

Ellis Island Questions and Reflection

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Learn more about Ellis Island

- Where is Ellis Island?
- Who owns Ellis Island?
- What year did it close?

First Stop – The Passage

- How did immigrants arrive at Ellis Island?
- How long did their journey take?

Second Stop – The Arrival

**Look at 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?
- Describe the condition of the ship.
- What is one of the first things immigrants saw from the ship in America?

Third Stop – The Ellis Island Baggage Room

**Look at photos*

- Did Ellis Island have food available for the immigrants?
- Describe the scene at the dock.

Fourth Stop – The Stairs to the Registry Room

**Look at photos*

- How many people arrived in 1907?
- How long did the process take?
- What did doctors watch for?

Fifth Stop – The Registry Room

**Look at photos*

**Listen to The Oral History of Lucy Attarian from Turkey (5 years old) 1:27*

- What is the Registry Room's nickname? Why?
- What could happen to children under 16 without parents?

Sixth Stop – The Medical Exam

**Look at photos*

- What were things doctors looked for in the six-second physical?
- What happened if someone did not pass the medical exam?

Seventh Stop – The Legal Inspection

**Look at photos*

- How were immigration policies changed after World War I?

Eight Stop – Detainees

**Look at photos*

- For some immigrants, Ellis Island was called the “Isle of Tears.” Why?
- If immigrants were sent back, did they have to pay for their trip?
- How many babies were born on Ellis Island?
- How many people died there?
- How long was Ellis Island open to immigrants?

Ninth Stop – The Stairs of Separation

**Look at the photos*

- The stairway separated immigrants into three groups. What were they?
- How many languages were translated at Ellis Island?

Tenth Stop – The Kissing Post

**Look at photos*

**Listen to The Oral History of Estelle Belford from Romania (5 years old) 1:50*

- How did this area get its nickname?
- How did people know when the immigrants were to arrive in America?

Reflection Questions

What is something new you learned about Ellis Island?

What did you learn about immigrants that you didn’t know?

Do you think immigrants were treated fairly at Ellis Island? Why or why not?

Are you an immigrant? Do you know a classmate who is an immigrant?

How has your thinking changed about people who move to live in a different country?

How would you feel if you were going through Ellis Island?

How are you the same as the children who went through Ellis Island?

Do you view Ellis Island as the “Isle of Hope” or the “Isle of Tears?” Why?