Dear Staff,

As you know, Chicago is a city that has been largely shaped by sundry immigrant groups. Whether the Western Europeans of the 19th century or recent immigrants from Mexico and Asia, modern Chicago has been built by these groups. The neighborhoods and cultural institutions that are integral pieces of the Chicago landscape are results of these ethnic groups.

We are creating a new exhibit at the museum and need your assistance! This exhibit will showcase the major ethnic groups that played a key role in Chicago’s development. The groups we want to focus on are:

- African Americans
- Germans
- Czechs and Bohemians
- Irish
- Italians
- Chinese
- Mexicans
- Polish

Your mission is to:

- Research your assigned ethnic group utilizing the SICP Library Weebly Page
- As an individual, prepare a typed, minimum 1.5 to 2 page essay explaining the immigration patterns and cultural, social, and economic impact of these people on Chicago. (Must contain an MLA works cited page – Minimum of three secondary sources - and internal citations)
  - Your paper should address the following guiding questions:
    - What factors motivated a massive migration/immigration of this group?
    - What cultural (food, music, art, lifestyle) aspects did the group bring to Chicago?
    - What neighborhood(s) did the group settle in?
    - What types of work did early immigrants participate in?
    - Who are/were some influential individuals from this group?
    - What are some culturally significant locations for this group in Chicago?
- As a group, create a professional presentation for our committee. Your presentation must be a minimum of five minutes in length, contain a visual aid (powerpoint, Prezi, etc) to assist the committee in seeing the relevance of your ethnic group. Your presentation should cover the essential facets of your paper(s). Presentations MUST be less than 5 minutes long.

Best of luck!

Chicago History Museum
Chicago History – Chicago History Museum

Websites that may be helpful:

“Chicago City of the Century: Decades of Immigrants”
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/chicago/sfeature/sf_nations.html

“Chicago’s Immigrants Break Old Patterns”
http://www.migrationinformation.org/usfocus/display.cfm?ID=160

“The Metro Chicago Immigration Factbook”

Encyclopedia of Chicago
http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org

“And They Came to Chicago the Italian American Legacy”
http://www.italiansofchicago.com/topics.html

“Chicago’s Italians: Immigrants, Ethnics, Achievers 1850-1985”
http://www.lib.niu.edu/1999/iht629936.html

“Early Chicago: The Great Migration”

“Great Migration”
http://www.history.com/topics/great-migration

“Chicago and the Great Migration”
http://www.lib.niu.edu/1996/iht329633.html

“Black Migration”
http://www.pbs.org/jazz/places/faces_migration.htm

“Chicago and the Great Migration 1915-1950”
http://dcc.newberry.org/collections/chicago-and-the-great-migration

“Irish Chicago”

“From Immigrants to Urban Workers: Chicago's German Poor in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, 1883—1908”
http://www.jstor.org/stable/20733958

“National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library: Chicago”

“Czech and Slovak Americans from an International Perspective”

“The Mexicans in Chicago”
http://www.lib.niu.edu/1999/iht629962.html

“Ethnic History of Bridgeport”
http://www.uic.edu/orgs/LockZero/iv.html

“Historiography of Chicago’s Mexican Community”
http://tigger.uic.edu/~marczim/mlac/papers/hutchison.htm

http://www.uic.edu/jaddams/hull/urbanexp/introduction/introduction.htm

Don’t forget to conduct searches in the databases.
Here is a sample of what you may find:


The above Ebsco article “Focuses on Polish immigration to the United States between 1870 and 1914.” Here is a direct link:


Good books that are available in the SICP library that can be helpful:

- *The Ethnic Handbook*
- *Ethnic Chicago*
- *Chicago: City of Neighborhoods*
- *Images of America Series*