

## VOCABULARY AND TERMS

**Angel Island**—an island in San Francisco Bay used as an immigration processing and detention center from 1910 until 1940. People arriving from China were detained for weeks, months, even years on Angel Island while awaiting action on their request for entry into the United States.

**Golden Gate Bridge**—the bridge spanning the entrance to San Francisco Bay. Like the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, the bridge symbolized the promise of opportunity and prosperity in the United States for immigrants arriving on the West Coast.

**immigration slots**—openings for foreign-born offspring of U.S. citizens to enter the United States as U.S. citizens. Chinese men who were American citizens falsely reported the birth of children upon returning to the United States after visiting family in China, thus creating openings for unrelated young men to be eligible to enter the United States as citizens.

**indemnity**—compensation for loss or damage.

**“paper sons”**—young men who immigrated to the United States claiming to be citizens by virtue of having an American-born father. Many bought an immigration “slot” from a Chinese American man who had recorded the births of children who never existed. In this way, some Chinese were still able to enter the United States, circumventing the discriminatory Exclusion Act.

**Oriental**—a term coined by Europeans that was commonly used to refer to people of Asian or Pacific decent. It comes from the term “orient” meaning to face east.

**reparations**—compensation for some loss.

**Six Companies**—a group of six Chinese organizations in San Francisco that helped many Chinese immigrants to find jobs, housing, etc. It also worked to protect the rights of the Chinese in the United States by lobbying on behalf of the Chinese community and funding legal challenges to discriminatory legislation.

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