

DISCOVER AMERICA

Course 21 - Teacher Guide



Journey to Ellis Island: Exploring Immigration

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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.



Ellis Island - First Grade

Key Terms

- 01 **gateway:** something that gives you the opportunity to make progress or to further success in that activity.
- 02 **immigrant:** someone who moves from their home country to another country to start a new life.
- 03 **inspection:** the process of gathering information about the world.
- 04 **opportunity:** a situation in which it is possible for you to do something that you want to do.

Ellis Island - First Grade

Introduction

TELL Students

Today, we are going on a journey! Have you ever gone on a trip or a journey with your family? What items do you need to take? You may want to bring your favorite stuffed animal, a favorite book and a suitcase full of clothes. You also need to pack your toothbrush! Let's make a list of items that we need to take on a journey. (Make a list of items on the board or on chart paper with the class.) Today, our exciting journey will take us to Ellis Island.

ASK Students

Have you heard of Ellis Island? Do you know what American statue stands on Ellis Island?

TELL Students

Ellis Island is a very special place! Imagine that we are going on a big adventure, like explorers, but instead of traveling far, we are going to learn about a place right here in the United States. Ellis Island is an island where many years ago, a lot of people from around the world came to start a new life in America. 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!

WATCH

Star Spangled Adventures Cartoon Ep. 21: Ellis Island



Ellis Island - First Grade

Lesson

TELL Students

Do you know what Chef Boyardee and Albert Einstein have in common? They were both immigrants who came to America! An immigrant is someone who moves from their home country to another country to start a new life. The first settlers in America were also immigrants! People come to America for different reasons. Some need to leave their homes because there isn't enough food or there is fighting. Others come because they hear about good things in America, like jobs and freedom. Some of your family might have moved to America, or maybe your great-great-grandparents did! Did you know that a lot of Americans can trace their families back to immigrants who came through Ellis Island?

ASK Students

What are some reasons that people come to America?

TELL Students

People come to America because it is a great place 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 pirates 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.

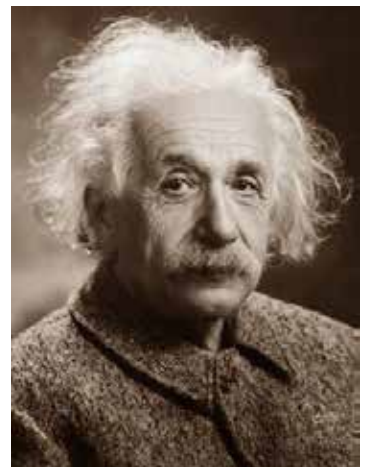
Before steamboats were available, it took a really long time to travel to America, almost three months! But with steamboats, it only took ten days. Even though it was still hard, it was faster and safer than before.

ASK Students

What do you remember about Robert Fulton and steamboats?

TELL Students

Most immigrants who came to Ellis Island traveled from Europe across the Atlantic Ocean. Steamboats made it possible for more people to travel. Some people could buy expensive tickets for nice rooms



Chef Boyardee (top) and Albert Einstein

Ellis Island - First Grade

Lesson

on the top of the boat. Others bought cheaper tickets and stayed below deck, where it was crowded and not as nice. Many felt sick during the trip.

ASK Students

Why do you think people felt sick during the trip? Do you think people were eager to get to America?

TELL Students

The first person to arrive at Ellis Island was a teenager named Annie Moore from Ireland. She came with her younger brothers. Today, there is a statue of them in the Ellis Island Immigration Museum.

ASK Students

What do you think life was like for immigrants coming to America?

TELL Students

Every immigrant had to undergo two inspections. An inspection is when someone looks at every part of something carefully in order to find out about it or check that it is all right. 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 is a medical inspection?

TELL Students

Immigrants also had to go through a legal inspection. They answered questions about where they were going and how much money they had. They needed enough money to live until they found work. But, if they didn't have enough money, they could get help. Most people passed this inspection too. Only a few people couldn't come into the United States.

ASK Students

Why did immigrants need money when they arrived in America?

Ellis Island - First Grade

Lesson

TELL Students

After finishing everything at Ellis Island, immigrants were ready to start their new lives in America. They got help from groups that supported immigrants. Some immigrants found jobs working on farms, in mines, or in factories. Others started their own businesses, worked for other businesses, or even became famous!

Chef Boyardee came from Italy to Ellis Island in 1914. He became a chef at famous hotels and even catered President Woodrow Wilson's wedding! Later, he started selling his pasta sauce. Now you can find Chef Boyardee products in stores.

You might have heard of Albert Einstein, too! He was a very smart scientist who also came to the United States. He made a big impact on science and even won a Nobel Prize.

When you eat Chef Boyardee pasta or learn about famous scientists like Einstein, think about all the brave immigrants who came to America and helped make our country special.

ASK Students

What famous immigrants came to America? Why are they famous?

TELL Students

Immigrants came to America for different reasons. But, they all made the brave journey. They knew that our country offered opportunities for a good life. Today, the Statue of Liberty stands on Ellis Island. It represents the spirit of America.

ASK Students

Where is the Statue of Liberty located? What does it represent?

WATCH

Learn More With Liberty: Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty



Statue of Liberty

Ellis Island - First Grade

Ellis Island Passport Adventure

Objective: To engage first graders in a hands-on activity to learn about Ellis Island and the immigration process.

Materials Needed:

- blank passport booklets (folded sheets of paper)
- crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- stickers
- pictures of items immigrants may have brought with them (e.g., clothes, toys, household items)
- optional: maps, photos, or illustrations of Ellis Island

Introduction: Gather students and introduce the activity by explaining that they will be going on an exciting journey to Ellis Island, just like the immigrants. Show students pictures or illustrations of Ellis Island to set the scene.

Passport Creation: Distribute the blank passport booklets to each student. Explain that they will be creating their own passports to document their journey. Have them write their name on the cover and decorate it with drawings or stickers.

Packing for the Journey: Show students pictures of items immigrants might have packed for their journey to America. Provide them with pictures of these items and have them glue or tape them into their passports. Encourage creativity and discussion about why each item is important.

Boarding the Ship: Transition the students to a designated area in the classroom representing the deck of a steamboat. Play some ocean sounds in the background to create the atmosphere. As students "board" the boat, remind them to keep their passports handy for inspection.

Immigration Inspections: Set up stations in the classroom representing the medical and legal inspections. At the medical inspection station, have a volunteer (or teacher) play the role of a doctor and conduct "check-ups" on the students using toy medical instruments. At the legal inspection station, have another volunteer ask the students questions about their "journey" and "arrival" in America.

Stamping Passports: Provide stickers or stamps at each inspection station for students to mark their passports, indicating that they have passed the inspection.

Exploring Ellis Island: Set up displays around the classroom with pictures, maps, and artifacts related to Ellis Island and the immigration process. Allow students to explore and ask questions about what they see.

Conclusion: Gather students and congratulate them on successfully reaching Ellis Island. Have them share one thing they learned or enjoyed about the activity. Encourage them to keep their passports as a reminder of their journey.

This interactive passport activity will not only teach first graders about Ellis Island and immigration but also provide a memorable and engaging learning experience.

Ellis Island - First Grade Resource List

<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/>

