

Ellis Island and the Immigrant Experience

What you will do

- Discover the experience of immigrants entering the United States at Ellis Island in late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- Create an Immigrant Experience Collection of official documents, mementos, and remembrances that reflects one immigrant's journey.

What you will need

Scrapbook materials

Web Sites:

Note: some links direct you to external web sites. These sites and their content are not controlled by SAS.

Ellis Island (https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/genealogy/ellis_island.asp)

Explore the timeline and the photo albums.

Lower East Side Tenement Museum (<https://www.tenement.org/about.html>)

Selected Images of Ellis Island and Immigration

(http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/070_immi.html)

Scroll down to view this gallery of photographs from the Library of Congress.

Ellis Island: Through America's Gateway

(<http://www2.powayusd.com/online/usonline/worddoc/ellislandsite.htm>)

Provides an overview of the tests, procedures, and documentation required for arrival at Ellis Island.

How the Other Half Lives, by Jacob Riis

(<https://www.historyonthenet.com/authentichistory/1898-1913/2-progressivism/2-riis/illustrations.html>)

This 1890 book examines turn-of-the-century New York City. The author's perspective reflects some of the negative stereotypes that existed. Click the photograph and illustration links to explore his documentation of immigrant living conditions.

How you will do it

1. Create an Immigrant Experience collection representing one immigrant's entrance to America through Ellis Island. The collection should include at least five documents and remembrances. These might include:

- An identification card or a passport with a picture of the student or an individual chosen by the student (such as a relative or a fictitious identity)
- A work visa application that details skills and prior work experience
- A detention card
- Photographs or drawings of the homeland
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A map of New York City designating the neighborhood and tenement building the immigrant will be living in

- Written reflections (in a diary or personal letters) about why the immigrant left his/her homeland and impressions of America
2. Explore the suggested web sites on the immigration experience, taking note of documentation or remembrances to use or recreate for your collection. Consult additional resources that provide information useful to this project.
 3. Choose a nationality and brainstorm the details and information to associate with his or her chosen identity before creating the collection.
 4. Present your Immigrant Experience collection in a scrapbook.

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