

Ellis Island

Self-Guided Activity (Grades 5-8)

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Ellis Island Immigration Museum
Statue of Liberty National Monument
New York, NY 10004



Immigrant Eyes 5th-8th Grade On-Site Activity

Leaving Home

What are two reasons that you think immigrants moved to the United States?

1. _____
2. _____

Discuss your answers with a friend.

Baggage Room (1st Floor)

Many passengers who immigrated to Ellis Island never saw their homeland again. If you left your homeland, list five items you might bring to another country. Be ready to explain why you chose those items.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Great Hall (2nd Floor)

Ask a Park Ranger to show you a button hook. What do you think that item was used for? Ask a Park Ranger what it was used for. Was your guess correct?



Through America's Gate (2nd Floor)-in the Gallery, "Medical Inspection"

Examine the list of diseases inspectors looked for at Ellis Island.

What does a chalk mark mean?

What type of disease might the immigrant in this photo have?



Medical and Legal Inspection - the *Great Hall* (2nd Floor):

Head to an inspector's podium and look over a manifest (shipping) record. What question(s) on the manifest record do you think are the most difficult to answer?



If you were detained (held back) for medical reasons, describe what happen to you during this time.

Write one sentence to describe your feelings here.



Visit the *Dormitory Rooms (3rd Floor):*

People stayed in the dormitory for many reasons. For example, immigrants may have not passed the legal inspection or their ferry may have arrived too late in the day. How would you feel if you stayed there?



Starting a New Life - *Peak Immigration Years (2nd Floor)*

Some immigrants who went through Ellis Island went to New York's Lower East Side. Many different groups lived in this neighborhood. What advantages do you think immigrants from the same ethnic group may have living in an area like this? Why do you think the immigrants form "Ghettos?" (Note: The word ghetto has been defined as a part of a city in which members of a particular group or race live usually in poor conditions).



Summarize what you know about how immigrants were processed at Ellis Island.

How do you think that might be different today?

Showcase Your Family

What is your family's heritage?

What do you know about your family's culture (their customs and beliefs)?