Practice Identification for **Chinese Exclusion Act**

**Chinese Exclusion Act:** The Chinese Exclusion Act was a law passed by Congress in 1882 that banned all Chinese workers (both skilled and unskilled as well miners) from immigrating to the United States. This act demonstrates the discrimination that Chinese (and other non-white) immigrants faced in this time period. As sources of immigration shifted away from the “old” (Great Britain, Germany, Ireland) to the “new” (Eastern Europe, Greece, Italy, China) US attitudes to immigrants shifted from “citizens-to-be” to “dangerous foreigners.”

**Tenement:** Tenements were large, multi-story buildings that housed many families in cramped, dirty, and unsanitary conditions. Tenements grew particularly common during the 2nd Industrial Revolution at the end of the 19th/beginning of the 20th century.

*Emblematic of Urban Sanitation Issues:* Because tenements forced large numbers of urban poor into poorly ventilated rooms with large numbers of other people and poor sanitation, they contributed to the frequent outbreaks of communicable diseases among the poor in urban areas during this time period.

*OR*

*Emblematic of Urbanization:* Because of the large number of migrants both from foreign countries and from the struggling agricultural sector, the tenements grew quickly numerous and showed the sanitation and disease problems of the cities growing faster than planners and government could provide for. By the end of the 19th century, approximately three quarters of the population of New York City lived in tenement houses.