1. Case study: Men at lunch

* Séan Ó Cualáin, Men at Lunch, documentary, 75 mn, (7/09/2012)

**video timing**: 01'46 – 04'43

Questions :

**Séquence 1**: 01'46 – 04'43

1- Pick out elements concerning their origin, location, job ..... | Who?

|Where?

|When? (date of the picture and economic context)

|What?

2- Explain the expressions « Now they are quintessential New Yorkers » and “heroic pride”

**Séquence 2 : 27'50 – 30'56**

3- How can Americans today relate to their story?

4- When and why did most of the Irish leave their country?

5- What is Ellis Island?

6- Are these people the expression of the "American Dream"?

**Séquence 3 : 37'48 – 40'00 + 40'47 – 44'14**

7- Why is it so important to find the identity of “these guys” 80 years after?

8- What is the village connected with 2 of the men? Where is it?

9- Who are Pat Glynn and Patrick O’Shaughnessy? How are they connected with two of the men?

10- What is the evidence found on one of them?

11- When and why did they leave Ireland?
12. Why is this photo a major legacy for the Americans and the Irish?
13. How does this photo relate to the American dream? In your opinion did the men achieve it?

### 2. Irish immigration to the USA

#### Evolution of Irish immigration

![Irish immigration to USA graph](image)

Source: Historical Statistics of the United States

1. Present the source
2. On the graph, describe the evolution of the curve:
   - Period 1:
   - Period 2:
   - Period 3:
3. Comment on the evolution of the number of Irish immigrants.

#### 3. Reasons of European immigration to the USA during the 19th Century

The reasons why people migrate are often described as **push and pull factors**.

- **Push factors**: reasons that can force people to leave their native area
- **Pull factors**: reasons that can attract people to a new area.

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- The industrial revolution eliminated many regional jobs, particularly among the artisan class. Factories made cheaper materials that artisans could not compete with.
- Religious tolerance, the promise of freedom.
- Improved agriculture led to a population growth. As European population grew, land became scarce. Europe soon became overcrowded.
- The Irish Potato famine (1845-1852).
- Political or religious persecutions: Political unrest (pogroms) in Russia; Fascism in Italy; Hitler, Stalin in the 20s-30’s).
- Development of transport: steam companies offered low fares for the ocean crossing.
- US growing economy and small resident population.
- Factory owners sent agents to Europe to hire workers at low wages.

### 4. To sum up

**Use the answers and what you learnt from the documentary and write two paragraphs:**

I- The Irish immigration through a picture (When, why?)  
II- How and why did they become part of the US contemporary history?

Two quotations that might help you:
- “An American is somebody who came from somewhere else to become someone else”  
  (Newspaper reporter, 1920)
- “America is like a huge melting pot. It is here we will mix the races together to create a new person – an American”  
  (President of the USA, Woodrow Wilson, 1915)