Immigration through Ellis Island

From 1892 to 1954 more than 12 million immigrants to the U.S. entered the country through Ellis Island in New York. Today, 40% (4 out of every 10 people) in the U.S. are descendants (children) of people who came through Ellis Island.

You are going to tour (look at, explore) Ellis Island. There will be 10 stops on your tour. After each stop, return to this page and tell about what you learned.

Read the **first paragraph** at each stop. Then look at the **photos**. If there is a video, watch the **video**. Go to teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/tour .



Write 3 or more sentences for each observation.



Stops on the Tour	Questions	Photo Observations	Video/Other Observations
Stop 1 Title:	At this time, where did most immigrants come from? Why did they come?	What do the photos tell you about the trip?	How do you think they were feeling during the trip? Why?
Stop 2 Title:	How did people react to the Statue of Liberty? Why?	Compare the rich, non-immigrant passengers in Photo 5 to the immigrants.	When the immigrants got off the boat, what did they have? How did they act?
Stop 3 Title:	Officers directed people off the boat. Describe the scene.	What were immigrants required to wear? What were they feeling?	How are most of the immigrants dressed?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Stops on the Tour	Questions	Photo Observations	Video/Other Observations
Stop 4 Title:	When immigrants entered the building, where were the doctors? Why?	Describe the first medical exam.	What was the doctors' goal?
Stop 5 Title:	What is another name for the Registry Room? How did it get that name?	What would an immigrant in the Registry Room experience?	Why do you think women with no male relatives were not allowed to immigrate?
Stop 6 Title:	What was the 6-second physical?	Look at the symbols. What problems would send a person to the hospital– or back to their native country?	Do you think this was a fair way to decide who could stay in the U.S.? Why?
Stop 7 Title:	Read paragraph 2. Were these fair questions?	How many immigrants looked the officers in the eye? Why do you think they looked down?	Based on the photos, how do you think the officers felt about the immigrants?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Stops on the Tour	Questions	Photo Observations	Video/Other Observations
Stop 8 Title:	Why was Ellis Island called the "Isle (island) of Hope?"	Describe how and where people lived while waiting to hear if they could stay?	Why was Ellis Island called the "Isle (island) of Tears?
Stop 9 Title:	Why were the stairs out of the building called the "Stairs of Separation?"	What 2 things did most immigrants do before they left Ellis Island?	How would you feel if you walked down the center aisle of the stairs? Why?
Stop 10 Title:	What was the "Kissing Post?"	What are the people in the last photo thinking?	You are an immigrant starting a new life in America. How do you feel?

Final Thoughts

If you could only choose 1 word to describe coming to the U.S. through Ellis Island, what would it be? _____ Tell 3 reasons you chose that word:

1) _____
2) _____
3) _____

In your opinion, which is better: immigrating through Ellis Island or immigrating the ways people do today? _____ Tell 2 reasons for your answer.

1) _____
2) _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS