http://www.voanews.com/learningenglish/home/-Immigrants-from-Europe-Seek-Better-Life-in-New-Land-93602104.html

LEO SCULLY: In the eighteen fifties, America's industrial revolution was just beginning. Factories needed skilled workers -- men who knew how to do all the necessary jobs. Factory owners offered high pay to workers who had these skills.

British workers had them. Many had spent years in British factories. Pay was poor in Britain, and these skilled workers could get much more money in America. So, many of them came. Hundreds of thousands. Some factories -- even some industries -- seemed completely British.

British immigrants left their homeland because they were poor in Britain, and could get much more money in America thanks to their skills

MAURICE JOYCE: To another group of immigrants, America was the last hope. Ireland in the eighteen forties suffered one crop failure after another. Hungry men had to leave. In eighteen fifty alone, more than one hundred seventeen thousand people came to the United States from Ireland. Most had no money and little education. To those men and women, America was a magic name.

In the mid-nineteenth century, Irish people left their country because they were hungry. Indeed, they suffered one crop after another and had nothing to eat. They moved to America to be able to feed their family and offer their children a decent education.

LEO SCULLY: Throughout Europe, when times were hard, people talked of going to America. In some countries, organizations were formed to help people emigrate to the United States. A Polish farmer wrote to such an organization in Warsaw:

"I want to go to America. But I have no money. I have nothing but the ten fingers of my hands, a wife, and nine children. I have no work at all, although I am strong and healthy and only forty-five years old. I have been to many towns and cities in Poland, wherever I could go. Nowhere could I earn much money. I wish to work. But what can I do. I will not steal, and I have no work. So, I beg you to accept me for a journey to America."

In Poland, there was no work nor money, that's why Polish people wanted to go to America. They hoped to find a job and dreamt of earning money.

MAURICE JOYCE: As the years passed, fewer people were moving to America for a better job. Most were coming now for any job at all. Work was hard to find in any of the cities in Europe.

A British lawmaker told parliament in eighteen seventy that Englishmen were leaving their country, not because they wanted to, but because they had to. They could not find work at home. He said that even as he spoke, hundreds were dying of hunger in London and other British cities. They were victims of the new revolution in agriculture and industry.

In the late nineteenth century, there was no work in Britain because of the revolution in Agriculture and industry, so many left because of hunger and hoped to find a job.

LEO SCULLY: In the next ten years, millions of people made the move from Britain, Germany, and the Scandinavian countries. But then, as industry in those countries grew larger, and more jobs opened, the flood of immigration began to slow.

The immigrants now were coming from southern and eastern Europe. Anti-Jewish feeling swept Russia and Poland. Violence against Jews caused many of them to move to America.

In the late nineteenth century, many Jewish people from Southern and Eastern Europe left because their were victims of violence against Jews. They dreamt of being free to practise their religion.

In the late eighteen eighties, cholera spread through much of southern Italy. Fear of the disease led many families to leave for the United States.

Others left when their governments began building up strong armies. Young men who did not want to be soldiers often escaped by moving to America. Big armies were costly, and many people left because they did not want to pay the high taxes.

Many immigrants left Italy in the late 1880s because they were afraid of Cholera. In other parts of Europe, immigrants wanted to escape from their governments because they were building strong armies. Young men left because they didn't want to be soldiers and families left because they didn't want to pay taxes.