

Name _____ Class _____

This reading passage is from an article in a magazine called The North American Review. Some words have been removed. After you read the passage, fill in the blanks and try to figure out what year the article was written. Then write a paragraph explaining why you selected this year and these groups of people.

FOREIGN CRIMINALS IN NEW YORK
By Police Commissioner Theodore A. Bingham

When the circumstance is taken into consideration that eighty-five percent of the population of New York City is either foreign-born or of foreign parentage, and that nearly half of the residents of the five boroughs do not speak the English language, it is only a logical condition that something like eighty-five out of one hundred of our criminals should be found to be of exotic origin. It is not astonishing that with a million _____ in the city (one-quarter of the population), perhaps half of the criminals should be of that race.

The crimes committed by the _____ are generally those against property. They are burglars, firebugs, pickpockets and highway robbers--when they have the courage; but, though all crime is their province, pocket-picking is the one to which they seem to take most naturally.

Among the most expert of all the street thieves are _____ boys under sixteen, who are being brought up to lives of crime. Many of them are old offenders at the age of ten. The juvenile _____ emulates the adult in the matter of crime percentages, forty percent of the boys at the House of Refuge and twenty-seven percent of those arraigned in the Children's Court being of that race. The percentage of _____ children in the truant schools is also higher than that of any others.

Although, while the _____ are outnumbered in New York by the _____ by two to one, the _____ malefactor is by far the greater menace to law and order. For more than ten years, wherever a few _____ laborers have gathered together, whether it be at work on a railroad, or in a mine, or on a farm or an irrigation ditch, or in the vineyards of the Pacific slope, the desperadoes of the race have fastened themselves upon the honest and industrious. In New York, presumably the very center of Western civilization, crimes of blackmailing, blowing up shops and house and kidnapping of their fellow countrymen, have become prevalent among _____ residents of the city to an extent that cannot much longer be tolerated.

The audacity of these desperadoes is almost beyond belief. Arrested for crimes that, proved against them, might given them capital punishment or life terms of imprisonment, they will obtain bail and return to the scene of their depredations to jeer at and threaten their victims.

_____ children come next after the youthful _____ in the percentage of arraignments in the Children's Court and commitments to the truant schools and the House of Refuge--the lower rounds of the ladder of crime. They are 20 percent of the total brought into the court, and 10 percent of those at the House of Refuge. There are no figures available as to percentages of commitments to the truant schools.

Year the article was written _____

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The crimes committed by the Hebrews (Jews) are generally those against property. They are burglars, firebugs, pickpockets and highway robbers--when they have the courage; but, though all crime is their province, pocket-picking is the one to which they seem to take most naturally.

Among the most expert of all the street thieves are Hebrew (Jewish) boys under sixteen, who are being brought up to lives of crime. Many of them are old offenders at the age of ten. The juvenile Hebrew (Jew) emulates the adult in the matter of crime percentages, forty percent of the boys at the House of Refuge and twenty-seven percent of those arraigned in the Children's Court being of that race. The percentage of Hebrew (Jewish) children in the truant schools is also higher than that of any others.

Although, while the Italians are outnumbered in New York by the Hebrews (Jews) by two to one, the Italian malefactor is by far the greater menace to law and order. For more than ten years, wherever a few Italian laborers have gathered together, whether it be at work on a railroad, or in a mine, or on a farm or an irrigation ditch, or in the vineyards of the Pacific slope, the desperadoes of the race have fastened themselves upon the honest and industrious. In New York, presumably the very center of Western civilization, crimes of blackmailing, blowing up shops and house and kidnapping of their fellow countrymen, have become prevalent among Italian residents of the city to an extent that cannot much longer be tolerated.

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