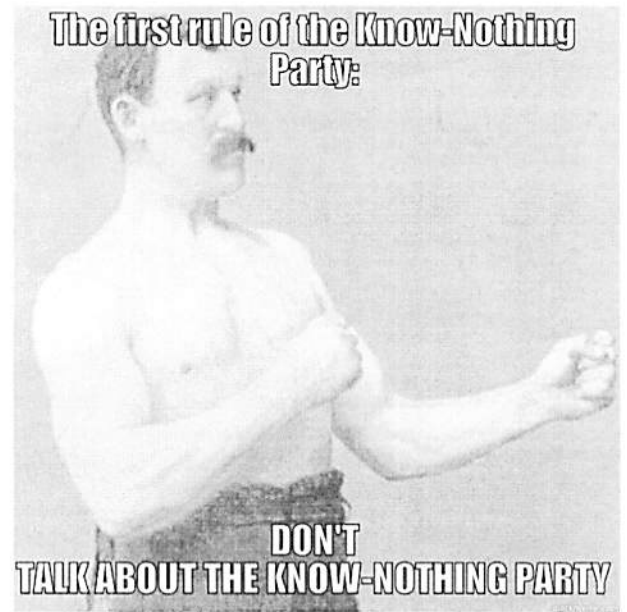


The Know Nothing Party

Definition: political party that had its heyday in the 1840s and 1850s. Also known as the American Party, its members had a strong anti-immigrant stance that cut across slavery-abolitionist lines. The Passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854 brought many more members into the Know-Nothing fold. (The party got its name, by the way, because its members would not for the longest time publicly admit their political views. When asked what they thought about the political issues of the day, they would say, "I know nothing.") They had, in 1855, 43 members of the party in Congress. Their only presidential candidate, Millard Fillmore, lost badly to Democrat Franklin Pierce in 1856. The party fell apart after that, with many of its followers joining some former members of the Whig Party (which had also fallen apart) to form the Constitutional Union Party.



Source 9:

"No Irish Need Apply"



1. How does the image reflect the beliefs of the Know-Nothing Party?

Source 2:

This is an excerpt from an article that appeared in a Boston newspaper,
The Know-Nothing and American Crusader.

THINGS WHICH ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS AND ALL TRUE ROMAN CATHOLICS HATE

Providence, July 22, 1854

1. They HATE our Republic, and are trying to overthrow it.
2. They HATE our *Flag*, and they grossly insulting it.
3. They HATE the liberty of the Press.
4. They HATE the liberty of speech.
5. They HATE our Public School system.
6. They HATE the Bible, and would blot it out of existence *if* they could!
7. They HATE Protestants, and are sworn to *exterminate* them from our country and the earth.
8. They HATE all rulers that do not swear allegiance to the Pope of Rome.
9. They HATE to be *ruled* by *Americans*, and say "WE WILL NOT BE RULED BY THEM!"
10. They HATE to support their own paupers and they are left to be supported by the tax paying Americans.
11. They HATE, above all, the "*Know-Nothings*," who are determined to rid this country from their cursed power.

UNCLE SAM

2. Based on this document, what were three reasons the Know-Nothings targeted Irish Catholics?

3. Based on this document, what are two reasons why the Know-Nothings believed being Catholic was incompatible with being a United States citizen?

4. Why did many U.S. citizens resent immigrant and want to restrict immigrations? **US.2.6**
- They feared that immigrants would not be willing to work hard and would contribute to unemployment.
 - They believed that most immigrants migrated to the South and would contribute to the persecution of African Americans.
 - They believed immigrants would take their jobs and did not trust their strange customs.
 - Most U.S. citizens were Catholic and were suspicious of the Protestant beliefs immigrants brought with them.

Source 3:



A cartoon shows an immigrant crossing a bridge, with five wealthy men stopping him in front. Behind each man is an image of his younger, immigrant self.

5. The men standing on a dock facing the man coming onshore represent **US.2.5**
- nativists.
 - immigrants.
 - business interests.
 - immigration officials.

