by steel. Produced on a massive scale, steel production underpins the infrastructure of the modern city. This new urban frontier depends on the labor of rural migrants and newly arrived immigrant workers to grow. For many, the Statue of Liberty is their first sight of the New World and Ellis Island is the gateway to the American Dream. The lawless city offers opportunities for many and astronomical wealth for a few. Police chief Thomas Byrnes uses his harsh new innovation “the third degree,” to keep a lid on crime. The millions flocking to urban areas of the U.S. often experience terrible conditions in disease-ridden tenements. Jacob Riis, photographer and reformer, brings their plight to the world with his groundbreaking photographs in the book “How the Other Half Lives.” Workers in new high-rise factories become urban martyrs in New York City’s Triangle Shirtwaist factory fire in March of 1911, as the city struggles to make these new buildings safe. Powered by steel and electricity, the city begins to be tamed and defined by mass transportation, stunning skylines, electric light...and the industrious American spirit.

**Video Questions:**

1. **What is New York City’s biggest problem in 1885?**
2. Who launches a fundraising campaign?
3. The poem at the base celebrates America as the land of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. From 1880 to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nearly \_\_\_\_\_ million new immigrants arrived in the US.
5. **What was the Bessemer steel converter? How did this invention shape U.S. history?**
6. By 1902 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ skyscrapers are being constructed in Manhattan.
7. What are the men called who built skyscrapers? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of five \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ die or are disabled on the job.
8. Before the elevator, how high were buildings?
9. What was the third degree used by police in New York City?
10. What will change detective work forever?
11. What were conditions in tenements like?

Riis publishes his photos in his book, *How the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lives.*

1. **What was the key factor in Thomas Edison’s success in designing the light bulb? What were some of the new things that were possible because of this invention?**
2. **Why do you think the Triangle Shirtwaist fire happened? What were some of the results of this tragedy?**
3. What forces management to take responsibility for the lives of their workers?

Discussion Questions:

Why do you think so many everyday Americans contributed money to help build the Statue of Liberty?

What elements were necessary to create the modern American City?

**Primary Source: *The New Colossus***

Emma Lazarus wrote the following poem in 1883; today it is engraved on a plaque in the Statue of Liberty museum. Lazarus was an immigrant to the U.S. who became an advocate for other immigrants arriving on new shores for the first time.

Vocabulary:

**Colossus:** a huge statue; something enormously large or powerful.

**Brazen:** bold and unashamed; harsh-sounding; made of brass or resembling it.

**Exiles:** unwillingabsence from own country, whether enforced or self-imposed; banishment or official expulsion as punishment.

**Beacon**: a flashing light for ship navigation; a source of inspiration that guides others

**Pomp**: a display of great splendor; an ostentatious and vain display of importance.

**Yearning:** a strong desire, often tinged with sadness.

**Tempest**: a severe commotion or disturbance, especially an emotional upheaval; a severe storm with high winds and rain, hail or snow.

***The New Colossus***

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,*

*with conquering limbs astride from land to land;*

*here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand*

*A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame*

*Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name*

*Mother of exiles. From her beacon-hand*

*Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command*

*The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.*

*“Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she*

*with silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,*

*Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,*

*The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.*

*send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,*

*I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”*

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What do you think the phrase “world-wide welcome” means in relation to immigration in the U.S.? What are some other phrases from this poem that are equally as meaningful?

2. Why do you think this poem is considered an American classic today? How does this Poem represent the ‘American Dream’?

3. Many of the vocabulary words that the Author choices have multiple meanings that can be uses to evoke complex or layered ideas and imagery. Pick two of these words and explain how they help to elaborate on the process of immigration to the United States.