

Ellis Island – Peter Boyer Interactive Tour

Iowa Core in Social Studies standard

4th grade: Change and continuity

Content standard: Justify causation and argumentation (History)

SS.4.23. Explain probable causes and effects of events and developments.

Learning target:

The student will demonstrate understanding of the immigrant experience at Ellis Island.

Lesson Plan

Time for lesson: flexible

Materials: laptop and projection *OR* individual student tablets (like Chromebooks)

Interactive Tour of Ellis Island (Scholastic)

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/tour/>

Schoolhouse Rocks – “The Great American Melting Pot”

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=immigrants+to+us+for+children+youtube&docid=607987270996789392&mid=49D104CD95E7BF45150349D104CD95E7BF451503&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

Prepare:

Option 1: Have students bring their tablets to music class.

Option 2: Have these sites up and ready to go using the teacher’s laptop:

- Interactive Tour of Ellis Island
- The Great American Melting Pot

Warmup:

America is a country of immigrants. You or your relatives came here from another country.

- Do you know where your family came from?

Immigrants come to America for a better life. They may come here for better jobs or education for their children. They may be leaving war or bad living conditions in their home country.

- Do you know why your family came to America?

America has more immigrants than any other country in the world. We are known as a refuge and a shelter for people who want a better life. We have welcomed immigrants from around the world for many years.

Watch “The Great American Melting Pot” from Schoolhouse Rocks.

Direct Instruction:

Immigration in America was not well regulated until the late 1800s. To help in creating order out of the immigration chaos, Ellis Island opened in 1892. It is estimated that 12 million people went through Ellis Island as immigrants to our country. Four out of ten Americans today have ancestors who went through Ellis Island.

Guided practice:

Interactive Tour of Ellis Island

Do the following together as a class.

Home Page

Click on *Learn more about Ellis Island*

- Where is Ellis Island? (New York harbor)
- Who owns Ellis Island? (federal government)
- What year did it close? (1954)

First Stop – The Passage

- How did immigrants arrive at Ellis Island? (by steamer ship)
- How long did their journey take? (one to two weeks)

Second Stop – The Arrival

**Look at the photos*

**Listen to The Oral History of Lawrence Meinwald from Poland (arrived at age 6)*

2:29

- Who was the first immigrant through Ellis Island? (Annie Moore, 15 years old)
- Describe the condition of the ship. (dirty, crowded)
- What is one of the first things immigrants saw from the ship in America? (Statue of Liberty)

Independent practice:

Working in partnerships with their tablets, students work through the stops in Ellis Island at their own pace. Groups may begin at any of the ten stops.

Use the document *Ellis Island Questions and Reflection*.

You can project it for all to see or have paper copies for each partnership.

Assessment:

Complete the reflection from *Ellis Island Questions and Reflection* as a class.

Extension:

On the *Interactive Tour of Ellis Island* site, click on the “Meet Young Immigrants” tab.

Have the students choose a child, read about them and watch their video.

How are these children like you?

What is something different?

If you could ask them a question, what would it be?

Resources:

5 Facts About the U.S. Rank in Worldwide Migration

Pew Research Center

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/05/18/5-facts-about-the-u-s-rank-in-worldwide-migration/>

Immigration: The Myth of the Melting Pot

<https://www.newsweek.com/immigration-myth-melting-pot-408705>

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Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants

<https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/nativedocuments/M-618.pdf>

“Why Do Immigrants Come Here?”

Edhelper.com

https://www.edhelper.com/ReadingComprehension_54_127.html