

KOMAGATA MARU SOURCES EXERCISE

SOURCE A: The *Komagatu Maru* arrived in Vancouver, having sailed from China with 376 Indians aboard, who were refused admittance to Canada. After two months in the harbour, and following an unsuccessful appeal to the BC Supreme Court, the boat sailed back to India. Between 1914 and 1920 only one Indian was admitted to Canada as an immigrant.

SOURCE C:



SOURCE B: "Hindu" was a generic term – as is East Indian.

SOURCE D: Resolution proposed Vancouver City Councilor Woodside.

THAT WHEREAS the Steamer "Komagata Maru" has been lying in the Port of Vancouver from the 23rd. day of May until the present date, with a shipload of undesirable immigrants desirous of obtaining admission into the Dominion of Canada:

AND WHEREAS it is the universal opinion of all citizens resident upon the Pacific Coast of the Dominion of Canada, that the influx of Asiatics is detrimental and hurtful to the best interests of the Dominion, from the standpoint of citizenship, public morals and labour conditions:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:-

That this meeting strongly urges upon the Dominion Government the necessity of taking immediate action towards the removal from this Port and the Province of British Columbia of the Steamer "Komagata Maru", together with her complement of undesirable immigrants:

AND THAT stringent legislation be enacted whereby such immigration may, in the future, be entirely restricted from admission to the Dominion.

SOURCE E: Letter sent to Editor, The Daily News Advertiser, by passengers on board the *Komagata Maru*.

Having heard from the Captain of S. S. Komagata Maru who this day saw Mr. Reid who declared him that yesterday, the Hindus tried to keep him as prisoner, but he took hardly chance to get launch for shore from them; we the representatives of the passengers draw the attention of the public, that it did not occur at all on the ship. This saying of Mr. Reid is totally wrong.

The fact is, that yesterday when the Board of Enquiry came on board with the representative of our lawyer Mr. Bird for enquiry, we laid the whole fact before them, that we all are starving from 3 days. We had written 3 letters to Mr. Reid, but in vain; one to Mr. Bird for water & food, was separately written.

We are now in great disappointed & miserable conditions. There are five children & two women on board, who are quite unable to move for want of water & food.

We did not agree to the Board of Enq. who came here for the purpose of playing with us - the sufferers; as we know already that the decision of the court is quite against us, though we have sufficient proves of our landing; which we could not able to produce on account of keeping us shut as prisoners.

Immigration Department did not give us a single chance to our lawyer to come on board to see us & take our thoughts to plead our cause. For this the Immigration dept. is held responsible & we are quite blameless & have come here by all rights to land.

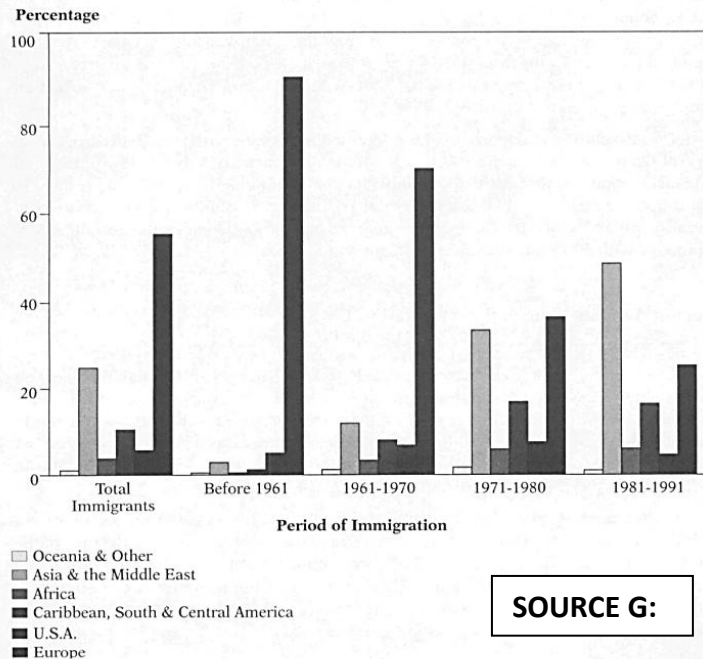
Immigration dept. held us prisoners & gave us all kinds of troubles, in its power.

We were not allowed to see our friends even.

SOURCE F: "The landing of these Hindus would be much more likely to cause riots than keeping them where they are.... It is probable that the Vancouver citizens will turn out and prevent such a landing. They had experience of this proposition on a previous occasion, (anti-Asian race riot of 1907) and do not want that experience to be repeated."

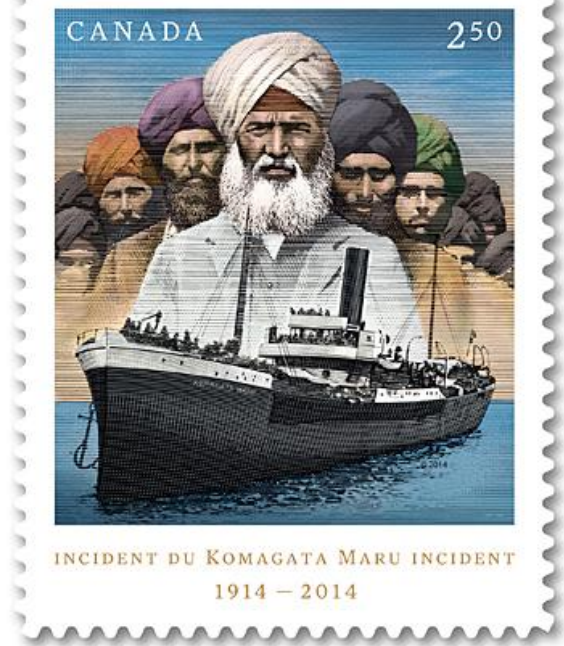
H.H. Stevens, Member of Parliament for Vancouver Centre, and the province's leading advocate of Asiatic exclusion.

Chart 1.5
Immigrants by Place of Birth and Period of Immigration, Canada, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, *Immigration and Citizenship*. 1991 Census of Canada, Catalogue No. 93-316.

SOURCE H:



Canada Post stamp – released May 6, 2014.

SOURCE I: PM Trudeau offering a formal apology to the Sikh community in the House of Commons in May of 2016.



SOURCE J: Prince George City Councilor Kyle Sampson and MLAs Shirley Bond and Coralee Oakes participate in Vaisakhi parade – 2024.



SOURCE K: SKILLED WORKERS POINT SYSTEM

Today Canada assesses immigration applications based on six selection factors.

Selection Factor	Points
Education	Maximum 25 points
Proficiency in English and/or French	Maximum 24 points
Experience	Maximum 21 points
Age	Maximum 10 points
Arranged employment in Canada	Maximum 10 points
Adaptability	Maximum 10 points
Total	Maximum 100 points

Remember to explain your answers by pointing out evidence from the sources.

1. What are the two main indicators of an anti-immigrant bias in the newspaper headline of source B.
2. What source corroborates source B's anti-Asian immigrant bias?
3. How does source E paint the situation inside the Komagata Maru?
4. Compare sources B, D, and E. What conflicting information is there?

5. How does source G corroborate source A?

6. How does source F paint Canadians at the time?

7. What points are not present in source K that may have been present in the early 1900s?

8. Why are sources H, I, and J important towards reconciliation?