Immigration Time Line

Date	Pre-1790	1790-1820	1820-1880	1880-1930	1930-1965	1965-2000
Event	It is believed by most scientists that the first human beings came to America Over the Bering Straits about 20,000 years ago.	In 1790, the first Naturalization Act, was passed, which stipulated that "any alien, being a free white person, may be admitted to become a citizen of the United States.	The Industrial Revolution had begun, and slave trade was nearing its end and America was headed westward. Thousands of immigrants found work on the trans-continental railroads.	By this time steam power had shortened the journey to America dramatically. Immigrants then began to pour in from around the world: from the Middle East, the Mediterranean, Southern and Eastern Europe, and down from Canada.	The Great Depression had begun, leaving few with the means or the incentive to come to the U.S.	Effects of the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965 were immediate and significant.
	Around the year 1000, a small number of Vikings would also arrive, and five hundred years later	Early years of the republic, immigration was light and only around 6000 people per year on average were allowed to come into the U.S.	During this time many immigrants were facing devastating famine in their home country, and great hunger that were leaving millions dead.	After 1892, nearly all immigrants came in through the newly opened Ellis Island.	Many recent immigrants actually returned back to their native lands, and some had to against their will.	Escaping the Cold War conflicts of the 60s and 70s was not the only draw for the country's newest immigrants.
				Between this time gap over 27 million people entered the United States	Restrictive immigration policies of the 1920s persisted and by the late 1930s, with WWII accelerating in Europe, a new kind of immigrant began to challenge the quota system and the American Conscience many were Jews fleeing Nazi persecution arrived, but most were turned away.	Immigrants now can enter the country by air, by sea, by land routes, with these in place it makes it easier than ever to enter the country illegally.
						Through the 80s and 90s illegal immigration was a constant topic of political debate.