A satirical cartoon from 1855 titled "Attractive American wages"



1 : place where the immigrants were used to (be receipted) land / disembark in New York from 1855 to 1890

- 2 : Uncle Sam and an eagle : American symbols
- 4 : The new generation of boats with steam engine
- 5 : Allegory of Ireland
- 6 : John Bull, a typical English business man
- 7 : Lion, symbol of United Kingdom

Instructions :

- Introduce the document ;
- Comment on the document showing the different issues for Ireland, United Kingdom and the United States of America ;
- Show the historical interest of the document and its limits.

<u>Test :</u>

Study of a document / correct version

• Introduce the document

= Present the document (author, date, source, main topic)

This is a satirical cartoon drawn in 1855, titled « Attractiv American wages » It shows on a satirical way, how and why Irish people leave their home country, attracted by the possibility of employment and "good wages".

<u>Comment on ...</u>

An issue means what is the hope and the waiting of the different groups: Describe the different characters drawn and their location in the picture Foreground – background:

- For Ireland :

A young lady on the foreground (center of the scenery) is the allegory of Ireland. Emigration means a better life, an employment, a work. The offer announced with "good wages" is a very good opportunity. They have nothing to lose as they are so poor and **powerless**, **empty-handed**.

- For the United States :

Uncle Sam and his eagle are waiting, ready to welcome the migrants.

The country is looking for workers "wanted 1 000 000 men" as the country is developing the settlement of the land and the industry as well.

- For United Kingdom :

A Business man a bit stressed and a lion, sad

United Kingdom is in competition with United States about workers. John Bull tries to **hold** the Irish lady **back**. He **prevents** her **from** leaving. He wants to **keep** her in UK.

• <u>The historical interest</u> :

With this cartoon we have a good illustration of what was **at stake** with emigration : The research of workers from one part and the condition of employment for the others.

• The limits of the document:

It shows the **attractiveness** (**appeal**) of United States, the land of freedom and success but it doesn't show the reality of the arrival and the difficulties of integration for most of those migrants; the xenophobic attitude of some American people...