

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Immigration: Ellis Island vs. Angel Island

(adapted from <http://www.arrowheadschoools.org/faculty/flesch/ImmigrationWebQuest2013.docx>)

Go to the website: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/tour/>



Welcome to Ellis Island! Over 12 million immigrants entered the United States through this small island in New York Harbor and more than 40% of Americans can trace their ancestors back to Ellis Island. The importance of this island on society during the Gilded Age and on American society as a whole cannot be overstated. Click on the large, red **Start the Tour!** button to follow in the immigrants' footsteps and learn more about their journey through Ellis Island...

### Part I: The Passage

1. Read the information on this page and answer the following questions:
  - a. Where did most of the immigrants entering the U.S. through Ellis Island come from?
  - b. Why did immigrants come to the United States?
  - c. Define the word "steerage". Who usually traveled in the steerage?
2. Click on the "Learn More" link in the Did You Know? box on the right-hand side of the screen. What is the difference between an immigrant and an emigrant?
3. Click on the "Photos" tab at the top of the screen. Click through each of the pictures. What do these images show about the journey to Ellis Island and how the immigrants felt on the journey?

4. Click the Next button at the top, right-hand side of the screen until you get to 4<sup>th</sup> Stop: The Stairs at the Registry Room

## Part II: The STAIRS TO THE REGISTRY ROOM

1. Read the information on this page and answer the following questions:

- a. What were doctors looking for as they watched the immigrants climb the stairs?

- b. What feared medical inspection did immigrants receive once they reached the top of the stairs shown in the photo to the the right? (click on photos to see the caption)



2. Click on the "Learn More" link in the Did You Know? box on the right-hand side of the screen. How many immigrants were officials expecting to pass through Ellis Island in a year? Were their predictions correct? How many immigrants passed through in 1907?

3. Click on the Next button at the top, right-hand side of the screen to get to 5<sup>th</sup> Stop: The Registry Room.

## Part III: The REGISTRY ROOM

1. The Registry Room is nicknamed the Great Hall because it is so big (200 feet long by 102 feet wide!). What was the main use of the Great Hall at Ellis Island?

2. Click on the Photos tab at the top of the page and examine the images of the Great Hall. Based off these images, what do you think the process was like of passing through Ellis Island?

3. Click on the Next button at the top, right-hand side of the screen to get to the 6<sup>th</sup> Stop: The Medical Exam.

## Part IV: The MEDICAL EXAM

1. Read the information on this page. What happened during the “6-second physical”?
2. Click on the Photos tab at the top of the page. The last image shows the chalk markings that were drawn on immigrants’ clothing to explain what kind of medical condition they had. What did an “X” stand for? What did a Pg stand for?



3. After the medical inspection, immigrants then had to complete a legal inspection before completing the process at Ellis Island. Unfortunately, some had to be detained for further examination or questioning, however, most made it through without incident.

### Follow the link below to take our next journey:

[http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/asian-american/angel\\_island/index.htm](http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/asian-american/angel_island/index.htm)

Welcome to Angel Island. This was the gateway for immigrants coming from Asia who arrived on the West Coast. Click the START! button to begin following the voyage of a young Chinese girl named Li Keng Wong from a small Chinese village to the United States of America.

Click the Preparing to Leave link on the left of the page

1. What did Li Keng and her family have to do in order to prepare for the immigration laws?
2. What do think the purpose of the questions was?
3. What would happen if someone in Li Keng’s family answered a question “incorrectly?”

**Next, click on Arriving at Angel Island**

1. Immigrants from what countries came to the U.S. through Angel Island?

2. Chinese immigrants sometimes had to face delays in entering the U.S. due to the Chinese Exclusion Act. Look up what this law was and how it impacted immigration from China.

3. Look at the photo and its caption on this page. What event led to the immigrants shown in the photo to come to the U.S.?

**Now click the Detained on Angel Island link**

1. Define the word detain:

2. What was the major fear of those who were being detained on Angel Island?



3. What was life like on Angel Island for someone waiting to move the U.S.?

Write at least two sentences comparing and contrasting the experience of immigrants who arrived at Ellis Island and those who arrived at Angel Island.