



Questions

1. Describe the scene in the cartoon.
2. Who is controlling the gate?
3. What is the significance of the number 15 on the balloons?
4. Why are the two men near the gates of Columbia and Mexico putting their thumbs on their noses?
5. Compare the numbers of Chinese coming in through the gate controlled by the U.S. versus the other two.
6. What do you believe the message of the cartoon to be?

Answers

1. Ships are arriving, filled with Chinese passengers; they are entering the US through the gate as well as through Mexico and Columbia.
2. Uncle Sam
3. In 1879 “15 Passenger Bill”: Congress restricted Chinese immigration by limiting the number of Chinese passengers permitted on any ship coming to the U.S. to 15. Leaders in the Congressional debate expressed the view that Chinese persons were “aliens, not to be trusted with political rights.” President Rutherford B. Hayes vetoed the bill as being inconsistent with U.S.-China treaty commitments that permitted the free movement of peoples.
4. To show their disrespect to laws restricting entrance to Chinese immigrants.
5. Many more are entering through the other two entrances than through the US since there are no restrictions on their entry into those nations.
6. Answers will vary but arguments must support that the cartoon is either anti-Chinese immigration or against any restrictions on their entry.