

famine = shortage of food

**VOCABULARY**

**artisan** a skilled worker who has learned a trade, such as carpentry

**trade union** organized group of skilled workers trying to improve pay and working conditions

**strike** the refusal of union workers to work

**immigrant** a person who comes to a country to take up permanent residence

**discrimination** policy or attitude that denies equal rights to a group of people

**SUMMARY**

By the 1840s, the number of factories in the North had grown. Now, more laborers worked longer hours for lower wages. Factories were unhealthy places to work. In summer, they were very hot. In winter, they were very cold. Factory machines had no safety devices and accidents were common. Many workers lived in run-down houses near the factories.

The low wages and poor working conditions led workers to join together. The first people to do so were **artisans**. They began to form **trade unions** in the 1820s and 1830s. By going on **strike**, workers tried to make factory owners improve working conditions.

Many of the workers in factories were **immigrants** from Europe. About 4 million immigrants arrived in the 1840s and 1850s. Many were from Ireland and Germany. Immigrants brought their own traditions to the United States, making American culture richer. Some people did not welcome immigrants. They blamed immigrants for the problems of the country. One group, who called themselves **nativists**, wanted to preserve the country for native-born, white citizens. The nativists formed a political party called the **Know-Nothing party**. In 1856, the party won 21 percent of the vote. (See chart.)

Thousands of free African Americans lived in the North. Slavery was against the

law in the northern states. However, free African Americans faced **discrimination**. Even skilled African Americans had trouble finding good jobs. Despite these difficulties, many African Americans were able to achieve success.

**CAUSES**

- Famines develop in Ireland.
- Revolutions erupt in Germany.
- Number of factory jobs in United States grows.

**IMMIGRATION****EFFECTS**

- American industry continues to grow.
- Immigrant traditions become part of American culture.
- Some Americans want to limit immigration.

**REVIEW**

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Why did northern workers begin to form unions?

2. **Chart Skills** What was one cause and one effect of immigration?