



National Park Service

Ellis Island Junior Ranger Program

Welcome to the National Park Service !

This activity pack contains questions for you to answer as you work on becoming a Junior Ranger.

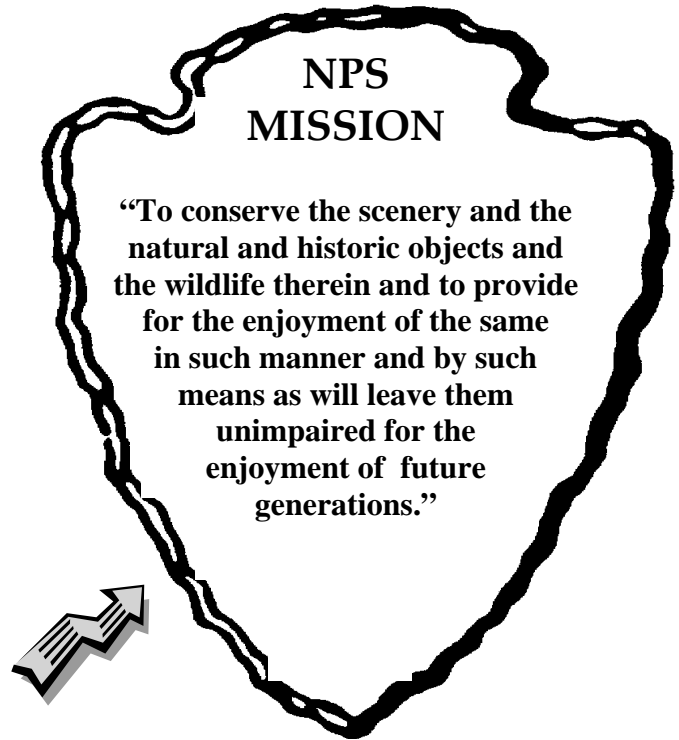
What's a National Park Doing in New York harbor?

National Park sites are located in every state in the U.S. except Delaware. They come in all shapes and sizes and are as different from one another as we are. This island was declared part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument in 1965 by Presidential Proclamation. The Main Building was carefully restored during the 1980's and opened as an Immigration Museum in September of 1990.

In caring for the America's National Park sites, the National Park Service has a very important role . This has been the mission of the NPS since this agency was created in 1916, even though Yellowstone was designated as the world's first National Park in 1872. Junior Park Rangers can help us in our mission of protecting and preserving this special park.

Since that time, the National Park System has grown to include over 80 million acres of land in 49 states, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the District of Columbia. These include many different types of sites such as: National parks, monuments, memorials, battlefields, historic sites, recreation areas, rivers, lakeshores and seashores, scenic trails, preserves, military parks, and parkways to name a few.

Can you name some National Park Sites?



MUSEUM

POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Registry Room: 2nd fl.*
- *Treasures from Home: 3rd fl.*
- *Dormitory Room: 3rd fl.*
- *Peopling of America: 1st fl.*
- *Hearing Room: 2nd. fl.*
- *Immigrant Wall of Honor:*
- *Fort Gibson:*

Outside Main Building

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About Ellis Island:

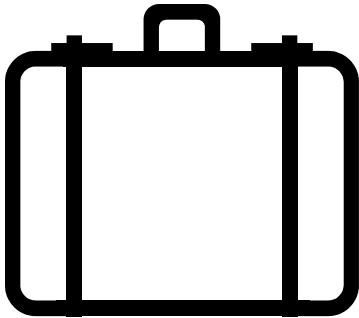


Named after Samuel Ellis, one of the last private owners of the island, Ellis Island was the first federally operated immigration station. It opened in 1892 and officially closed in 1954. During that time, over 12 million immigrants were processed here. Today almost half of the population of America can trace a relative that came through Ellis Island. The Immigration Service also operated other stations (about 2 dozen) around the country. The majority of immigrants entered via the East Coast since most traveled from Europe.

All immigrants arriving through the Port of New York were not required to go through Ellis Island. Only 3rd class and steerage passengers were required to be inspected at the Island. First and second class travelers, having more wealth, were not seen as much of a risk as those poorer immigrants who traveled steerage and third class. As these immigrants walked through the doors of Ellis Island, they entered the baggage room each bringing with them different possessions, skills, and hopes.

If you were leaving your home forever, what would you bring with you to the New World? (Only 10 items). Use the space below to answer.

The Journey:



_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Compare your items to those found in the “Treasures from Home” Exhibit on the 3rd Fl. Are any items the same or different from the items on your list?

Same

Different



The Medical Exam

The U.S. Public Health Service conducted the physical examinations for immigrants on Ellis Island. The exam lasted approximately six-seconds. If an immigrant showed an outward sign of illness or condition, which could have prevented them from earning a living, then an immigrant would be detained and possibly excluded from entering the United States.

Museum Activity: List and discuss the symbols used to indicate medical conditions on immigrants that passed through Ellis Island.

	Symbol	(In 2 West)	Condition
1.	_____		_____
2.	_____		_____
3.	_____		_____
4.	_____		_____
5.	_____		_____

Name some conditions you would look for today ! Give them a letter.

1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____

Mental testing was often conducted to make sure that immigrants did not have any disorders. This test is a sample ! Circle the appropriate letter !

(Immigrants had 3 minutes to complete a series of tests like this without instruction)

NOTE:

If an immigrant failed the mental test three times, then that person was deported for having a mental illness !

A



B



C



D



What's in a name?:

Ellis Island, a small island in New York Harbor was only 3.3 acres in size until the 1890's. For hundreds of years it was used by Indians to gather oysters for food. Over the years, Ellis Island changed in name and usage.

Go to the "Ellis Island Chronicles" exhibit and search for some of the other names that this island had. List them below and the reasons why they were called such names.

The island was eventually owned by **Samuel Ellis**, a businessman and landowner. Mr. Ellis owned the island from the 1780's until his death in 1794. It was then transferred to the State of New York until it was ceded to the Federal Government in 1808.

What was placed on Ellis Island during that time? _____

Why was the Federal Government building a Harbor Defense System in New York?
(you'll find the answer outside near the Wall of Honor) _____

Ellis Island: The Growing Years:



Much of Ellis Island is made up of landfill. When the Federal Government became responsible for processing immigrants in 1890, it chose Ellis Island as the location for the Nation's first Federal immigration station. The island was expanded with landfill and the original complex of wooden buildings opened to immigrants on January 1, 1892.

Where did most of the landfill come from? _____

What happened to the original buildings on June 15, 1897. _____

When was this red-bricked building opened? _____

When did Ellis Island close as an immigration depot? _____

Restoring a Landmark: (exhibit 3 East)

In 1965, Ellis Island was included as part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument and placed in the care of the National Park Service. During the 1980's, the Main Building was restored at a cost of \$160 million. It opened on September 10, 1990 as a National Immigration Museum. **List some things that were restored!**

Legal Inspection :

Look at the questions listed on the Manifest and see how you would answer them. Some questions were intentionally listed to make the immigrant fail. For help, visit “Through America’s Gate” exhibit in 2 West or join a Park Ranger tour. List your answers to the manifest below.

U.S.Department of Labor
Immigration Service

SALOON, CABIN, AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY INSPECTED

THIS SHEET FOR STEERAGE PASSENGERS

____Page

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Number on list. | 14. Whether having a ticket to final destination. | 23. Condition of Health |
| 2. Name in Full | 15. By whom was passage paid? | 24. Deformed or crippled |
| 3. Age | 16. Whether in possession of \$50. | 25. Height |
| 4. Sex | 17. Whether ever in U.S. before. | 26. Complexion |
| 5. Married / Single | 18. Whether going to join relative; if so, list name and address | 27. Color of eyes/hair |
| 6. Occupation | 19. Ever in prison, almshouse, institution for care of insane etc. | 28. Identifying marks |
| 7. Able to Read / Write | 20. Whether a Polygamist. | 29. Place of Birth
Country/ City/Town |
| 8. Nationality | 21. Whether an Anarchist | |
| 9. Race | 22. Whether coming with an offer, promise, or agreement of labor. | |
| 10. Last Residence | | |
| 11. Name & Address
of relative in native country | | Hint: The most important questions were # 2, 6, 15, 16, and 22. |
| 12. Final Destination | | |
| 13. No. on list | | |

1. _____	11. _____	21. _____
2. _____	12. _____	22. _____
3. _____	13. _____	23. _____
4. _____	14. _____	24. _____
5. _____	15. _____	25. _____
6. _____	16. _____	26. _____
7. _____	17. _____	27. _____
8. _____	18. _____	28. _____
9. _____	19. _____	29. _____

Comments: _____

The Growth of a Nation: (search the “Peopling of America” Exhibit in the RxR ticket office)



Although America formally gained its independence in 1776, the Federal Government began to record new arrivals in 1808. But even before the colonies were formed, people began searching for a “New World” since approximately 1600.

Since that time about how many people migrated to the U.S.? _____

List some of the main reasons why people came to the U.S. and who they were during these periods:

1820-1840: _____

1840-1860: _____

1860-1880: _____

1880-1900: _____

1900-1920: _____

1920-1940: _____

1940-1960: _____

1960-1980: _____

1980-2000: _____

During which period did America have the most immigration? _____

America’s Forced Migration:

Some of this Nation’s growth occurred because of forced migration (slavery) until the importation of slaves was outlawed in 1808. Approximately how many slaves entered during that period?



It took many years to abolish slavery in the U. S. In a document dated Sept. 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, which proclaimed all slaves in regions under Confederate control, free. Finally in 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution was passed, officially abolishing slavery.

Where to Go:



Once an immigrant cleared the processing at Ellis Island, they were bound for their final destination wherever that would be. Some stayed in New York, while other headed to other areas of the map. **In the “Peopling of America” exhibit – R x R ticket office of the 1st floor, search for answers of the following.**

1. Of the 12 million immigrants processed at Ellis Island, how many stayed here in New York?

2. The Railroad Ticket office at Ellis Island sold and verified tickets to over a thousand locations nationwide. How many shipping and railroad companies provided that service?

Railroad:

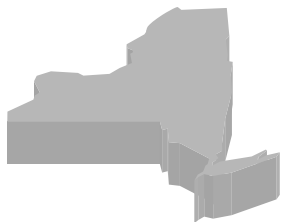
Shipping:

3. Go to the “Ethnic Groups in America” computer. Type in your ethnic code and identify which 5 states have the highest population for your ethnic group. List them on the space provided.

4. List 3 reasons why you would go to a particular location.

5. List some locations where your family members settled to.

The Port of New York has always been the most popular entry point for immigrants entering the U.S.. What entry point is the most popular today? Circle the correct answer.



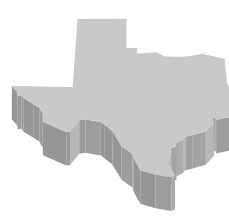
New York



California



Florida

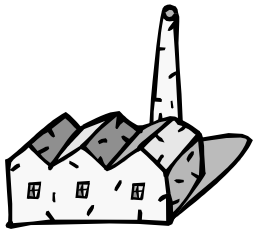


Texas



Illinois

At last, a job!



After leaving Ellis Island, immigrants had to find ways of supporting themselves and their families. Where ever immigrants settled, the desire for a better life was the leading focus for millions. It was this American ideal that began the immigrant process all together. While some immigrants sought their fortune and others struggled, many immigrants found themselves at the crossroads of becoming “American” while keeping their traditions and culture alive. Long hours, low pay, and poor working conditions caused immigrants to question the American dream of a better life. The new “American worker” was both liked and hated at the same time, offering an easy excuse to anyone who wanted to blame the immigrant for the country’s problems. These stumbling blocks just made the immigrant worker work harder and become Americanized that much quicker.



A. In “Peak Immigration Years” 2nd fl exhibit, what was the average wage for each of the 8 jobs listed:

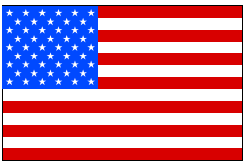


Cigar Maker (per day) _____	Garment Worker (piece worker) _____
Bricklayer (per day) _____	Domestic (per week) _____
Laborer (per day) _____	Baker (per day) _____
Mill Hand (per day) _____	Construction (per day) _____

B. Looking at the chart of what immigrants did in 1900 and find out what types of jobs your ethnic ancestors might have done to earn a living? List the top 5 jobs.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | |

C. Some immigrants came to America only to work, earn money and eventually return to their homeland. What were these immigrants called? _____



Citizenship: Eventually most immigrants would seek the greatest privilege that America had to offer, citizenship. The process occurred normally 5 years after one enters the country. An immigrant must demonstrate a knowledge of American history and the English language. A person desiring American citizenship must also not have a criminal past. The citizenship test is given by the Government all across the country and usually consists of about 100 questions.

Go to the 2nd floor exhibit computer and take the “Ellis Island Citizenship Test”.

How many did you guess right? _____ How many do you need practice on? _____

Have your booklet checked by a Park Ranger.
 Congratulations on becoming an Ellis Island Junior Park Ranger