

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Interactive Tour of ELLIS ISLAND

The URL for this activity is located at the bottom of each page.

**Expectations:**

- Read all material on each page, including linked pages.
- Study all photographs.
- Watch/listen to entire video/audio segments.
- Use headphones/buds.

**Welcome Page**

**Directions:** Read all parts (including link) of the Welcome Page of the Interactive Tour of Ellis Island and answer the following questions:

How many immigrants made their first stop at Ellis Island? \_\_\_\_\_

What year did Ellis Island open? \_\_\_\_\_

What percent of Americans can trace their family history to Ellis Island? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe Ellis Island. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What U.S. President opened Ellis Island as an immigration center? \_\_\_\_\_

When did the immigration station close? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened to Ellis Island after that? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# 1<sup>ST</sup> STOP

## THE PASSAGE

Where did most of the immigrants come from? Why did they come to America?

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Describe a typical journey for an immigrant. \_\_\_\_\_

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Define the following terms:

Emigrant → \_\_\_\_\_

Immigrant → \_\_\_\_\_

### Technology Connection:

How did the invention of the steamship transform immigration? (3 ways)

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### Photo Analysis:

Study the five photographs. Select one of them and complete the following photo analysis worksheet.

# 2<sup>ND</sup> STOP

## THE ARRIVAL

What was the first thing the new immigrants saw when they arrived in New York?

What would they do when they saw it? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think they did this? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the process once the ship was in the harbor. \_\_\_\_\_

How did social class affect processing? Why do you think this was the case? Fair? What was steerage?

What percentage of passengers actually went to Ellis Island? \_\_\_\_\_

### Photo Analysis:

Study the first photograph. Pretend that you are one of the immigrants seeing the Statue of Liberty for the first time. Write a journal entry describing your emotions/feelings at reaching the shores of America. (Use 1<sup>st</sup> person)

### Audio Analysis

How does the speaker describe arriving in New York Harbor for the first time?

What were his emotions when describing this experience? \_\_\_\_\_

**Video Analysis:**

When was this video recorded? \_\_\_\_\_ Who recorded it? \_\_\_\_\_

*(How cool is that?)*

**Pause the video as you watch. Record your observations—what seems to be happening in the video? What do you notice about the people getting off the ship?**

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### 3<sup>RD</sup> STOP

## THE ELLIS ISLAND BAGGAGE ROOM

In your own words, describe the scene greeting the ferryboat. \_\_\_\_\_

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Why did passengers traveling in steerage carry bundles? \_\_\_\_\_

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Pretend that you are a U.S. immigration officer working at Ellis Island in 1903. Write a journal entry describing a typical encounter with a newly arrived immigrant.

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Imagine that you are planning to emigrate from the United States tomorrow and could only pack a small suitcase of belongings. What would you take and why?

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Listen to the oral history (*Audio tab*) of Manny Steen from Ireland. How does he describe arriving at Ellis Island? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 4<sup>TH</sup> STOP

# THE STAIRS TO THE REGISTRY ROOM

Why did doctors watch each passenger walk up the stairs? What were they looking for? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe how the number of immigrants passing through Ellis Island exceeded expectations.

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How long did the immigration process at Ellis Island typically take? \_\_\_\_\_

### Photo Analysis:

Study the photos.

Choose:

Photo 1

Photo 2

Write a serious caption for this photo. \_\_\_\_\_

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Write a humorous (*yet appropriate*) caption for the photo. \_\_\_\_\_

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Select one of the people in your photo and write a brief journal entry describing what is happening and how you feel about it. Who did you choose? \_\_\_\_\_

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# 5<sup>TH</sup> STOP

## THE REGISTRY ROOM

What was the nickname of the Registry Room? \_\_\_\_\_

**Math connection:** What was the area of the space? \_\_\_\_\_

From 1903 to 1914, what were immigrants checked for? Why did they fear the test for this condition? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did immigration officials detain many women? \_\_\_\_\_

Would this be acceptable today? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

How/why could children be sent back to their home country? Why do you think immigration officials did this? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Photo Analysis:**

Study the photographs. Pick 1 and complete the attached photo analysis worksheet.

### **Audio Analysis:**

Listen to the oral history of Lucy Attarian. What happened to her?

What is your reaction? \_\_\_\_\_

Were the immigration officials justified in questioning her family? Why or why not?

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# 6<sup>TH</sup> STOP

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## THE MEDICAL EXAM

What did doctors look for in the “6 second physical”? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did the doctors mark certain patients with chalk? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened to those marked with chalk? \_\_\_\_\_

In your opinion, was this a humane and fair way to handle this process? Use the T-chart below to consider arguments for and against this treatment of immigrants.

*HINT: Study Photograph #4 to see what conditions led to a chalk mark.*

Process was humane and necessary	Process was humiliating and unfair

What did the Immigration Act of 1891 forbid? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened to these people? \_\_\_\_\_

### Math Connection:

If 1/10 of immigrants were marked for further inspection and 10% of that group were sent back to their home countries, what was the overall percentage of immigrants sent back?

If 120,000 immigrants were sent back home, what was the total number of immigrants that came to America?



# 7<sup>TH</sup> STOP

## THE LEGAL INSPECTION

What is a ship's manifest? \_\_\_\_\_

Why was it an important part of the legal inspection process? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the interview process. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain the importance of interpreters at Ellis Island. \_\_\_\_\_

Read the following statement:

*"The legal inspection process at Ellis Island favored immigrants arriving from England and Ireland, and was biased against immigrants arriving from other countries."*

Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

How did World War I affect immigration policy in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_

When did Ellis Island close? \_\_\_\_\_ How was it used after 1924? \_\_\_\_\_

### Photo Analysis:

Study the 3rd photograph. Complete the attached photo analysis worksheet.

### Audio Analysis:

Listen to the oral history of Paul Lauric. Was his family's treatment justified? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

# 9<sup>TH</sup> STOP

## THE STAIRS OF SEPARATION

What happened here? Why is the staircase divided into three sections?

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What services were available at Ellis Island help new immigrants get ready for new life in America?

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How many languages were translated at Ellis Island? \_\_\_\_\_

What did immigrant aid societies do? \_\_\_\_\_

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When did passports and visas become required for new immigrants? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think that the U.S. began requiring passports? \_\_\_\_\_

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### Audio Analysis:

*Listen to the oral history of Manny Steen.*

How much money did new immigrants need to have? \_\_\_\_\_ Use this web site (<http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/cpicalc.pl>) to figure out how much that would be worth in 2014 dollars. \_\_\_\_\_

What often happened aboard the ship on the journey to America? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why do you think that immigrants had to have this much money? What did it prove to immigration officials? \_\_\_\_\_

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# 10<sup>TH</sup> STOP

## THE KISSING POST

How did this area get its nickname? \_\_\_\_\_

### Photo Analysis:

Study the 3rd photograph. Complete the attached photo analysis worksheet.

### Audio Analysis:

Listen to the oral history of Estelle Belford.

Write two journal entries as Estelle Belford – one entry should be in anticipation of meeting her father for the first time and the second entry afterwards.

#### Entry #1

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#### Entry #2

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# EXPLORE IMMIGRATION DATA

What is the total number of immigrants who came to the United States from 1820 to 2010? \_\_\_\_\_

From 1820 to 2010, which three countries had the highest number of immigrants come to the United States? \_\_\_\_\_

Choose one of the countries you selected in the question above. During which decade or time period did most of the immigrants come to the United States? What “push” factors existed in that country at the time? Research your answer.

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Look at the immigration data from Ireland, China, and Vietnam. When did the greatest numbers of immigrants arrive from those countries? Using the historical timeline or other online resources, explain what events may be responsible for these numbers.

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At one point in history, the greatest number of immigrants to the United States came from Europe. Look at the data to figure out in which decade that changed. \_\_\_\_\_

What continent were most people coming from after the change?

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Choose one fifty-year period between 1820 and 2010. Research the major world events that happened in your time period. Events might include wars, economic declines or booms, religious persecution or environmental disaster. Do you see a connection between your events and immigration to the United States? Why or why not? Answer on a separate sheet of paper.