

## Interactive Tour of Ellis Island

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

Go on the interactive tour of Ellis Island. There will be 10 stations. Read the texts, have a look at the photographs, listen to the stories and watch the short films Complete the tasks.

Open an **online dictionary** too – so you can look up words you will need immediately.

- <https://www.leo.org/englisch-deutsch/>
- <https://en-de.dict.cc/>

**Take notes** in your folder – part **special topics**.

### 1. Introduction: Fill in the gaps.

More than <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ million immigrants made their first stop in America at the Ellis Island Immigration Station between <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. In fact, more than <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ percent of Americans can trace their family history back to Ellis Island.

### 2. 1<sup>st</sup> stop: The Passage

- a) **Where** did most immigrants who came to America through Ellis Island come from?
- b) What were some of the **reasons** why they wanted to emigrate to the USA.
- c) **How long** did the **passage** – that means the trip across the Atlantic Ocean – on the steamships last?
- d) What does the words “**steerage**” mean and refer to? Explain it in English.

### 3. 2<sup>nd</sup> stop: The Arrival

- a) What did the people on board of the steamships see first when they arrived at New York Harbor?
- b) Who went on board when the steamships arrived at New York Harbor and what did they do there?
- c) What happened to the steerage passengers?
- d) Who was the first immigrant who was processed at Ellis Island?
- e) Listen to Lawrence Meinwald from Poland. Summarize what he is talking about. **How** does he speak about the moment seeing the Statue of Liberty for the first time?

### 4. 3<sup>rd</sup> stop: The Ellis Island Baggage Room

- a) What did the officers who greeted the ferry boats pass out?
- b) What was the name of the room to which the immigrants had to go after the baggage room and what happened there?
- c) What does Manny Steen from Ireland tell us about the conditions at Ellis Island?
- d) When did he arrive at Ellis Island (month and year)? How old was he at this time?
- e) Did the immigration officers ask the people whether they can speak English or not?
- f) What kind of luggage or baggage did the steerage passengers have? Why?

### 5. 4<sup>th</sup> stop: The stairs to the Registry Room

- a) Who stood on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and what did they do there?
- b) What was the highest number of immigrants who were processed on a single day? When was it?



**Can you guess the number of jelly beans in the jar?**

If you can, then you would know a lot about how busy it could get at Ellis Island! There were many busy days here, but none compare to April 17, 1907.

On that day, more immigrants were processed at Ellis Island than at any other immigration processing center in the history of the United States. This record still holds today.

Imagine this room filled with people. The same number of people as there are beans in the jar.

How long would it take you to count all these jelly beans? Imagine processing this same number of immigrants through both medical and legal tests in this room. Immigrants arriving here at Ellis Island on this day in 1907 would have to wait in long lines behind all those other immigrants. If you want to know what it was like for immigrants and for inspectors, you need to know how many people were processed here on this record-setting date more than 100 years ago.

On April 17, 1907 there were **11,747** immigrants processed at Ellis Island.

**6. 5<sup>th</sup> stop the Registry Room**

- a) What's another name for the Registry Room? Label picture 1 on the right.
- b) What's so special of this room in picture 2 which is a historic photograph? What are the white things you can see? Why were they used?
- c) What was trachoma? What happened to people having it?
- d) What happened to women and children travelling alone?
- e) What happened to Lucy Attarian from Turkey in 1921?

**7. 6<sup>th</sup> stop: The Medical Exam**

- a) What happened if the doctors believed someone was a risk for the public health?
- b) What does the X and the P stand for?
- c) How many people were sent back to their countries?
- d) Why was the family of Rachel Chenitz from Palestine almost be sent back to their home country in 1922?

**8. 7<sup>th</sup> stop: The Legal Inspection**

- a) What were typical questions immigrants had to answer?
- b) What happened to Paul Lauric's family from Yugoslavia in 1940?
- c) What was Ellis Island from 1924 to 1954?

**9. 8<sup>th</sup> stop: Detainees**

- a) What were the two nicknames of Ellis Island?
- b) What's the reason for the 2<sup>nd</sup> nickname?

**10. 9<sup>th</sup> stop: The Stair of \_\_\_\_\_**

- a) Complete the headline.
- b) Label picture 4.
- c) Listen to Manny Steen from Ireland again. How much money did people need to be allowed to enter the US?
- d) What did people do because of this (in c)?

**11. 10<sup>th</sup> stop: The \_\_\_\_\_**

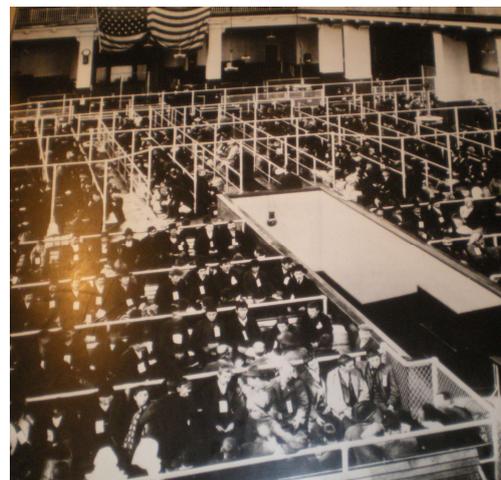
- a) Complete the headline.
- b) Why did the area on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor got the name?
- c) How were family members who had already been in the USA informed about the arrivals of their relatives?
- d) What's so special about the story of Estelle Belford from Romania?
- e) How does she describe her parents' reaction when they first met again?
- f) What did her father say to his wife (Estelle's mum)?

**Extra:** If there is still time watch the 30 minutes virtual field trip.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/webcast.htm>



Picture: 1 \_\_\_\_\_



Picture: 2 \_\_\_\_\_



Picture: 3 Test in order to find out mental diseases.



Picture: 4:  
center aisle: \_\_\_\_\_  
right aisle: \_\_\_\_\_  
left aisle: \_\_\_\_\_