

Coming to America: The Journey of a German Immigrant

Lesson Objectives

- Students will analyze the patterns of German emigration during the 19th and 20th centuries
- Students will learn about German emigration of the 19th and 20th centuries by studying first hand accounts of German men and women who came to the United States through Ellis Island

Materials and Resources

Activity 1- German Emigration: Why They Left and Where They Went

- Handout 1- “Emigration from Germany to the United States in the 19th and 20th Centuries” Reading
- Worksheet 1- Questions over Emigration Reading
- Handout 2- “Ellis Island- History” Reading
- Worksheet 2- Questions over “Ellis Island- History” Reading

Activity 2- German Emigration: How They Got to America

- Handout 3- Directions for Ellis Island Activity
- Materials for activity:
 - a) Immigrant cards for students
 - b) Immigrant cards to stay at checkpoints
 - c) Information about each checkpoint

Additional Resources

- Answers to Worksheet 1- Questions Over 19th and 20th Century Emigration Reading
- Answers to Worksheet 2- Questions Over Ellis Island Reading
- Website bibliography

Emigration from Germany to the United States in the 19th and 20th Centuries

Courtesy of “Friends of the German Emigration Museum”

Until the middle of the 19th century the majority of those men and women leaving the Old World came from Southwestern Germany, though by that time emigration had also started in the West and Northwest. From the 1850s onward Northern and Northeastern Germany became major emigration areas. Throughout history the intensity of the emigration movement varied from region to region. By the 1880s, however, East Elbian Prussia had become the most important sending area within Germany.

Though what contemporaries called the 'emigration fever' seized all strata of society, it was above all the lower classes - small farmers, agricultural laborers, servants, workers and artisans - who made up the mass of the migrants. Emigration started as a movement of families of agricultural background whose aim was to settle on American soil (*rural settlement migration*). From the latter third of the century onwards, however, German emigration comprised more and more individual migrants and those of urban background searching for work in the rapidly expanding American cities (*labor migration*).

Depending on conditions at home (*push factors*: crop failures, economic crises, under- and unemployment, low wages etc.) and abroad (*pull factors*: cheap land, industrial progress, high wages, upward social mobility etc.) mass emigration was subject to considerable fluctuations. A first wave of emigration hit Germany in the 1850s, peaking in 1854 when 215,000 people left their homeland. Altogether almost 1.3 millions left during that decade. A second wave commenced as early as 1864 and by 1873 another one million had left for abroad. The heaviest wave occurred from

1880 to 1893, when approximately 1.8 million made their way to the U.S.

However, as a result of steady economic growth Germany ceased to be a major emigration country from the mid-1890s onward. Internal mass migrations to the expanding, labor markets of Germany replaced overseas migrations. At the same time Germany became more and more attractive to immigrants from other European areas. As a matter of fact, from the turn of the century onwards until 1914, Germany became the second largest 'importer of foreign labor' after the United States.

The short-term rise of transatlantic migration in the early 1920s peaking in the year of inflation in 1923 was above all determined by the results of World War I. Thus it can only conditionally be compared to the mass emigrations of the 19th century. In the 1930s the movement from Nazi-Germany to the United States was characterized by the flight and expulsion of about 37,000 Jewish men and women in 1933 and another 23,000 annually between 1934 and 1937.

After the end of the Second World War, the emigration of Germans was prohibited by the Allies for the time being. By 1951, however, the last restrictions on going abroad had been lifted in Western Germany. Among those who left for overseas in the 1950s refugees and Germans who had been driven out of their homelands in the eastern territories were over-represented. Post-war emigration peaked in 1952 when around 90,000 left in search of a better life abroad. After that the level of emigration sank continually while at the same time the so-called 'economic miracle' attracted an increasing number of foreign workers, the so-called 'guestworkers' recruited by German industry in far away places of Southern Europe.

Questions over “Emigration from Germany to the United States in the 19th and 20th Centuries”

1. What does it mean when the article talks about “emigration fever”?
2. Who made up the mass of the migrants?
3. Discuss the difference between rural settlement migration and labor migration.
4. What are “push” and “pull” factors? Describe the push and pull factors of German emigration.
5. Discuss the three “waves” of German emigration.
6. Why do you think the Allies prohibited German emigration after World War II?

Answer Key

1. What does it mean when the article talks about “emigration fever”?

Everyone wanted to immigrate to the United States

2. Who made up the mass of the migrants?

Small farmers, agricultural laborers, servants, workers and artisans

3. Discuss the difference between rural settlement migration and labor migration.

Rural settlement migration- movement of families of agricultural background whose aim was to settle on American soil

Labor migration- those of urban background searching for work in the rapidly expanding American cities

4. What are “push” and “pull” factors? Describe the push and pull factors of German emigration.

Push factors- Factors “pushing” people out of their homeland (Ex: crop failures, economic crises, under- and unemployment, low wages)

Pull factors- Factors that entice people to move to another country (Ex: cheap land, industrial progress, high wages, upward social mobility)

5. Discuss the three “waves” of German emigration.

1st Wave- 1850s; 1.3 million left Germany during this decade

2nd Wave- 1864-1873; Another 1 million left Germany

3rd Wave- 1880-1893; Heaviest wave; 1.8 million left Germany

6. Why do you think the Allies prohibited German emigration after World War II?

Answers will vary; Students should talk about the United States' feelings towards Germans following WWII

Ellis Island- History

Courtesy of The Statue of Liberty- Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.

From 1892 to 1954, over twelve million immigrants entered the United States through the portal of Ellis Island, a small island in New York Harbor. Ellis Island is located in the upper bay just off the New Jersey coast, within the shadow of the Statue of Liberty. Through the years, this gateway to the new world was enlarged from its original 3.3 acres to 27.5 acres mostly by landfill obtained from ship ballast and possibly excess earth from the construction of the New York City subway system.

Before being designated as the site of the first Federal immigration station by President Benjamin Harrison in 1890, Ellis Island had a varied history. The local Indian tribes had called it "Kioshk" or Gull Island. Due to its rich and abundant oyster beds and plentiful and profitable shad runs, it was known as Oyster Island for many generations during the Dutch and English colonial periods. By the time Samuel Ellis became the island's private owner in the 1770's, the island had been called Kioshk, Oyster, Dyre, Bucking and Anderson's Island. In this way, Ellis Island developed from a sandy island that barely rose above the high tide mark, into a hanging site for pirates, a harbor fort, ammunition and ordinance depot named Fort Gibson, and finally into an immigration station.

From 1794 to 1890 (pre-immigration station period), Ellis Island played a mostly uneventful but still important military role in United States history. When the British occupied New York City during the duration of the Revolutionary War, its large and powerful naval fleet was able to sail unimpeded directly into New York Harbor. Therefore, it was deemed critical by the United States Government that a series of coastal fortifications in New York Harbor be constructed just prior to the War of 1812. After much legal haggling over ownership of the island, the Federal government purchased Ellis Island from New York State in 1808. Ellis Island was approved as a site for fortifications and on it was constructed a parapet for three tiers of circular guns, making the island part of the new harbor defense system that included Castle Clinton at the Battery, Castle Williams on Governor's Island, Fort Wood on Bedloe's Island and two earthworks forts at the entrance to New York Harbor at the Verrazano Narrows. The fort at Ellis Island was named Fort Gibson in honor of a brave officer killed during the War of 1812.

Prior to 1890, the individual states (rather than the Federal government) regulated immigration into the United States. Castle Garden in the Battery (originally known as Castle Clinton) served as the New York State immigration station from 1855 to 1890 and approximately eight million immigrants, mostly from Northern and Western Europe, passed through its doors. These early immigrants came from nations such as England, Ireland, Germany and the Scandinavian countries and constituted the first large wave of immigrants that settled and populated the United States. Throughout the 1800's and intensifying in the latter half of the 19th century, ensuing political instability, restrictive religious laws and deteriorating economic conditions in Europe began to fuel the largest mass human migration in the history of the world. It soon became apparent that Castle Garden was ill equipped and unprepared to handle the growing numbers of immigrants arriving yearly. Unfortunately compounding the problems of the small facility were the corruption and incompetence found to be commonplace at Castle Garden.

The Federal government intervened and constructed a new Federally-operated immigration station on Ellis Island. While the new immigration station on Ellis Island was under construction, the Barge Office at the Battery was used for the processing of immigrants. The new structure on Ellis Island, built of "Georgia pine" opened on January 1, 1892; Annie Moore, a 15 year-old Irish girl, accompanied by her two brothers entered history and a new country as she was the very first immigrant to be processed at Ellis Island on January 2. Over the next 62 years, more than 12 million were to follow through this port of entry.

While there were many reasons to emigrate to America, no reason could be found for what would

occur only five years after the Ellis Island Immigration Station opened. During the evening of June 14, 1897, a fire on Ellis Island burned the immigration station completely to the ground. Although no lives were lost, many years of Federal and State immigration records dating back to 1855 burned along with the pine buildings that failed to protect them. The United States Treasury quickly ordered the immigration facility be replaced under one very important condition. All future structures built on Ellis Island had to be fireproof. On December 17, 1900, the new Main Building was opened and 2,251 immigrants were received that day.

While most immigrants entered the United States through New York Harbor (the most popular destination of steamship companies), others sailed into many ports such as Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, San Francisco and Savannah, Miami, and New Orleans. The great steamship companies like White Star, Red Star, Cunard and Hamburg-America played a significant role in the history of Ellis Island and immigration in general. First and second class passengers who arrived in New York Harbor were not required to undergo the inspection process at Ellis Island. Instead, these passengers underwent a cursory inspection aboard ship; the theory being that if a person could afford to purchase a first or second class ticket, they were less likely to become a public charge in America due to medical or legal reasons. The Federal government felt that these more affluent passengers would not end up in institutions, hospitals or become a burden to the state. However, first and second class passengers were sent to Ellis Island for further inspection if they were sick or had legal problems.

This scenario was far different for "steerage" or third class passengers. These immigrants traveled in crowded and often unsanitary conditions near the bottom of steamships with few amenities, often spending up to two weeks seasick in their bunks during rough Atlantic Ocean crossings. Upon arrival in New York City, ships would dock at the Hudson or East River piers. First and second class passengers would disembark, pass through Customs at the piers and were free to enter the United States. The steerage and third class passengers were transported from the pier by ferry or barge to Ellis Island where everyone would undergo a medical and legal inspection.

If the immigrant's papers were in order and they were in reasonably good health, the Ellis Island inspection process would last approximately three to five hours. The inspections took place in the Registry Room (or Great Hall), where doctors would briefly scan every immigrant for obvious physical ailments. Doctors at Ellis Island soon became very adept at conducting these "six second physicals." By 1916, it was said that a doctor could identify numerous medical conditions (ranging from anemia to goiters to varicose veins) just by glancing at an immigrant. The ship's manifest log (that had been filled out back at the port of embarkation) contained the immigrant's name and his/her answers to twenty-nine questions. This document was used by the legal inspectors at Ellis Island to cross examine the immigrant during the legal (or primary) inspection. The two agencies responsible for processing immigrants at Ellis Island were the United States Public Health Service and the Bureau of Immigration (later known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service - INS). On March 1, 2003, the Immigration and Naturalization Service was re-structured and included into 3 separate bureaus as part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Despite the island's reputation as an "Island of Tears", the vast majority of immigrants were treated courteously and respectfully, and were free to begin their new lives in America after only a few short hours on Ellis Island. Only two percent of the arriving immigrants were excluded from entry. The two main reasons why an immigrant would be excluded were if a doctor diagnosed that the immigrant had a contagious disease that would endanger the public health or if a legal inspector thought the immigrant was likely to become a public charge or an illegal contract laborer.

During the early 1900's, immigration officials mistakenly thought that the peak wave of immigration had already passed. Actually, immigration was on the rise and in 1907, more people immigrated to the United States than any other year; approximately 1.25 million immigrants were processed at Ellis Island in that one year. Consequently, masons and carpenters were constantly struggling to enlarge and build new facilities to accommodate this greater than anticipated influx of new immigrants. Hospital buildings, dormitories, contagious disease wards and kitchens were all feverishly

constructed between 1900 and 1915.

As the United States entered World War I, immigration to the United States decreased. Numerous suspected enemy aliens throughout the United States were brought to Ellis Island under custody. Between 1918 and 1919, detained suspected enemy aliens were transferred from Ellis Island to other locations in order for the United States Navy with the Army Medical Department to take over the island complex for the duration of the war. During this time, regular inspection of arriving immigrants was conducted on board ship or at the docks. At the end of World War I, a big "Red Scare" spread across America and thousands of suspected alien radicals were interned at Ellis Island. Hundreds were later deported based upon the principal of guilt by association with any organizations advocating revolution against the Federal government. In 1920, Ellis Island reopened as an immigration receiving station and 225,206 immigrants were processed that year.

From the very beginning of the mass migration that spanned the years (roughly) 1880 to 1924, an increasingly vociferous group of politicians and nativists demanded increased restrictions on immigration. Laws and regulations such as the Chinese Exclusion Act, the Alien Contract Labor Law and the institution of a literacy test barely stemmed this flood tide of new immigrants. Actually, the death knell for Ellis Island, as a major entry point for new immigrants, began to toll in 1921. It reached a crescendo between 1921 with the passage of the Quota Laws and 1924 with the passage of the National Origins Act. These restrictions were based upon a percentage system according to the number of ethnic groups already living in the United States as per the 1890 and 1910 Census. It was an attempt to preserve the ethnic flavor of the "old immigrants", those earlier settlers primarily from Northern and Western Europe. The perception existed that the newly arriving immigrants mostly from southern and eastern Europe were somehow inferior to those who arrived earlier.

After World War I, the United States began to emerge as a potential world power. United States embassies were established in countries all over the world, and prospective immigrants now applied for their visas at American consulates in their countries of origin. The necessary paperwork was completed at the consulate and a medical inspection was also conducted there. After 1924, the only people who were detained at Ellis Island were those who had problems with their paperwork, as well as war refugees and displaced persons.

Ellis Island still remained open for many years and served a multitude of purposes. During World War II, enemy merchant seamen were detained in the baggage and dormitory building. The United States Coast Guard also trained about 60,000 servicemen there. In November of 1954 the last detainee, a Norwegian merchant seaman named Arne Peterssen was released, and Ellis Island officially closed.

In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson declared Ellis Island part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument. Ellis Island was opened to the public on a limited basis between 1976 and 1984. Starting in 1984, Ellis Island underwent a major restoration, the largest historic restoration in U.S. history. The \$160 million dollar project was funded by donations made to The Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. in partnership with the National Park Service. The Main Building was reopened to the public on September 10, 1990 as the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. Today, the museum receives almost 2 million visitors annually.

Questions over the “Ellis Island- History”

1. Which President designated Ellis Island as the site of the first Federal immigration station?
2. List three names that Ellis Island has had over the years.
3. Before 1890, who regulated immigration into the United States?
4. List the reasons for the largest mass human migration in the history of the world. Were these “push” or “pull” factors?
5. Who was the first immigrant to be processed at Ellis Island?
6. The receiving building was rebuilt after what event on June 14, 1897? What was the condition under which it was rebuilt?
7. Describe the voyage for Third Class passengers.
8. What percentage of immigrants were denied entrance into the United States? What were the two main reasons an immigrant was denied entry?
9. List two official restrictions (laws) placed on immigration from 1880-1924.

Answer Key

1. Which President designated Ellis Island as the site of the first Federal immigration station?

Benjamin Harrison

2. List three names that Ellis Island has had over the years.

Kioshk, Oyster, Dyre, Bucking and Anderson's Island

3. Before 1890, who regulated immigration into the United States?

The individual states

4. List the reasons for the largest mass human migration in the history of the world. Were these “push” or “pull” factors?

Ensuing political instability, restrictive religious laws and deteriorating economic conditions in Europe; These were “push” factors.

5. Who was the first immigrant to be processed at Ellis Island?

Annie Moore

6. The receiving building was rebuilt after what event on June 14, 1897? What was the condition under which it was rebuilt?

A fire destroyed the building; The new building had to be fireproof

7. Describe the voyage for Third Class passengers.

These immigrants traveled in crowded and often unsanitary conditions near the bottom of steamships with few amenities, often spending up to two weeks seasick in their bunks during rough Atlantic Ocean crossings.

8. What percentage of immigrants were denied entrance into the United States?
What were the two main reasons an immigrant was denied entry?

2%; if a doctor diagnosed that the immigrant had a contagious disease that would endanger the public health or if a legal inspector thought the immigrant was likely to become a public charge or an illegal contract laborer

9. List two official restrictions (laws) placed on immigration from 1880-1924.

Chinese Exclusion Act; Alien Contract Labor Law; Institution of a literacy test

Ellis Island Emigration Activity

Objective: Students will participate in this activity in order to further understand what German immigrants experienced when coming to the United States.

Materials:

- Cards with names of German emigrants to hand out to students (Note: Cards may not be true stories; many will be based on people's experiences back in Germany and at Ellis Island)
- Cards with information about the same German emigrants to stay at the checkpoints
- Information cards about each checkpoint
- Labels for the checkpoints
- Desks set up in eight "checkpoints" (clusters of 3-4 desks)

Activity:

- 1) Before students arrive to class, set up desks in classroom into eight clusters of 3-4 desks each. These will serve as the "Ellis Island Checkpoints"
- 2) Label cards and place them on the checkpoints. The cards should have the following labels:
 - Receiving Building
 - Baggage Room
 - Stairway to the Great Hall
 - Medical Exam
 - The Great Hall
 - Legal Inspection
 - Money Exchange
 - The Kissing Post
- 3) Also before students arrive, cut out all of the cards. The students will receive a card with an immigrant's picture on it when they enter the room. The other cards will be placed at each checkpoint for the students to read when they arrive at that station.
- 4) When students arrive, hand them a immigrant card as they enter the room. (Note: Depending on the size of the class, some students will most likely have the same emigrant card)
- 5) Have the students locate the number at the top left hand corner of their card. They will be put in groups according to these numbers. Have group number one start the "Ellis Island Checkpoints" first while the other two groups work on reading Handouts 1 and 2 and completing Worksheets 1 and 2. (Note: As soon as group one has finished with the first checkpoint, send group two to the first checkpoint and keep going like this until all of the groups are participating in the activity simultaneously)

- 6) At each checkpoint, students will match the card they were given when they entered the class to a card at the checkpoint.
- 7) Students will do two things at each checkpoint:
 - a) Read about their emigrant and what they experienced at that specific checkpoint
 - b) Read the information card about each checkpoint and answer 2-3 questions.
- 8) When students have completed the activity, have each student stand and give a summary of the life of his or her emigrant and what they experienced in immigrating from Germany to the United States through Ellis Island.

Immigrant Cards for Students

1**Name:** Henry Nauman**Hometown:** Hessen, Germany**Immigrated through:**
Bremerhaven, Germany**Year immigrated:** 1855**Settled in:** Waterloo, Iowa**1****Name:** Rosina Hiller**Hometown:** Hessen, Germany**Immigrated through:**

Bremerhaven, Germany

Year Immigrated: 1859**Settled in:** Waterloo, Iowa

2

Name: Erich Koch-Weser
Hometown: Bremerhaven, Germany
Immigrated through: Bremerhaven, Germany
Year immigrated: 1933
Settled in: Santos, Brazil



2

Name: Hertha Nathorff
Hometown: Germany (city unknown)
Immigrated through: Bremerhaven, Germany
Year immigrated: 1940
Settled in: United States (city unknown)



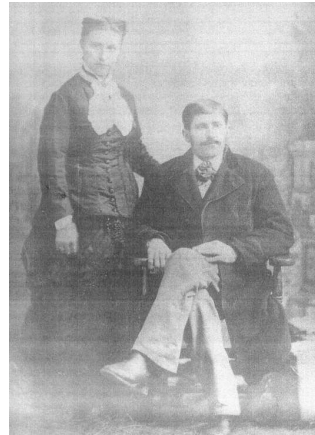
3

Name: Justina Tubbe
Hometown: Bad
Freienwalder, Prussia
Immigrated through:
Bremerhaven, Germany
Year immigrated: 1854
Settled in: Nacogdoches, TX



3

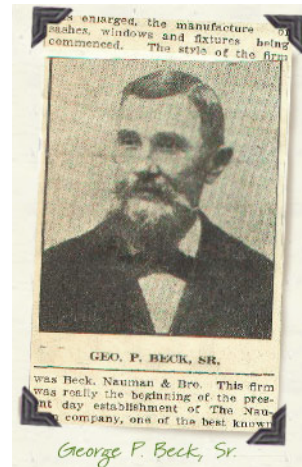
Name: Martha Huener
Hometown: Geestermünde,
Germany
Immigrated through:
Bremerhaven, Germany
Year immigrated: 1923
Settled in: Florida, United
States (city unknown)



4

Name: Ottmar Mergenthaler**Hometown:** Germany (city unknown)**Immigrated through:** Bremerhaven, Germany**Year immigrated:** 1872**Settled in:** Baltimore, Maryland

4

Name: George P. Beck**Hometown:** Bavaria, Germany (city unknown)**Immigrated through:** Bremerhaven, Germany**Year immigrated:** 1837**Settled in:** Waterloo, Iowa

Checkpoint #1- Receiving Building

<p>Name: Henry Nauman</p> <p>When Henry arrived to Ellis Island, he got off of the boat and was immediately taken to the Receiving building. In his mind, he could not stop thinking about his love, Rosina Hiller, whom he had to leave in Germany.</p>	<p>Name: Rosina Hiller</p> <p>Rosina arrived at Ellis Island and immediately taken to the Receiving Building. She could not get thoughts of her love, Henry Nauman, out of her head.</p>
<p>Name: Erich Koch-Weser</p> <p>Erich went through Ellis Island but eventually settled in Santos, Brazil. Unlike many of his fellow travelers, Erich had traveled on the boat as a 2nd class passenger. His trip was nice and relaxing and he arrived to the Receiving Building rested and excited to be in the USA.</p>	<p>Name: Hertha Nathorff</p> <p>Hertha and her family (husband Eric and son Heintz) arrived at Ellis Island exhausted and with heavy hearts. They had left Germany because the Nazis had forced her husband (a Jewish doctor) into a concentration camp. They finally got a taste of freedom when they entered the Receiving Building.</p>

<p>Name: Justina Tubbe</p> <p>By the time they arrived to the Receiving Building, Justina and her sons were exhausted. Although they had traveled as 2nd class passengers, they had to share their cabin with other foreigners. They were very glad to have finally made it to Ellis Island. They were among some of the first emigrants to come to the United States.</p>	<p>Name: Martha Huener</p> <p>Martha was given money from her Father to travel to the United States. She arrived at Ellis Island exhausted from the journey, as she had to share a room with 14 other passengers. Due to the cold weather, they all had to stay in the cabin most of the 10 week trip.</p>
<p>Name: Ottmar Mergenthaler</p> <p>Ottmar was ecstatic to enter the Receiving Building at Ellis Island. He had dreams of becoming a mechanical engineer and this was the first step in his journey.</p>	<p>Name: George P. Beck</p> <p>George arrived to Ellis Island when he was only 4 years old. Though he does not remember much about that time, he does remember his parent's worried faces as they enter the United States through the Receiving Building at Ellis Island.</p>

Checkpoint #2- Baggage Room

<p>Name: Henry Nauman</p> <p>Henry fortunately had no problems when he left and retrieved his luggage in the Baggage Room.</p>	<p>Name: Rosina Hiller</p> <p>Rosina fortunately had no problems when she left and retrieved her luggage in the Baggage Room. She kept thinking about her boyfriend, Henry and could not wait to find him.</p>
<p>Name: Erich Koch-Weser</p> <p>Erich and his family came through Ellis Island with a lot of money. They left their luggage in the Baggage Room hoping and praying that their valuables would still be there when they returned.</p>	<p>Name: Hertha Nathorff</p> <p>Hertha and her family had traveled to the United States via The Netherlands. Unfortunately, when they arrived to the Ellis Island, they realized that all of their luggage had been lost on the journey. They had no clothes, no money and no reminders of the home they had left behind.</p>

<p>Name: Justina Tubbe</p> <p>Justina (who had been widowed earlier that year) arrived at Ellis Island with her two young sons. They arrived with a very small amount of money and they left and eventually collected their few pieces of luggage in the Baggage Room with no problems.</p>	<p>Name: Martha Huener</p> <p>Martha arrived to the Baggage Room and quickly left her luggage with no problems.</p>
<p>Name: Ottmar Mergenthaler</p> <p>Ottmar arrived to the Baggage Room and quickly left his luggage with no problems.</p>	<p>Name: George P. Beck</p> <p>George and his family arrived to the Baggage Room and quickly left their things with no problems.</p>

Checkpoint #3- Stairway to the Great Hall

<p>Name: Henry Nauman</p> <p>Henry was a farmer and was very much in shape. He did not have a problem climbing the stairs and no chalk marks were placed on his clothing.</p>	<p>Name: Rosina Hiller</p> <p>Rosina was a young woman and was able to climb the stairway to the Great Hall with little difficulty.</p>
<p>Name: Erich Koch-Weser</p> <p>Erich was older when he came through Ellis Island. He had a harder time climbing the staircase to the Great Hall and the doctors decided to keep an eye on him.</p>	<p>Name: Hertha Nathorff</p> <p>Hertha was 45 years old when she immigrated to the United States. She did not have a hard time climbing the stairs; however, her husband, Eric, had been a prisoner of a concentration camp in Germany and was very weak. Doctors marked his clothing with a chalk mark and watched him carefully.</p>

<p>Name: Justina Tubbe</p> <p>Justina and her sons had no trouble climbing the stairs to the Great Hall.</p>	<p>Name: Martha Huener</p> <p>Martha had no trouble climbing the stairs to the Great Hall.</p>
<p>Name: Ottmar Megenthaler</p> <p>Ottmar was trained in engineering and did not spend much time outdoors. He was not in great shape and climbed the staircase very slowly.</p>	<p>Name: George P. Beck</p> <p>In typical little boy fashion, George bounded up the stairs to the Great Hall excited to see his new home.</p>

Checkpoint #4- Medical Exams

<p>Name: Henry Nauman</p> <p>Henry passed through the medical exam with no problems. He was a farmer and was very healthy.</p>	<p>Name: Rosina Hiller</p> <p>Rosina passed through the medical exam with no problems.</p>
<p>Name: Erich Koch-Weser</p> <p>Though Erich did have tough time climbing the stairway to the Great Hall, he was a 2nd class passenger and the doctors at the medical exam waved him on through. Ellis Island staff figured that if he could afford to travel 2nd class, then he could afford doctors and medicine back home and was healthy.</p>	<p>Name: Hertha Nathorff</p> <p>Hertha had no problems with the medical exam; however, since her husband had been in a concentration camp, they had to check him for numerous diseases before he was allowed to enter the country. His symptoms indicated he might have contracted a virus, so he was sent to the island hospital.</p>

<p>Name: Justina Tubbe</p> <p>Although 8 people who lived with Justina and her sons during the voyage died of diseases, Justina and her sons passed the medical exam and were allowed to enter the United States.</p>	<p>Name: Martha Huener</p> <p>Martha was very nervous for the medical exam. Many people in front of her in line had been rejected because of diseases and forced to return to their ships. She desperately wanted to make it into the United States. When it was her turn, she nervously waited, as the doctors looked her over. Finally, she was waved through.</p>
<p>Name: Ottmar Mergenthaler</p> <p>Though some of his traveling mates were not allowed to enter the US because of diseases acquired on the voyage over, Ottmar was lucky and was waved through to the next checkpoint.</p>	<p>Name: George P. Beck</p> <p>George and his family had no problems in the medical exam.</p>

Checkpoint #5- The Great Hall

<p>Name: Henry Nauman</p> <p>Henry waited only a couple of hours in the Great Hall.</p>	<p>Name: Rosina Hiller</p> <p>Rosina waited hours in the Great Hall. She assumed her love, Henry, would be waiting for her and ready to pick her up.</p>
<p>Name: Erich Koch-Weser</p> <p>Erich did not have to wait long in the Great Hall. He did, however, get to experience how the 3rd class passengers lived.</p>	<p>Name: Hertha Nathorff</p> <p>Hertha was forced to wait in the Great Hall while her husband was being treated at the island hospital. She and her son waited there for what seemed like a year; however, they were only there for a week.</p>

<p>Name: Justina Tubbe</p> <p>Justina and her sons were forced to wait in the Great Hall for about 3 hours until they were allowed to proceed to the next checkpoint.</p>	<p>Name: Martha Huener</p> <p>Martha was forced to wait in the Great Hall for about 3 hours until she was allowed to proceed to the next checkpoint.</p>
<p>Name: Ottmar Mergenthaler</p> <p>Because Ottmar had money in his pocket and a job lined up in New York, he did not have to wait in the Great Hall for very long before proceeding to the next checkpoint.</p>	<p>Name: George P. Beck</p> <p>George got very bored in the Great Hall. He and his family were forced to wait around for 5 hours. He wanted to play, but his mother told him that they had to be still.</p>

Checkpoint #6- Legal Inspection

<p>Name: Henry Nauman</p> <p>When Henry made it to the legal inspection, he was asked a series of questions. He told the Ellis Island staff that he had come from Hessen, Germany and had left behind his family and friends, among them Rosina Hiller, his sweetheart. He came to American to seek his fortune and he planned to send for Rosina after he was established in his job. He also planned to marry Rosina as soon as she arrived. He did not have a secure job lined up, but being a farmer, he believed that finding work would be easy.</p> <p>Henry passed legal inspection.</p>	<p>Name: Rosina Hiller</p> <p>Rosina made it to the legal inspection and she was very excited to see her sweetheart. She told the inspectors that she had come from Hessen, Germany and was coming to America to meet her fiancé. The inspectors were a little weary of letting her through because she had no contact information for Henry. Letters took a very long time to arrive, so he did not even know that she was in America yet!</p> <p>Rosina passed legal inspection.</p>
<p>Name: Erich Koch-Weser</p> <p>Erich had passed through the other checkpoints easily, but was worried about the legal inspection. He had been a government employee in Germany and he did not want the inspectors to think he was a member of the Nazi party. He was a member of the Reichstag (German parliament); however, he withdrew from his seat and became a lawyer in Berlin. Because of his withdrawal, the Nazis threatened him and his family with racial and political persecution.</p> <p>After being questioned for hours, Erich and his family passed legal inspection.</p>	<p>Name: Hertha Nathorff</p> <p>Hertha's husband, Eric, was finally released from the island hospital and the family went to legal inspection. They were asked why they had left Germany and Hertha told the inspectors of the hardships that Jews were facing there. They even had to send their son away to London so he would not be killed. Eventually, they were able to escape and make it to the United States. They begged the inspectors to let them through to the next checkpoint.</p> <p>Hertha and her family passed legal inspection.</p>

<p>Name: Justina Tubbe</p> <p>When Justina and her sons finally reached the legal inspection, they were exhausted but ready to tell their story. Justina had been widowed when she was young and left with 2 sons to care for. After her husband died, her harvest was destroyed and her barn was burnt down. A couple of years later the Prussian government introduced higher taxes and she therefore had to sell her house and leave her hometown. She was excited to make a new life for herself and her children in America</p> <p>Justina and her sons passed legal inspection.</p>	<p>Name: Martha Huener</p> <p>Martha made it to legal inspection and told the inspectors how she decided to come to America. She had always dreamed of leaving Germany, which had been plagued with high inflation and unemployment. Her father gave her money and she left by ship to America.</p> <p>Martha passed legal inspection.</p>
<p>Name: Ottmar Mergethaler</p> <p>Ottmar was surprised at how easy it was in legal inspection. His dream was to become a mechanical engineer and he had written a letter to a son of a former employer who now lived in America. This son of the former employer agreed to give Ottmar a job and he came to America soon after that.</p> <p>Because he had promise for a job and money in his pocket, the legal inspectors not only passed him, but they were glad to have him enter America.</p>	<p>Name: George P. Beck</p> <p>Though George does not remember the questions that were asked of his parents, he does remember that the inspector asked him one question: where was he from? He answered that he was from Bavaria but he was excited to be in America.</p> <p>George and his family passed legal inspection.</p>

Checkpoint #7- Money Exchange

<p>Name: Henry Nauman</p> <p>Since it was before 1909, Henry was not required to have a certain amount of money in his pocket. He did, however, have a few dollars to buy a train ticket to Iowa to look for work.</p>	<p>Name: Rosina Hiller</p> <p>Since it was before 1909, Rosina was not required to have a certain amount of money in his pocket. She did, however, have a few dollars to try and look for her sweetheart, Henry.</p>
<p>Name: Erich Koch-Weser</p> <p>Erich and his family were considered wealthy in Germany. Because it was after 1909, he was required to have at least \$20 in his pocket. This was not a problem for Erich and he and his family were passed through Money Exchange.</p>	<p>Name: Hertha Nathorff</p> <p>Hertha and her family got stuck at the Money Exchange checkpoint. Their luggage had been lost in The Netherlands and all of the money that they had saved was in their luggage. It took awhile, but finally someone was able to loan them the \$20 that was required of them to enter America.</p>

<p>Name: Justina Tubbe</p> <p>Since it was before 1909, Justina was not required to have a certain amount of money in her pocket before entering the United States. This was a good thing, because she and her sons were very poor and only had a couple of dollars to their name.</p>	<p>Name: Martha Huener</p> <p>Martha still had the money that her father had given her and it was enough to pass through the Money Exchange checkpoint without any problems.</p>
<p>Name: Ottmar Mergenthaler</p> <p>Since Ottmar had worked as an apprentice in Germany, he had saved up money to come to America. When he reached the Money Exchange checkpoint, he had \$50 in his pocket.</p>	<p>Name: George P. Beck</p> <p>George's father had saved up money to bring his family to America and they passed through the Money Exchange checkpoint without any problems.</p>

Checkpoint #8- The Kissing Post

<p>Name: Henry Nauman</p> <p>After Henry made it through all of the checkpoints, he was admitted into America. He found work with a farmer and started making plans to bring his sweetheart, Rosina Hiller over. When she did finally join him, they were married and settled in Waterloo, Iowa.</p>	<p>Name: Rosina Hiller</p> <p>After Rosina made it through all of the checkpoints, she was admitted into America. She left for Waterloo, Iowa and began searching for Henry, her sweetheart, but to no avail. She asked everyone she saw if they had heard of a Henry Nauman. No one had heard this name, but they told her she should talk to a man named "Dutch Hank". To her surprise, it was her Henry! They were married and settled in Waterloo, Iowa.</p>
<p>Name: Erich Koch-Weser</p> <p>Erich and his family successfully made it through the checkpoints and were let into America. A few weeks later, they left for Santos, Brazil where they settled. Eventually Erich bought some land and founded a colony called Rolandia.</p>	<p>Name: Hertha Nathorff</p> <p>Hertha and her family made it through the checkpoints and entered America. Hertha's husband, Eric, tried to get a job as a doctor, but his license was not accepted in the United States. Eric eventually went through medical school and was allowed to practice medicine in the US.</p>

<p>Name: Justina Tubbe</p> <p>Justina and her sons made it through the checkpoints and were admitted into America. They checked into a cheap motel and waited for Justina's sister Wilhemina to arrive. Wilhemina arrived just as Justina became very ill and took the family to their farm in Nacogdoches, Texas. Justina and her boys settled in Nacogdoches.</p>	<p>Name: Martha Huener</p> <p>Martha made it through all of the checkpoints and was admitted into America. She immediately found work and married a man named Willy Seegers. Eventually, she settled in Florida.</p>
<p>Name: Ottmar Mergenthaler</p> <p>Ottmar passed through all of the checkpoints and was admitted into America. Ottmar started his job and loved his work. He got married and started a family. Eventually, Ottmar founded a machine called the "linotype". It was a machine that had keys with letters on it with which you could quickly write texts. He founded his own company called the "Mergenthaler Linotype Company". His dream of becoming a mechanical engineer had finally come true!</p>	<p>Name: George P. Beck</p> <p>George and his family passed through all of the checkpoints and were admitted into America. Eventually, they moved to Dayton, Ohio. George grew up here. He married Albertina Shueler in 1853 and they became parents of 8 children. After settling in Waterloo, Iowa, George became a lucrative businessman and was very wealthy.</p>

Checkpoint #1- Receiving Building

The current receiving building at Ellis Island opened in 1892. The first emigrant to go through this building was Annie More, from Ireland, to join her parents in New York. This was the first building that emigrants walked into when they docked at the Island. By the time people walked into the Receiving Building, many were exhausted or sick from the long voyage.



Questions to answer:

1. Who was the first immigrant to be processed through Ellis Island?
2. Why were people exhausted or sick by the time they reached this building?
3. What happened to your immigrant at this checkpoint?

Checkpoint #2- Baggage Room

Immigrants entered the main building through its ground floor baggage room. They left their trunks, suitcases and baskets here until they were finished. Immigrants with only a few belongings carried their things as they climbed the stairs to the Great Hall for medical and legal examinations.



Questions to answer:

1. Do you think some immigrants worried about leaving their belongings in the baggage room? What were some of the dangers?
2. What class of passengers (1st, 2nd or 3rd) do you think had the most luggage? Why?
3. What happened to your immigrant at this checkpoint?

Checkpoint #3- Stairway to the Great Hall

The first test the immigrants had to pass became known as the "six second medical exam." As the immigrants climbed the stairs to the Great Hall, doctors stood at the top and watched. They were looking for anyone having difficulty coming up the steps. If a medical problem or disability was suspected, one of eighteen different chalk marks was put on the person's clothing (see the attached list). They were then sent for a full physical examination. If they weren't marked, they went on to wait in the Great Hall.



List of chalk marks doctors placed on emigrants' clothing after they climbed the stairway to the Great Hall:

- B= Back
- C= Conjunctivitis
- CT= Trachoma
- E= Eyes
- F= Face
- FT= Feet
- G= Goiter
- H= Heart
- K= Hernia
- L= Lameness
- N= Neck
- P= Physical and Lungs
- PG= Pregnancy
- S= Senility
- SC= Scalp
- SI= Special Inquiry
- X= Suspected Mental Defect
- X (circled)= Definite signs of Mental Defect

Questions to answer:

1. Describe the “six second medical exam”.
2. Who do you think had the most problems passing this checkpoint?
3. Do you think this system was fair? Why or why not?
4. What happened to your immigrant at this checkpoint?

Checkpoint #4- Medical Exams

By 1917, complete medical exams were required for every immigrant. Hundreds of times per day, doctors had only minutes to inspect the new arrivals for over 60 illnesses. Many in the medical profession considered Ellis Island a doctor's best training ground for physical diagnosis. Women joined their ranks in 1914, after complaints from female immigrants who were not used to showing themselves to male doctors. The main purpose of these exams was to find persons with contagious diseases or conditions that would make them unable to work. If their problem was curable, immigrants were sent to the island's hospital. If it was not, the steamship company that brought them would have to pay to send them back.



Questions to answer:

1. Why do you think medical exams were required for people to be allowed into the United States?
2. Why do you think people call Ellis Island the best training ground for doctors?
3. What happened to your immigrant at this checkpoint?

Checkpoint #5- The Great Hall

The Great Hall was the large waiting room of Ellis Island. Immigrants waited here for their interviews with legal inspectors after finishing their medical exams. At best, the entire process through Ellis Island took three to five hours. But sometimes problems came up, like family members waiting for a relative to be treated in the hospital ward. Some families stayed for days on Ellis Island, others for weeks, and still others for months. The Great Hall is 200 feet long and 100 feet wide — almost the size of two baseball fields. In 1918, it was used as an enormous hospital ward for American soldiers returning from the First World War.



Questions to answer:

1. Describe some emotions a person might feel while waiting in the Great Hall.
2. What happened to your immigrant at this checkpoint?

Checkpoint #6- Legal Inspection

After passing the medical exams, immigrants had to prove they could legally come into America. They had to prove their country of origin and where they expected to live and work once they entered the country. Inspectors rejected any immigrant with a criminal record or those suspected of being indentured servants. By 1921, immigrants had to pass a literacy test and show a passport and visa.



Questions to answer:

1. Why do you think it was important that people pass through this checkpoint?
2. What kinds of questions were asked of the immigrants?
3. What happened to your immigrant at this checkpoint?

Checkpoint #7- Money Exchange

In the money exchange area immigrants exchanged the money of their homeland for dollars, and purchased any train tickets they needed. Laws passed in 1909 required each immigrant to have at least 20 dollars before they were allowed to enter America.



Questions to answer:

1. Why was it important that immigrants have at least \$20 to their name before they were allowed to enter the USA?
2. What happened to your immigrant at this checkpoint?

Checkpoint #8- The Kissing Post

Just beyond the money exchange was the exit from Ellis Island. Staff members referred to this spot *as the kissing post* because of all the emotional reunions that were witnessed there. Two thirds of the new Americans then boarded a ferry to New Jersey, where the next leg of their American journey would begin. The remaining third took the ferryboat to Manhattan to begin their new life in New York City, only one mile away.



Questions to answer:

1. Why was this checkpoint nicknamed “the kissing post”?
2. Describe some emotions that immigrants might have felt at this checkpoint.
3. What happened to your immigrant at this checkpoint?

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