DAILY Warm-Up 8

Name _____ Date _____

ELLIS ISLAND

For millions of immigrants, Ellis Island was a symbol of hope and freedom. Between 1892 and 1954, a very large number of people came to the United States. They came for a new life. There were over 12 million immigrants during this time. The largest wave of people came in the year 1907.

Ellis Island is located just off the New Jersey shore in the New York Harbor. Ellis Island was set aside as the immigration center. The name came from Samuel Ellis who owned the island in the 1770s.

In the beginning, Ellis Island was used as a place to fight the British. As the colonists fought the British, it was used as a defense post before the British arrived in New York Harbor. Later, Ellis Island was used as a staging place for the new immigrants. The ships would come and deliver people there. Doctors would check for illness and disease.

A ship's manifest listed all the names of the people on board. Sometimes the workers could not read the foreign names, and so they wrote down a different last name for those people. Many people had their names changed by clerks on the island.

For some people, Ellis Island was known as the "Island of Tears." Not all people were allowed to enter the United States. If they had a contagious disease or the person seemed to be a concern, they were forced to stay on the island and work. Some were even sent home. Most people made it through the island in just a few hours.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Another title for this reading passage could be . . .
   a. "Island Paradise."
   b. "Problems of Immigration."
   c. "Island of Tears."
   d. "The Immigration Island."

2. Why was Ellis Island also called the "Island of Tears"?
   a. People were injured at Ellis Island.
   b. Ellis Island was a cruel place.
   c. Not everyone was allowed to pass through Ellis Island to the United States.
   d. Immigrants were unhappy to leave their homelands.

3. The author wrote this passage to . . .
   a. justify keeping immigrations on Ellis Island.
   b. inform the reader of how immigrants were not mistreated.
   c. share general information about Ellis Island.
   d. raise awareness of mistreatment of immigrants at Ellis Island.

 ©Teacher Created Resources, Inc.

LIVEWORKSHEETS