

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.
- Define immigration.
- List two reasons why people move to the United States.



Ellis Island - Kindergarten

Key Terms

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

Ellis Island - Kindergarten

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! Today, our exciting journey will take us to Ellis Island.

ASK Students

Have you heard of 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 all 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 - Kindergarten

Lesson

TELL Students

Do you know what Chef Boyardee and Albert Einstein have in common? They were both immigrants to America! An immigrant is someone who moves from their home country to a new one to start a new life. Just like the first settlers in America! People come to America from all over the world for different reasons. Some people move to America because they do not have enough food or jobs. Some people move to America because our country has freedom and safety.

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. You might have a family member who came to America from another country.

Ellis Island used to be a place where pirates and bad sailors were sent. But later, it became the first place where immigrants were checked before entering America. Millions of immigrants, mostly from Europe, came through Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924.

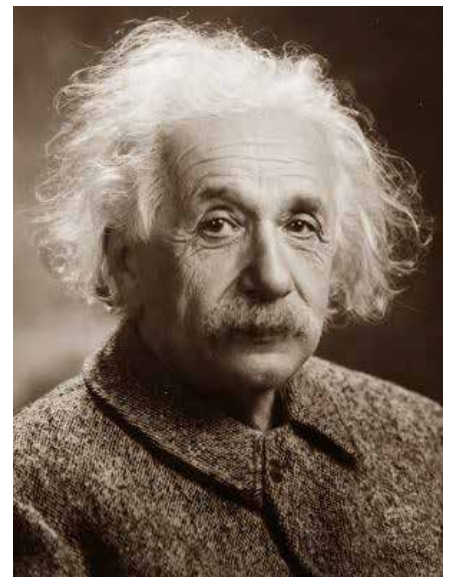
Before steamboats, traveling to America took almost three months! But with steamboats, it only took ten days. Even though traveling to America was still hard, it was faster and safer than before.

ASK Students

What do you remember about Robert Fulton and steamboats?

TELL Students

Steamboats made it possible for more people to travel. Some people could buy expensive tickets for



Chef Boyardee (top) and Albert Einstein

Ellis Island - Kindergarten

Lesson

nice rooms 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.

Many people were coming to America. The government wanted to make the immigration process easier. The government built Ellis Island in 1892 to check people coming into New York.

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 inspection. If someone 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.

ASK Students

What is a legal inspection?

TELL Students

After finishing everything at Ellis Island, immigrants were ready to start their new lives in America. They

Ellis Island - Kindergarten

Lesson

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 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? What did they do to become 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?

WATCH

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



Statue of Liberty

Ellis Island - Kindergarten

My Immigration Suitcase Activity

Objective: To introduce kindergarten students to the concept of immigration and the journey to Ellis Island through a fun and interactive activity.

Materials Needed:

- suitcase or backpack
- various props representing items immigrants might have brought with them (e.g., toy fruits and vegetables, small clothing items, small dolls or action figures, books)
- pictures or drawings of different modes of transportation (e.g., boats, trains, cars)
- pictures or drawings of different countries' flags
- picture or drawing of Ellis Island

Introduction:

- Begin by reviewing what students learned today. Explain that immigration is when people move from one country to another to live there permanently.
- Show students a picture or drawing of Ellis Island and explain that it was a place where many immigrants arrived in the United States a long time ago.
- Tell students that they are going on a pretend journey to Ellis Island, just like the immigrants did many years ago.

Packing the Suitcase:

- Display the suitcase or backpack and explain that students will be packing items for their journey.
- Show students the various props representing items immigrants might have brought with them. Ask students to choose a few items to pack in their suitcase.
- Encourage students to think about what they might need for their journey and why they chose each item.

Choosing Transportation:

- Show students pictures or drawings of different modes of transportation (boats, trains,

cars) and ask them to choose one to "travel" to Ellis Island.

- Discuss briefly why they chose their mode of transportation.

Arrival at Ellis Island:

- Show the students a picture or drawing of Ellis Island and explain that they have arrived at their destination.

- Discuss how they feel about their journey and what they might expect upon arrival.

Reflection:

- Ask students to share one item they packed in their suitcase and why they chose it.
- Briefly discuss what students learned about immigration and Ellis Island during the activity.

Ellis Island - Kindergarten 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/>

