

U.S. IMMIGRATION

GRAPH ACTIVITY

20pts

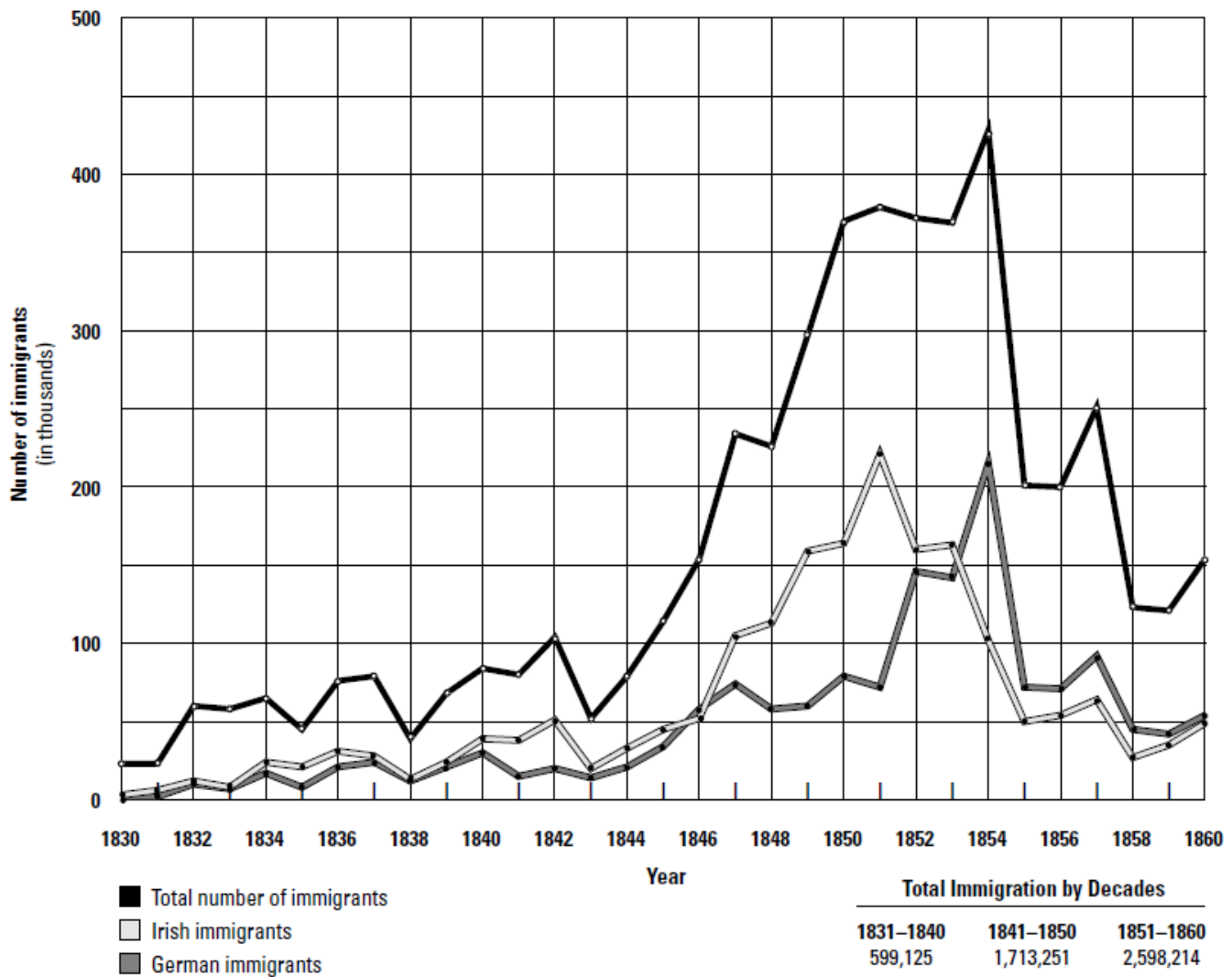
Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the line graph carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

It is estimated that between 1781 and 1820 about 250,000 people—excluding slaves—immigrated to the United States, an average of less than 63,000 a decade. Then, in the decade 1821–1830, that figure more than doubled, as nearly 144,000 immigrants arrived.

Immigration continued to increase dramatically during the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s. Many Europeans, particularly people from Ireland and Germany, were driven to the United States by famine or political unrest and oppression.

German immigrants often came with enough money to be able to journey to western regions of the United States before settling down in a variety of professions. The Irish immigrants, though, often arrived poverty stricken and stayed in the larger port cities of the East Coast where they first landed. They more readily accepted low-wage work. Eventually, however, they became active in unions and sought to better their conditions

U.S. Immigration, 1830–1860



Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. Which year on the graph had the highest immigration total? _____

How many immigrants arrived in the United States that year? _____

Which group—German or Irish—contributed more to that total? _____

2. About how many times larger was the immigration of the decade of 1831–1840 than that of the previous decade? _____

About how many times larger was the immigration of the decade of 1841–1850 than that of the previous decade? _____

3. What was the total immigration up to 1830? _____

In which single year from 1831–1860 did immigration almost equal the total of all immigration up to 1830? _____

What single year surpassed that total? _____

4. Prior to 1854, what is the only year that German immigration surpassed that of the Irish?

5. How did the immigration total for the decade of 1851–1860 compare with the decades of 1831–1840 and 1841–1850? _____

6. How did the German immigrants differ from the Irish immigrants before and after arriving in the United States? _____

7. Look carefully at the line graph. What years would you estimate were the major years of the deadly potato famine in Ireland? _____

What were most likely the years of major turmoil in Germany? _____