

Ellis Island Tapestry

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Grade Range: 5-8, 9-12

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR IMMIGRATION SERVICE

LIST OF MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.

SALOON, CABIN, AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY MANIFESTED

S.S. _____ sailing from _____ 19__ Arriving at Port of _____, 19__

Family Name _____ Given Name _____

Age. Years _____ Months _____

Sex _____ Married - Single _____

Occupation _____ Able To Read _____ Write _____

Nationality _____ Race _____

Country _____ City/Town _____

Name & complete address of nearest relative of friend in country from whence alien came

Final Destination, State _____ City/Town _____

Whether having a ticket to such a final destination _____ Whether in possession of \$50 _____

Whether ever in U.S. before Yes/No _____ How Long _____ Where? _____

Whether going to join a relative or friend; if so, list name and complete address.

Ever in prison, almshouse, institution for care of the insane or supported by charity? _____

If so which? _____

Whether a Polygamist _____ Whether an Anarchist _____

Whether coming with offer, promise, or agreement of labor? _____

Condition of Health _____ Deformed or Crippled _____

Height Feet _____ Inches _____ Color of Hair _____ Eyes _____

Complexion _____ Marks of Identification _____

Place of Birth. Country _____ City/Town _____

Ellis Island Tapestry Study Guide

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INTRODUCTION

Have you heard of the Golden Door? Do your neighbors whisper stories of a land where the streets are paved with gold: a place there is liberty, freedom and justice for all? A place where hard work is rewarded; where there is enough food for everyone. Have you heard of America? You say goodbye to your homeland forever. You embark on a steamer. Your first destination on your way to a new life?

Welcome to the ELLIS ISLAND TAPESTRY, and edu-active curriculum experience in which participants recreate the passage that 12 million immigrants lived on their way to the United States.

Will America accept you? Do you have what it takes to enter the land of the free? Today is April 17, 1907. It will be remembered as the busiest day in Ellis Island history. Your bags are packed. Your family is with you. You are one of 11,745 people attempting to gain citizenship on this day alone. Put on the shoes of an American immigrant and journey with us, through the ELLIS ISLAND TAPESTRY.

The ELLIS ISLAND TAPESTRY, created by ARTSGENESIS, is an invaluable experience for all educators who wish to gain more practical experience in interactive educational design. This edu-active curriculum experience imparts participants with a subjective account of history and understanding of the people who lived it.

VOCABULARY

Alien:	Relating, belonging, or owing allegiance to another country or government
Anarchist:	One who rebels against authority, established order, or ruling power
Ancestor:	One from whom a person is descended and who is usually more remote in the line of descent than a grandparent
Bigamy:	The act of entering into a marriage with one person while still legally married to another
Castle Garden:	Immigrant processing center from 1855-1891. Approximately 7.5 million people were processed at Castle Garden
Contagious:	Communicable by contact
Deportation:	The removal from a country of an alien whose presence is unlawful or prejudicial
Dormitory:	A room for sleeping; a large room containing numerous beds
Ellis Island:	An island in Upper New York Bay; served as the immigration station from 1892-1954. The original site of today's Ellis Island was 3.5 acres of land. After tons of shale and granite landfill, excavated from the infant New York subways, as added Ellis Island grew to 27.5 acres. The New Jersey shoreline is only 2,000 yards away, the southern tip of Manhattan about a mile across the harbor.
Emigrant:	One who emigrates
Ethnic:	Of or relating to large groups of people classed according to common racial, national, tribal, religious, linguistic, or cultural origin or background
Europe:	Continent of the Eastern Hemisphere between Asia and the Atlantic Ocean
Goiter:	An enlargement of the thyroid gland visible as a swelling of the front of the neck.

Hospital:	An institution where the sick or injured are given medical or surgical care
Immigrant:	A person who comes to a country to take up permanent residence
Immigration:	To come into a country of which one is not a native for permanent residence
Indentured servant:	A person who signs and is bound by indentures to work for another for a specified time, especially in return for payment of travel expenses
Lameness:	Having a body part and especially a limb so disabled as to impair freedom of movement
Liberty:	The quality or state of being free; the positive enjoyment of various social, political, or economic rights and privileges, the power of choice
Limp:	To walk lamely; to proceed slowly or with difficulty
Literacy Test:	A visual and written examination to determine an immigrant's ability to read and/or write. Anti-immigration forces had been trying to impose a literacy test since the 1880's as a means of restricting immigration. They finally succeeded with Immigration Act of 1917, passed over President Woodrow Wilson's veto. This law required all immigrants, 16 years or older, to read a 40-word passage in their native language. Dual-language cards were used by inspectors to test immigrants' literacy.
Manifest:	A list of passengers or an invoice of cargo for a vehicle, as on a ship or plane.

In 1893, the United States began to require the steamship companies record in manifests the vital statistics of all passengers. The manifest sheets listed the names of the passengers and their answers to a series of questions regarding nationality, marital status, destination, occupation and other personal information. When a ship arrived in New York, the manifests were turned over to Ellis Island Inspectors and used as a basis for cross-examining each immigrant. Immigrants were tagged with the number of the manifest page on which their name appeared. By checking the tags, inspectors could group and identify new arrivals.

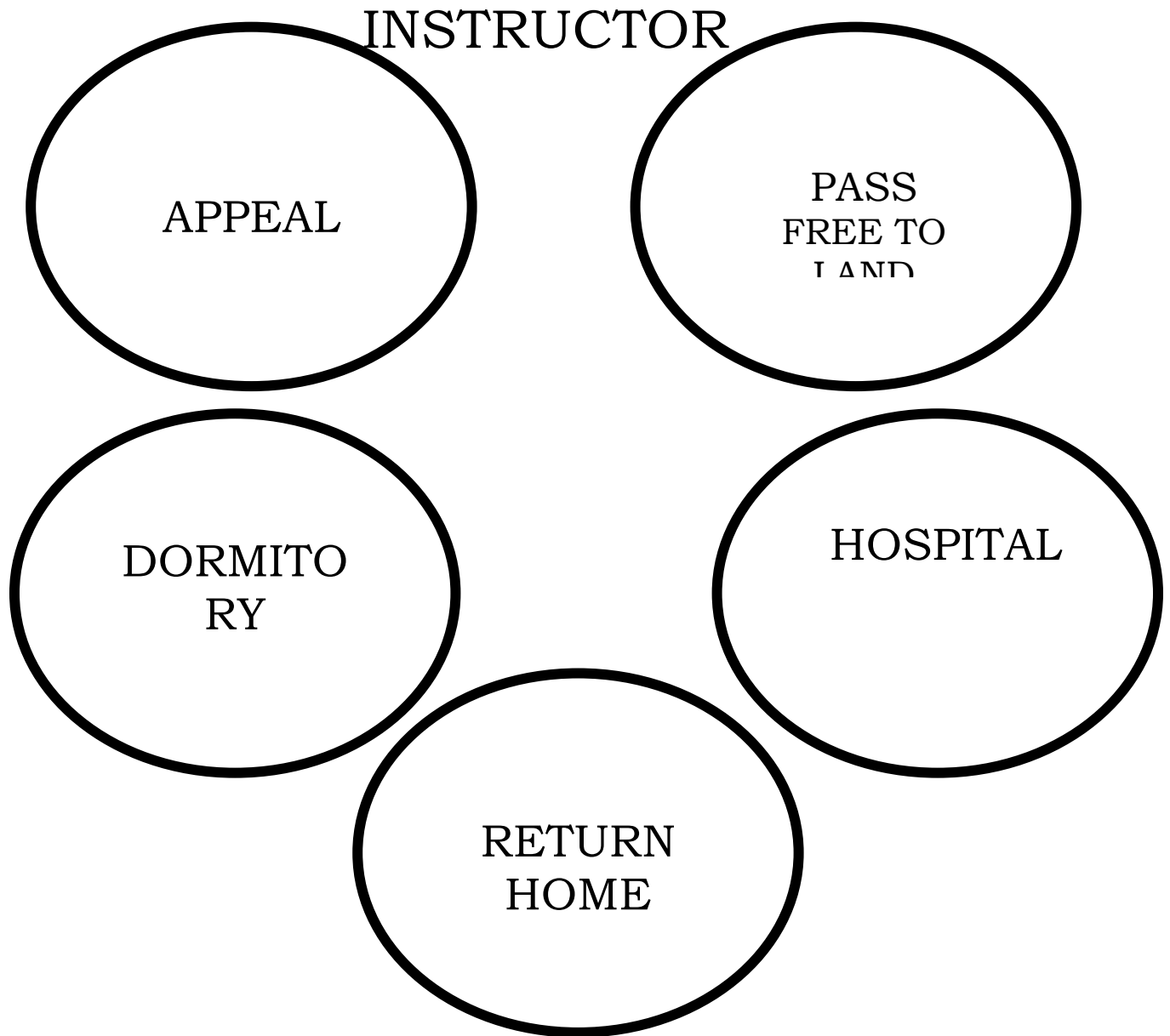
Medical inspection cards: Punched daily aboard ship, the cards were presented to the Ellis Island physicians for final

examination. If the immigrant was in good health, the card was stamped "passed".

- Migration:** To move from one country, place, or locality to another
- Passage:** A way of exit or entrance; a road, path, channel, or course by which something passes
- Radical:** Of, relating to, or constituting a political group associated with views, practices, and policies of extreme change; advocating extreme measures to retain or restore a political state of affairs
- Statue of Liberty:** A large, copper statue of a woman holding a torch aloft in her right hand located on Liberty Island in New York harbor. The Statue of Liberty was presented to America by the people of France on July 4, 1884. Sculpted by August Bartholdi and engineered by Gustave Eiffel (designer of the Eiffel Tower), the monument was shipped to America as 350 individual pieces. The Statue of Liberty was designated a national monument in 1924.
- Steamer:** A ship propelled by steam
- Steerage:** A section of inferior accommodations in a passenger ship for passengers paying the lowest fares
- Trachoma:** A highly contagious eye infection that could cause blindness, this was a common disease in southeastern Europe but relatively unknown in the United States. It appeared as inflammations on the inner eyelid. Doctors checked for the disease by raising the eyelid with either, their fingers, a hairpin, or a buttonhook - a painful, but quick, procedure. Since trachoma is difficult to cure, sufferers were generally isolated and sent back to their ports of embarkation at the first opportunity.
- Transatlantic:** Crossing or extending across the Atlantic

ROOM DIAGRAM

When participants receive their fate cards, they should move to the area in the room designated by their fate card category. Here is a diagram of how to divide the classroom to include the five areas.



FATE CARDS

Medical Inspection cards determine an immigrants fate of Ellis Island. They represent the ruling of the Immigration Officers and Medical Inspectors at Ellis Island and determine whether an immigrant is: granted entry to the United States, detained on Ellis Island, or denied entry to the United States and returned to your homeland.

Only 2% (or roughly 250,000) of all immigrants passing through Ellis Island were denied entry to the United States. Therefore, like on Ellis Island, participants may choose to appeal their fate at the "Appeal" area (see Room Diagram).

"Check Mark"

Pass cards

(certificate of good health)

Go to PASS

Holders of these cards are granted entry to the United States. Immigrant is "free to land" and may continue on to their desired destination. They should go to the "Pass" area.

"E"

Eye cards

(eye disease; Trachoma, Conjunctivitis or seeing impaired)

If under 21, go to PASS

If over 21, go to RETURN HOME

If the holder of this card has written on their Manifest that they are 21 years old or younger then they may continue onward and are granted citizenship to the United States.

If the holder has written on their Manifest that they are over 21 years old then they are denied entry to the United States and will be placed upon the earliest steamer returning to their homeland.

They may either "Return Home" area or they may choose to appeal this ruling and must go to the "Appeal" area.

"G"

Goiter cards

(thyroid disorder or disease)

Go to HOSPITAL

Family members go to DORMITORY

Holders of these cards are detained in the Hospital for further observation and medical treatment., They should go to the "Hospital" area.

All of their family members (regardless of their cards) must go to the "Dormitory" area.

"H"

Heart cards

(heart or disease)

If under 21, go to PASS

If over 21, go to RETURN HOME

If the holder of this card has written on their Manifest that they are 21 years old or younger then they may continue onward and are granted citizenship to the United States.

If the holder has written on their Manifest that they are over 21 years old then they are denied entry to the United States and will be placed upon the earliest steamer returning to their homeland.

They may either go to the "Return Home" area or they may choose to appeal this ruling and must go to the "Appeal" area.

"L"

Limp cards

(lameness)

Go to RETURN HOME of APPEAL

Holders of these cards are denied entry to the United States and will be placed upon the earliest steamer returning to their homeland.

Holders of these cards may either go to the "Return Home" area or they may choose to appeal this ruling and must go to the "Appeal" area.

"X"

Mental cards

(mental illness)

Go to RETURN HOME of APPEAL

Holders of these cards are denied entry to the United States and will be placed upon the earliest steamer returning to their homeland.

Holders of these cards may either go to the "Return Home" area or they may choose to appeal this ruling and must go to the "Appeal" area.

Historical Note: According to a 1917 U.S. Public Service manual, 9 out of 100 immigrants were marked with an "X" during the line inspection and were sent to mental examination rooms for further questioning. During this primary examination, doctors first asked the immigrants to answer a few questions about themselves, and then to solve simple arithmetic problems, or count backward from 20 to 1, or to complete a puzzle. Out of the 9 immigrants held for this "Wedding out" sessions, perhaps 1 or 2 would be detained for a secondary sessions of more extensive testing.

NOTE:

We have abbreviated the list of Medical Inspection cards for purposes of this curriculum experience. The following is a complete list of Medical Inspection cards used on Ellis Island.

"X"	Suspected Mental Disease	"G"	Goiter
"X (circled)"	Definite signs of Mental Disease	"H"	Heart
"B"	Black	"K"	Hernia
"C"	Conjunctivitis	"N"	Neck
"CT"	Trachoma	"L"	Lameness
"E"	Eyes	"P"	Physical & Lungs
"F"	Face	"SC"	Scalp (Fungus)
"FT"	Feet	"S"	Senility

INSPECTOR QUESTIONS

Any immigrant deemed "liable to become a public charge" was denied entry to the United States. To Ellis Island inspectors, this clause, which has been a cornerstone of immigration policy since 1882, meant those who appeared unable to support themselves and, therefore, likely to become a burden on society. Ellis Island inspectors carefully weighed the prospects of new arrivals, especially those of women and children intending to rejoin husbands and fathers in this country.

To determine an immigrant's social, economic, and moral fitness, inspectors asked as many as 29 rapid-fire series of questions including the ones listed below.

1. **What is your name?**
2. **How did you pay for your passage?**
3. **Do you have promise of a job?**
4. **Are you an anarchist?**
5. **Are you going to join a relative or friend?**
6. **What is your destination?**
7. **Are you travelling with family or alone?**
8. **What is your occupation?**
9. **Where were you born?**
10. **Where did you last reside?**
11. **How much is two and one?**
12. **How much is two and two?**
13. **How do you wash stairs; from the top or from the bottom?**
14. **Can you draw a diamond?**

The inspector draws the shape of a diamond and then asks the immigrant to repeat the shape. This exercise can be modified using various geometric shapes.

TIME LINE

April 11, 1890	Ellis Island designated an immigration station.
1892-1924	These re considered the peak years: 12 million immigrants were processed at Ellis Island.
January 1, 1892	Ellis Island opened as an immigration station.
1892-1925	Manifest Sheets issued. In 19=893, the United States began to require that steamship companies record in manifests the vital statistics of all passengers. The manifest sheets listed the names of the passengers and their answers to a series of questions regarding nationality, marital status, destination, occupations and other personal information. When a ship arrived in New York, the manifests were turned over to Ellis Island Inspectors and used as a basis for cross-examining each immigrant. Immigrants were tagged with the number of the manifest page on which their name appeared. By checking the tags, inspectors could group and identify the new arrivals.
June 14, 1897	Buildings destroyed by fire, but all persons safely evacuated.
1900-1914	Immigrant arrivals reached approximately one million each year during the peak immigration period, 1900-1914.
December 17, 1900	Reopened as an immigration station, on a larger scale.
1905-1907	3 million immigrants entered Ellis Island during these three years.
April 17, 1907	The most active day in Ellis Island history. 11,745 people were processed on this day.
1917	Literacy Test introduced. Anti-immigration forces had been trying to impose a literacy test since the 1880's as a means of restricting immigration. They finally succeeded with Immigration Act of 1917, passed over President Woodrow Wilson's veto. This law required all

	immigrants, 16 years or older, to read a 40-word passage in their native language.
1917-1919	Ellis Island served as a detention center for enemy aliens, a way station for navy personnel and a hospital for the army.
1918	Ellis Island served as a deportation center and immigration station until 1954.
1924	Mass immigration ended. Immigrants now were inspected in countries of origin.
1939-1946	Part of Ellis Island was used as a Coast Guard Station.
1941-1954	Part of Ellis Island served as a detention center for enemy aliens.
November 29, 1965	Ellis Island closed and was virtually abandoned.
May 11, 1965	Ellis Island added by President Lyndon Johnson's Presidential Proclamation to the Statue of Liberty National Monument.
1976	Ellis Island opened to the public for limited seasonal visitation.
1983	The restoration of Ellis Island began.
1984	Closed for \$160 million restoration project.
September 10, 1990	Ellis Island reopened with extensive facilities including a new museum, exhibits, and with the main building restored to how it would have been during the period of 1918-1920.
Today	Ellis Island continues to entertain thousands of visitors each year. Over 100 million (or 40% of) Americans can trace their roots to an ancestor who entered the United States through Ellis Island.

WHO'S WHO!

**Below is a list of persons who not only immigrated to America,
But who became celebrated successes in their respective fields.**

Name	Year of Birth- Death	Native Country	Arrived	Field
Isaac Asmov	(1920-1992)	Russia	1923	Literature
Charles Atlas	(1894-1972)	Italy	1903	Body Building
Iriving Berlin	(1888-1989)	Russia	1893	Music
Frank Capra	(1897-1991)	Italy	1903	Film
Father Edward Flanagan	(1886-1948)	Ireland	1904	Religion
Felix Frankfurter	(1882-1965)	Austria	1894	Law
Samuel Goldwyn	(1881-1974)	Poland	1896	Film
Bob Hope	(1903-)	England	1908	Show Business
Sol Hurok	(1884-1974)	Ukraine	1906	Theater
Al Jolson	(1886-1950)	Lithuania	1894	Show Business
Elia Kazan(joglous)	(1909-)	Turkey	1913	Film/Theater
William S. Knudsen	(1879-1949)	Denmark	1900	Auto Industry
Bela Lugosi	(1882-1956)	Hungary	1921	Film/Theater
Hyman G. Rickover	(1898-1986)	Russia	1904	Science
Edward G. Robinson	(1893-1973)	Romania	1903	Film
Knute Rockne	(1888-1931)	Norway	1893	Sports
Ben Shahn	(1898-1969)	Lithuania	1906	Art
Lee Strasberg	(1902-1982)	Austria	1909	Theater
Rudolph Valention	(1895-1926)	Italy	1913	Film

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Below is a list by country of the number of immigrants who passed through Ellis Island from January 1892 to June 1897, and from 1901 to 1931. Exceptions to those years are noted in parentheses.

Italy	2,502,310
Russia	1,893,542
Hungary (1905-1931)	859,557
Austria (1905-1931)	768,132
Austria-Hungary (1892-1904)	648,163
Germany	633,148
England	551,969
Ireland	520,904
Sweden	348,036
Greece	245,058
Norway	226,278
Ottoman Empire	212,825
Scotland	191,023
The West Indies	171,774
Poland (1892-1897 and 1920-1931)	153,444
Portugal	120,725
France (including Corsica)	109,687
Denmark	99,414
Romania (1894-1931)	79,092
The Netherlands	78,602
Spain	72,636
Belgium	63,141
Czechoslovakia (1920-1931)	48,140
Bulgaria (1901-1931)	42,085
Wales	27,113
Yugoslavia (1920-1931)	25,017
Finland (1920-1931)	7,833
Switzerland	1,103

RESOURCE GUIDE

Ellis Island, Ellis Island Museum

Hours:	Open daily from 9:30 am -5:00 pm
Access:	Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island Ferry from the Battery, NYC and from Liberty State Park, NJ
For schedule:	(212) 269-5755
Further Information:	National Park Service at (212) 363-3200

BOOKS:

Ellis Island: Gateway to the American Dream, Pamela Reeves, Crescent Books, 1993.

Ellis Island: A Pictorial History, Barbara Benton, New York, 1985.

Immigration: Opposing Viewpoints, Teresa O'Neill, Greenhaven Press, 1992.

The Ellis Island Source Book, August C. Bolino, The Catholic University of America, Kensington Historical Press, 1990.

Visiting Ellis Island: A Souvenir of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, Mary J. Shapiro, Collier Books Macmillan Publishing Company, 1992.

CD-ROM:

The Ellis Island Experience, South Peak Interactive for The History Channel, Windows 95, Windows 98.

VIDEO:

Ellis Island, Greystone Communications, Inc. for The History Channel, 3-part series, 1997.