

DISCOVER AMERICA

Teacher Guide



Journey to Ellis Island: Exploring Immigration

Table of Contents

3	Themes & Values Learning Objectives
4	Key Terms
5	Introduction
7	Lesson
11	Activity: Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty Adventure
13	Assessment: Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down Review
14	Resources
15	Images
20	Notes

Key Themes

- Immigration
- Journey and Exploration
- Important American Symbols

Core Values

- Community
- Life
- Faith
- Liberty



Learning Objectives

Students will be able to

- Identify the Statue of Liberty.
- Identify Ellis Island.
- Define immigration.
- List two reasons why people move to the United States.
- Examine the “Transatlantic Journey” and its significance for immigrants.

Key Terms

- 0 1 **gateway:** something that gives you the opportunity to make progress or to further success in that activity.
- 0 2 **immigrant:** someone who moves from their home country to another country to start a new life.
- 0 3 **immigrant aid society:** an organization designed to help immigrants.
- 0 4 **inspection:** when someone looks at something carefully in order to make sure it is okay.
- 0 5 **opportunity:** a situation in which it is possible for you to do something that you want to do.

Introduction

TELL Students

Let's pretend that we are going on a trip to another country. Today, if you want to go to another country to visit, you need a passport. **[Reference Passport Image]** [Ask students to think about different items they may need on a trip. Make a list of these items with the class using a whiteboard or butcher paper. Then, ask students what items they would take if they were permanently moving to another country. Add a column to your chart and make a list of these items in the new column. Compare each list as you guide students to understand that when you move, you want to take all of your belongings.] Many years ago, countless individuals embarked on a journey to America in search of a better life. These individuals, known as immigrants, arrived through a historic entry point called Ellis Island. **[Reference Ellis Island Image]** Ellis Island served as a welcoming center where newcomers underwent various inspections and received assistance as they began their new lives. For many, this was the first glimpse of their new home, filled with hopes and dreams for the future. Each immigrant had their own story, filled with courage and determination, as they stepped off the boats and into a new place. An **immigrant** is someone who moves from their home country to another country to start a new life.

ASK Students

Can you imagine what it was like for these immigrants as they arrived at Ellis Island? What kinds of hopes and dreams do you think they carried with them?

TELL Students

A long time ago, people who came to Ellis Island were not able to bring all of their belongings. They were only able to bring necessary items. So, many of them left belongings and friends behind to come to America through Ellis Island. Ellis Island is a very special place! **[Reference Ellis Island Image]** We are going to discover what Ellis Island looked like, what people did there, and why it is so important in American history. We will learn about the brave people who traveled across the ocean to get here and the exciting adventures they had when they arrived. Let's watch another episode of Star Spangled Adventures to learn more about Ellis Island!

Introduction

WATCH ▶

Star Spangled Adventures Cartoon [Ep. 21: Ellis Island](#)



Lesson

TELL Students

Do you know what Chef Boyardee and Albert Einstein have in common? **[Reference Chef Boyardee and Albert Einstein Images]** They were both immigrants who came to America! People come to America for different reasons. Some need to leave their homeland because there isn't enough food or because it isn't safe. Others come because they hear about good things in America, like jobs and freedom. Some of your family might have moved to America. Did you know that a lot of Americans can trace their families back to people who came through Ellis Island? **[Reference Ellis Island Image]**

ASK Students

What are some reasons that people come to America?

TELL Students

America is a wonderful country with a lot of opportunities. An **opportunity** is a situation in which it is possible for you to do something that you want to do. Ellis Island was originally a place where sailors who misbehaved were sent as punishment. Later, it transformed into a welcoming gateway for people from other countries to enter America. A **gateway** is something that gives you the opportunity to make progress or to further success in that activity. Millions of people, mostly from Europe, came through Ellis Island a long time ago. Many of them came on steamboats. Before steamboats were available, it took a really long time to travel to America, almost three months! But it only took ten days on a steamboat. Even though the journey was still hard, it was faster and safer than before. **[Reference Steamboat Image]**

ASK Students

What do you remember about Robert Fulton and steamboats?

TELL Students

Most immigrants arriving at Ellis Island took a steamboat on what is called the "Transatlantic Journey" across the Atlantic Ocean from Europe. **[Reference Atlantic Ocean Image]** This is a long journey! Steamboats made it possible for more people to travel across the "Transatlantic Journey." Some people could buy expensive tickets for nice rooms on the top of the steamboat. Others bought cheaper tickets and stayed below deck, where it was crowded and not as nice. Many people became seasick during the trip.

Lesson

ASK Students

What is the “Transatlantic Journey?” How would you describe this journey?

TELL Students

The “Transatlantic Journey” is the trip that people took across the Atlantic Ocean to get to America from Europe. People who traveled on this journey were excited to see new places and start a new life in America. But it could also be a little scary because the ocean was sometimes rough, and the boats would rock back and forth. The “Transatlantic Journey” was an important adventure for many people looking for freedom and new opportunities. The first person to arrive at Ellis Island was an Irish teenager named Annie Moore. She came with her younger brothers. Today, there is a statue of Annie and her brothers in the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. **[Reference Annie Moore Statue Image]**

ASK Students

What do you think life was like for immigrants coming to America? Do you think the immigrants were eager to get to America?

TELL Students

Life for immigrants coming to America was often very challenging because they had to leave their homes and travel a long way. Many immigrants were eager to get to America because they hoped for a better life, new opportunities, and the chance to be free. Every immigrant had to undergo two inspections. An **inspection** is when someone looks at something carefully in order to make sure it is okay. The inspections didn’t take a lot of time – but waiting for your turn did!

[Reference Medical Inspection Image] The medical inspection was like a check-up. Doctors looked for signs of sickness. Most people passed the medical check. If they had a disease, they went to the Ellis Island hospital until they got better.

ASK Students

What do you think it felt like for immigrants to wait for their turn during the inspections at Ellis Island, and why do you think the doctors checked them for sickness?

Lesson

TELL Students

After immigrants finished the medical inspections, they had to go through a legal inspection. The workers on the steamboat had to keep a record of everyone onboard. The United States government created a form with about 30 questions for immigrants to answer before they left. If someone couldn't enter America, the steamboat had to take them back home and pay a fine to the government.

ASK Students

What would happen if an immigrant could not enter America?

TELL Students

During the legal inspection, immigrants were asked questions they already answered. This helped officials check if their answers were true and if they met the rules to come to the United States. Questions included where they would live and how much money they had. If immigrants didn't have enough money, they could get help from immigrant aid societies. An **immigrant aid society** is an organization designed to help immigrants. If immigrants did not pass the inspection, they could explain their situation in a hearing. Most immigrants who had a hearing were allowed to enter the United States.

ASK Students

What types of inspections were conducted before immigrants entered America?

TELL Students

Now, we are going to learn about a few famous immigrants that you might already know about! One of them is Chef Boyardee, who came to America from Italy in 1914. When he arrived at Ellis Island, he had big dreams of sharing his delicious cooking with others. He worked as a chef at some famous hotels and even had the honor of catering President Woodrow Wilson's wedding! **[Reference Chef Boyardee Image]** After gaining experience in the kitchen, Chef Boyardee decided to start selling his own pasta sauce. Today, you can find Chef Boyardee products in grocery stores everywhere, and many families enjoy his tasty meals! Another famous immigrant you may have heard of is Albert Einstein. He was one of the smartest scientists in the world.

Lesson

TELL Students (continued)

His ideas were groundbreaking and changed the way we understand the universe. **[Reference Einstein Image]** Einstein won a Nobel Prize for his incredible work, and he is still celebrated today for his contributions to science and mathematics. These stories show us how immigrants made positive impacts in our country.

ASK Students ✍

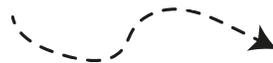
Can you think of any other famous people who came from other countries to America? What do you think their journeys were like? [Provide students with school approved library books about famous immigrants. In pairs of two, have students review their books and briefly report information to the class.]

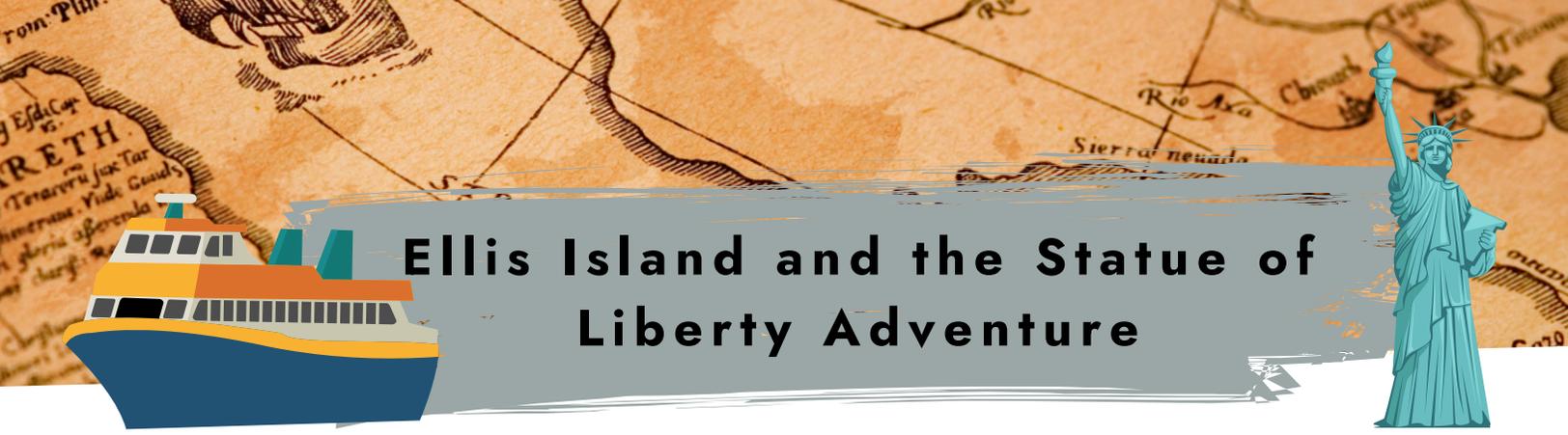
TELL Students 📷

When you eat Chef Boyardee pasta or learn about famous scientists like Albert Einstein, take a moment to think about all the brave immigrants who came to America and helped make our country so special. Immigrants came for many different reasons—some were seeking safety, while others were looking for better jobs or a chance to create a better life for their families. No matter their reason, each person made the courageous journey across the ocean, believing that America could offer them new opportunities and hope. They faced many challenges along the way, but their determination helped shape our country into what it is today. Today, the Statue of Liberty proudly stands near Ellis Island as a symbol of freedom and hope for all who arrive in America. She welcomes newcomers with open arms and represents the spirit of America—a place where dreams can come true. **[Reference Statue of Liberty Image]** Let's watch another Learn More with Liberty to learn more!

WATCH 🎥

Learn More With Liberty: [Sailing to the Land of Liberty](#)





Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty Adventure

Objective

To engage second-grade students in a fun and interactive activity to learn about Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

Materials Needed

- Pictures or illustrations of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty
- Blank paper
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Small American flags (optional)

Introduction

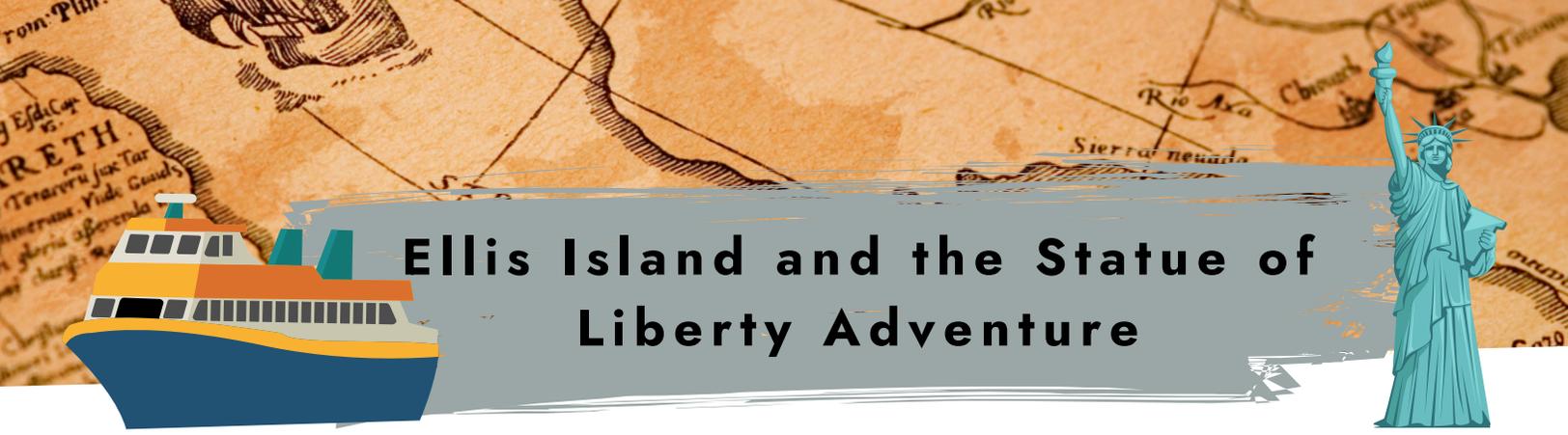
- Show pictures or illustrations of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty to the students.
- Briefly explain what each place represents and their significance in American history.
- Tell the students that they will be going on an adventure to explore Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty through fun activities.

Passport Creation

- Distribute blank paper to each student and instruct them to fold it in half to create a "passport" booklet.
- Have students write their name on the cover and decorate it with drawings of American flags, stars, or other patriotic symbols.
- Inside the passport, students can draw or write about what they would pack if they were traveling to Ellis Island or visiting the Statue of Liberty. Encourage creativity and imagination!

Ellis Island Immigration Station

- Set up a station representing Ellis Island in the classroom. Use tables or desks to create a "check-in" area.
- Assign a volunteer or teacher to play the role of an immigration officer.
- Each student will take turns presenting their passport to the immigration officer and sharing what they packed for their journey.



Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty Adventure

Ellis Island Immigration Station

- The immigration officer can stamp the passports and ask simple questions related to Ellis Island and immigration, such as "Where are you traveling from?" or "Why do you want to come to America?"

Statue of Liberty Craft

- Provide construction paper, scissors, glue, and art supplies to each student.
- Instruct students to create their own Statue of Liberty model or drawing. They can use the construction paper to cut out the shape of the statue and decorate it with markers or crayons.
- Encourage students to include details such as the torch, crown, and tablet with the date "July 4, 1776."
- Once completed, students can proudly display their Statue of Liberty creations around the classroom.

Conclusion and Discussion

- Gather the students together and ask them to share what they learned about Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.
- Lead a discussion about the importance of immigration and freedom in America.
- Encourage students to reflect on how Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty represent the values of hope, opportunity, and welcoming immigrants to the United States.

Optional Extension

If time allows, students can participate in a "Statue of Liberty Parade" around the classroom or schoolyard, waving small American flags and singing patriotic songs.



Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down Review

Objective

To reinforce key concepts learned during the Ellis Island lesson and assess student understanding through a fun and interactive game.

Instructions

1. Divide the students into two teams.
2. Explain that you will read statements related to Ellis Island and immigration, and students must decide if the statement is true (thumbs up) or false (thumbs down).
3. After each statement, allow a moment for students to discuss with their team and decide their answer.
4. Call on one student from each team to give their team's answer by showing a thumbs up or thumbs down.
5. Clarify the correct answer and provide a brief explanation for false statements.
6. Keep track of each team's points for correct answers.
7. Continue until all statements have been read or time runs out.
8. The team with the most correct answers wins.

True/False Statements

1. Immigrants traveled to Ellis Island by airplane. (Thumbs Down)
 - Explanation: False, immigrants mostly traveled by steamships across the Atlantic Ocean.
2. Ellis Island used to be a place where bad sailors were sent as punishment. (Thumbs Up)
3. Immigrants went through a medical inspection before entering the United States. (Thumbs Up)
4. Immigrant aid societies helped immigrants who didn't have enough money when they arrived in America. (Thumbs Up)
5. If immigrants didn't pass the legal inspection, they were immediately sent back to their home country. (Thumbs Down)
 - Explanation: False, they had the opportunity to explain their situation in a hearing.
6. Chef Boyardee and Albert Einstein were both immigrants who came to America. (Thumbs Up)
7. The Statue of Liberty stands near Ellis Island and represents the spirit of America. (Thumbs Up)

Resources

- <https://www.nps.gov/media/video/view.htm?id=4BA86258-4024-4710-9329-40BDA66102EF>
- <https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/ellis-island>
- <https://www.nps.gov/elis/learn/education/eie-series.htm>
- <https://daily.jstor.org/the-curious-history-of-ellis-island/>
- <https://www.history.com/news/9-things-you-may-not-know-about-ellis-island>
- <https://daily.jstor.org/the-curious-history-of-ellis-island/>
- <https://www.nps.gov/media/video/view.htm?id=36C0B1E7-431E-48BB-9D5E-8E98E0C2E0DE>
- <https://www.nps.gov/media/video/view.htm?id=E5F6E193-4342-4F94-9523-8C13B4A7A7AB>
- <https://www.nps.gov/media/video/view.htm?id=8B7E4516-0E9D-4C91-8C86-78D4E1D8E805>
- <https://www.chefboyardee.com/articles/hector-boiardi-chefs-resume>
- <https://www.chefboyardee.com/articles/chef-boyardee-restaurant-your-table>
- <https://www.statueofliberty.org/discover/famous-passengers/>
- <https://www.discovermagazine.com/the-sciences/a-century-ago-einsteins-first-trip-to-the-u-s-ended-in-a-pr-disaster>
- <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/physics/1921/einstein/biographical/>

Images

Passport



Credit: Canva Pro

Ellis Island



Credit: Canva Pro.

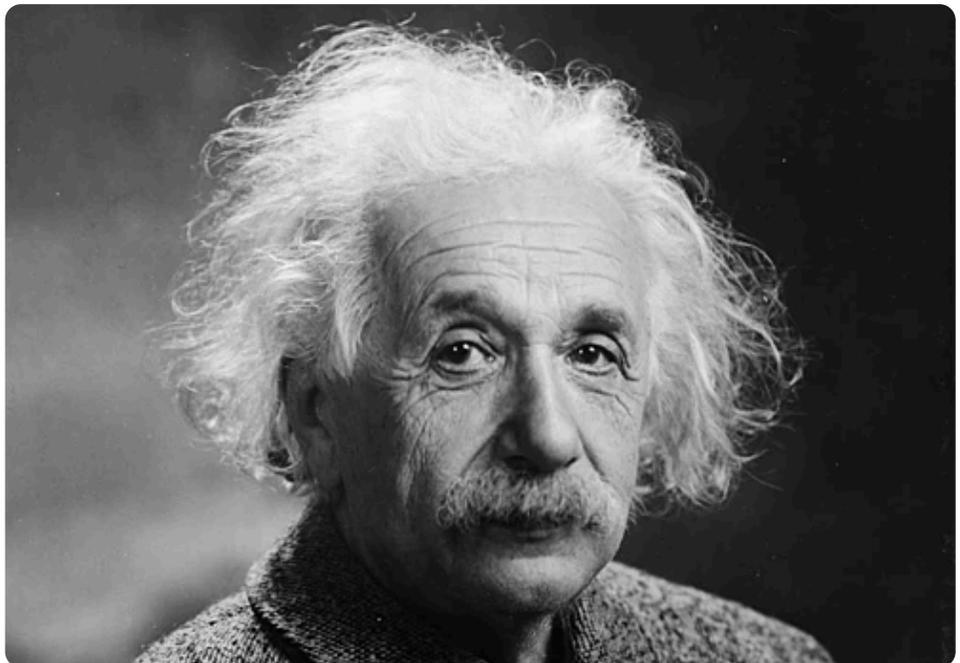
Images

Chef Boyardee



Credit: Chef Boyardee.

Albert Einstein



Credit: Wikipedia.

Images

Steamboat



Credit: Canva Pro.

Atlantic Ocean



Credit: Canva Pro

Images

**Annie Moore
Statue**



Credit: Wikipedia.

**Medical
Inspection**



Credit: Canva Pro

Images

Statue of Liberty



Credit: Canva Pro.

