Immigrants entering the United States through Ellis Island, the nation’s main entry station from 1892 to 1954
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Dear Educator:

Thank you for your interest in school programs offered at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. The pressure to cover material and meet curriculum standards often makes field trips seem like a luxury. We expect our school programs will benefit you and your students by allowing all to experience a historic place, while also filling curriculum requirements.

Ellis Island offers the opportunity for students to walk in the footsteps of millions of immigrants who risked everything to come to America. To enhance student understanding of this historic site we are offering a program entitled “Famous Footsteps,” appropriate for high school American History classes of between 16 and 34 students. The program directly relates to the New York State Learning Standards for Social Studies and New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for Social Studies. Students will learn about Ellis Island and the immigrant experience, while working towards standards for U.S. and World History, Geography, Economics, Government and Citizenship. Students are given the following scenario:

We are going through the old files evaluating the effectiveness of Ellis Island immigration processing. We will decide who should have been allowed in, and who should be kept out. We will apply these lessons to improve current immigration policy and enforcement.

Each student is assigned the role of an immigration service worker investigating one immigrant, and studies their immigrant’s dossier. After completing pre-visit activities, students will demonstrate their learning to the rest of their class during a guided tour and follow up presentation conducted at Ellis Island. In the follow up presentation and post-visit activities, students will learn what happened to their immigrants after Ellis Island- the outcomes may surprise students. This teacher’s guide contains lesson plans, a summary of relevant standards, and background materials. It also outlines what students, teachers, and park staff will contribute to this program and get out of it.

All school programs are free of charge, but require the purchase of ferry tickets. To schedule a program please call the ferry company, Statue Cruises, at 877-523-9849 (877-LADYTIX) at least three weeks in advance. If you wish to get more information please call us at 212-363-3206 ext. 134.

 Regards,

Ellis Island-Division of Interpretation
History of Ellis Island

From 1892 to 1954, over twelve million immigrants entered the United States through 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 by landfill supposedly obtained from the ballast of ships, excess earth from the construction of the New York City subway system and elsewhere.

Before being designated as the site of one 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. 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. 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.

The Federal government intervened and constructed a new Federally-operated immigration station on Ellis Island. The new structure on Ellis Island, opened on January 1, 1892; Annie Moore, a 15 year-old Irish girl, accompanied by her two brothers, was the very first immigrant to be processed at Ellis Island. Unfortunately, after five years of operation, the Ellis Island Immigration Station burned down. The Treasury Department 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.

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. 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 or passenger list (filled out at the port of embarkation) contained the immigrant's name and his/her answers to numerous questions. This document was used by immigration 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.

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, Ellis Island was no longer primarily an inspection station but rather a detention facility, whereby many persons were brought and detained for various periods of time.

Although Ellis Island still remained open for many years and served a multitude of purposes, it served primarily as a detention center during World War II, for alien enemies, those considered to be inadmissible and others. By 1946, approximately 7000 German, Italian, and Japanese people (aliens and citizens) were detained at Ellis Island during the War, comprising the largest groups. 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. Changes in immigration laws and modes of transportation as well as cost effectiveness of operating the island all played a role in its closure.

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.
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<tr>
<th>Content Standard</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>I-1</strong>: The study of New York State and United States history requires an analysis of the development of American culture, its diversity and multicultural context, and the ways people are unified by many values, practices, and traditions.</td>
<td>analyze the development of American culture, explaining how ideas, values, beliefs, and traditions have changed over time and how they unite all Americans- focusing on the assimilation process of Ellis Island immigrants.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>I-3</strong>: Study about the major social, political, economic, cultural, and religious developments in New York State and United States history involves learning about the important roles and contributions of individuals and groups.</td>
<td>research and analyze the major themes and developments in New York State and United States history and understand the interrelationships between world events and developments in New York State and the United States (e.g., causes for immigration -focusing on immigrants who came through Ellis Island between 1892 and 1954).</td>
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<td><strong>I-4</strong>: The skills of historical analysis include the ability to: explain the significance of historical evidence; weigh the importance, reliability, and validity of evidence; understand the concept of multiple causation; understand the importance of changing and competing interpretations of different historical developments.</td>
<td>analyze important debates in American history (e.g., restrictions on immigration) focusing on the opposing positions and the historical evidence used to support these positions.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>II-1</strong>: The study of world history requires an understanding of world cultures and civilizations, including an analysis of important ideas, social and cultural values, beliefs, and traditions. This study also examines the human condition and the connections and interactions of people across time and space, and the ways different people view the same event or issue from a variety of perspectives.</td>
<td>analyze important developments and turning points in world history; hypothesize what might have happened if decisions or circumstances had been different; investigate such developments and turning points as global interactions and migration, focusing on the factors that led people to immigrate through Ellis Island.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>III-1</strong>: Geography can be divided into six essential elements which can be used to analyze important historic, geographic, economic, and environmental questions and issues. These six elements include: the world in spatial terms, places and regions, physical settings (including natural resources), human systems, environment and society, and the use of geography.</td>
<td>investigate the characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on the Earth’s surface; and explain the relationship between the geographic setting(ecosystems, spatial distribution of resources, ease of transportation and communication) and the spatial development of societies, focusing on the advancements in transportation technology that facilitated mass migration during Ellis Island’s era (1892-1954).</td>
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<td><strong>V-3</strong>: Central to civics and citizenship is an understanding of the roles of the citizen within American constitutional democracy and the scope of a citizen’s rights and responsibilities.</td>
<td>describe how citizenship is defined by the Constitution and important laws; and outline how one can become a citizen and analyze the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>V-4</strong>: The study of civics and citizenship requires the ability to probe ideas and assumptions, ask and answer analytical questions, take a skeptical attitude toward questionable arguments, evaluate evidence, formulate rational conclusions, and develop and refine participatory skills.</td>
<td>prepare a plan of action that defines an issue of immigration regulation, suggests alternative solutions or courses of action, evaluates the consequences for each alternative solution or course of action, prioritizes the solutions based on established criteria, and proposes an action plan to address the issue or to resolve the problem.</td>
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<td>Content Standard</td>
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<td>6.1.12.A.5.c : Analyze the effectiveness of governmental policies and of actions by groups and individuals to address discrimination against new immigrants, Native Americans, and African Americans.</td>
<td>investigate Ellis Island immigrants who became prominent Americans, and worked to advance philanthropic causes and how they provided examples of successful acculturation, undermining negative stereotypes of immigrants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.1.12.D.5.d: Relate varying immigrants’ experiences to gender, race, ethnicity, or occupation.</td>
<td>study relevant documents and first-hand descriptions detailing the stories of Ellis Island immigrants from various backgrounds, and present their findings to their classmates.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1.12.D.6.a: Assess the impact of technological innovation and immigration on the development of agriculture, industry, and urban culture during the late 19th century in New Jersey (i.e., Paterson Silk Strike 1913) and the United States.</td>
<td>investigate Ellis Island immigrants who became successful artists, inventors and businessmen, and contributed to the development of American culture and society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1.12.A.8.c: Relate social intolerance, xenophobia, and fear of anarchists to government policies restricting immigration, advocacy, and labor organizations.</td>
<td>study push and pull factors driving mass immigration through Ellis Island, and backlash against mass immigration leading to increasingly restrictive immigration policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1.12.D.12.b: Analyze efforts to eliminate communism, such as McCarthyism, and their impact on individual civil liberties.</td>
<td>examine Ellis Island immigrants who became involved in communist politics and the response from government agencies to investigate and prosecute them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1.12.D.14.f: Determine the influence of multicultural beliefs, products (i.e., art, food, music, and literature), and practices in shaping contemporary American culture.</td>
<td>study Ellis Island immigrants from various backgrounds who became famous for their contributions to American culture and society.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
“Famous Footsteps” Pre-Visit Lesson Plan

*Note: This lesson can be conducted in class, or modified and assigned as homework.

Aim: Why do people want to move to the United States, and who should be allowed?

Motivation/ Do Now: Ask students to develop two lists: one for of the good things immigrants bring to the United States today, another for the bad. Record the lists on the board. Compare and discuss the lists. Do many of the reasons for welcoming or excluding immigrants listed seem similar to those used during Ellis Island’s era? Place check marks next to reasons that were important then.

Objectives:

- Students will understand the various reasons immigrants had for coming to the United States.
- Students will appreciate some challenges immigrants faced during their migration experience.

Essential Questions:

- Would you be willing to leave behind many of your friends, family and possessions for the possibility of more money, freedom or opportunity?
- Should you be entitled to move or travel to any country you wish to? Why or why not?

Activities:

- (Optional) Distribute copies of “History of Ellis Island,” included in this packet, and have students read them. If students have already learned about the Ellis Island immigration station, feel free to skip this.
- Distribute one immigrant dossier and question sheet to each student.
- Students examine the dossier. Students then complete the question sheet, based on what they have learned.
**“Famous Footsteps” Site Visit Lesson Plan**

**Aim:** Did Ellis Island work?

**Motivation:** If you knew a friend or family member who was an illegal alien, would you tell the truth and testify against them in court if called? Why or why not?

**Objectives:**
- Students will understand the steps an immigrant had to go through to gain entry to the U.S. through Ellis Island.
- Students will appreciate the challenges faced by Ellis Island staff, to enforce immigration law while treating new arrivals fairly and humanely.
- Students will understand the interrelationships between immigration policy and Ellis Island’s processing.

**Essential Questions:**
- What is an acceptable level of mistakes at Ellis Island? Is it better to keep too many questionable people out, even if rejecting them meant their near certain death, or to let too many questionable people in?
- Should the United States government have sacrificed growth and prosperity, by making the immigration process more difficult than it was at Ellis Island, in order to keep more undesirable people out? Should the U.S. government do so today?
- Is the United States morally obligated to let refugees and political exiles into the country?

**Activity:**
- Students will meet ranger in Ellis Island baggage room, then move to classroom. They will take out their topic and question sheets from the pre-visit lesson.
- Ranger will welcome students, introduce Ellis Island and give a brief overview of planned activities.
- During the tour, when prompted students will report to their classmates about their immigrant, providing background about their case and reading their quotes. Ranger will tie together individual stories to give an overview of Ellis Island’s processing.
- At the conclusion of the tour, the group will return to the classroom. Students will indicate whether they think their immigrant should be allowed into the United States. Then the ranger will introduce “missing pages” from their files that follow up on each immigrant (e.g. - “Oh, look what I found! This says Wolfgang Grajonca changed his name to Bill Graham and became a successful rock music promoter. Here’s a photo.”). Ranger will introduce post-visit activities and facilitate distribution of follow-up dossiers and question sheets, if teacher requests.
“Famous Footsteps” Post-Visit Lesson Plan

*Note: This lesson can be conducted in class, or modified and assigned as homework.

Aim: Do today’s immigrants have it easier than Ellis Island’s immigrants, because of Ellis Island’s immigrants?

Motivation/ Do Now: Students will respond to the proposition “If you were moving to another country, list 5 items you would bring.” Students will look over their lists and indicate if any of their items were produced by foreigners or immigrants. Teacher will record that list (e.g. pizza and hot dogs were introduced by immigrants; many MP3 players and cell phones are manufactured overseas, and many musicians are immigrants or foreigners; baseballs are made in Costa Rica and China; many family and friends are immigrants or children of immigrants, etc.)

Objectives:
- Students will understand the relationship between globalization and immigration.
- Students will appreciate the mixed feelings Americans have towards immigrants, both today and in the past.
- Students will appreciate the contributions of immigrants from Ellis Island and other eras.
- Students will appreciate the difficulties their own ancestors experienced in moving to the U.S., and the similarities and differences between them, Ellis Island’s immigrants and today’s immigrants.

Essential Questions:
- Are immigrants more motivated to succeed than native-born Americans?
- When, if ever, does an immigrant become truly “American”?
- Was Ellis Island fair? Should it have been? Is today’s immigration policy fair? Should it be?
- What are some ways your life would be different if immigration policies prevented the huddled masses from entering through Ellis Island from 1892-1924?
- What immigration policies should have been instituted during Ellis Island’s busy days? Which should have been eliminated?

Activity:
- Distribute the appropriate immigrant dossier follow up and question sheet to each student.
- Students compare their earlier educated guess about the immigrant’s outcome to that immigrant’s actual life.
- Students present to their classmates a summary of their Ellis Island immigrant’s accomplishments, and describe one way in which that immigrant has impacted America today.
- Students debate whether the successes of past immigrants helped pave the way for renewed mass immigration starting in the 1960s.
- Students present to their classmates a summary of their contemporary immigrant’s life, and compare that experience to their Ellis Island immigrant’s.
“Famous Footsteps” Pre-Visit Question Sheet

Refer to the dossier and based on your knowledge of Ellis Island processing and immigration law answer the following questions:

- Why did this immigrant come to America?

- What were some challenges this immigrant faced during their migration experience?

- Should this immigrant have been allowed into the U.S.? Explain why or why not?

- Take an educated guess: Do you think this immigrant would become a good American? Explain why or why not?
“Famous Footsteps” Post-Visit Question Sheet

Refer to the dossier and based on your knowledge of Ellis Island processing and immigration law answer the following questions:

- Were you surprised by the life this immigrant led? Do you think most Ellis Island immigrants achieved this much fame and success in their careers?

- What were some challenges this immigrant faced as a new immigrant in America?

- How is the United States different as a result of this immigrant?

Pick any immigrant living in the United States today and answer the following questions based on their life:

- What is this immigrant’s name?

- Where did this immigrant come from?

- Why did this immigrant come to America?

- What were some challenges this immigrant faced during their migration experience?

- Should this immigrant have been allowed into the U.S.? Explain why or why not?

- How did this immigrant earn a living in the U.S.?

- What were some challenges this immigrant faced as a new immigrant in America?

- How is your life, or the United States as a whole, different as a result of this immigrant?
"Famous Footsteps" Additional Resources

Resources for Teachers:

Books:


Websites:
www.nps.gov/elis - official site of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum.

Resources for Students:

Books:


Websites:
http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/ - a virtual tour of Ellis Island, personal stories of Ellis Island’s and today’s immigrants and statistical information

http://www.archive.org/details/gov.ntis.ava15996vnb1 - To watch Ellis Island documentary "Island of Hope, Island of Tears"

* indicates book is available for sale at Ellis Island Immigration Museum.
School programs are revised regularly to better meet your needs. Your input is a valuable part of this process. Please take the time to complete and return this evaluation form after your program.

Teacher’s Name: ____________________________ Date of Visit: ______________

School Name: ____________________________ Grade: _______

1. Was this your first visit to Ellis Island for a school program?   Yes   No

2. How did you hear about school programs at Ellis Island? _________________________________________

3. Please rate the following regarding your school program by circling your response.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
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<tr>
<td>a) information level</td>
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<td>b) student involvement</td>
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<td>c) props/demos/activities</td>
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<td>d) curriculum connections</td>
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<td>5 N/A</td>
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<td>e) pre-visit activities</td>
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<td>f) post-visit activities</td>
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<td>g) preparation materials</td>
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<td>e) overall rating</td>
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4. Would you recommend this program to other teachers?   Yes   No

5. What aspects of the program were of greatest interest to your class? _________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

6. What aspects were of least interest to your class? ________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

7. Please suggest topics that you would like to see covered in future school programs:

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

8. What, if any, factors limit your visit to Ellis Island.
   ___ transportation   ___ securing substitute teachers   ___ number of yearly field trips allowed
   ___ securing chaperones   ___ time and curriculum constraints ___ other ___________________________

Additional Comments: _______________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for your input. Please return this evaluation form at the time of your program, or mail or fax it to:
Ellis Island Division of Interpretation, Liberty Island, New York, NY 10004
Fax number: 212-363-6304
Israel Baline was born in Russia on May 11, 1888, one of eight children of Moses and Lena Lipkin Baline. His father was a butcher and a cantor in a Jewish synagogue, and provided the family with a meager existence. But one day in 1893, the Cossacks, a band of Russian soldiers, rampaged in on a pogrom, a riot against Jews. Israel's earliest memory was "lying on a blanket by the side of a road, watching (the) house burn to the ground. By daylight the house was in ashes." The family made a quick exit, knowing that they were breaking the law by leaving without a passport. The Balines smuggled themselves from town to town, and country to country, and finally boarded the S.S. Rhynland in Antwerp, Belgium bound for New York City. They eventually settled on Cherry Street on the Lower East Side in a basement apartment with no windows or hot water. Israel described his adjustment to life in New York as difficult, partly because "We spoke only Yiddish, and were conspicuous for our 'Jew clothes'."
The S.S. Rhynland’s manifest shows the family’s information, including Israel on line 52, but their name is misspelled as Beilin.
Francesco Capra was born May 18, 1897 in Bisacquino, Sicily, the son of peasant farmers. An older brother Benedetto disappeared one day and was not heard from again until many months later, when the family received a letter stating that he was in Los Angeles, California. The family departed May 10, 1903 on the SS Germania, from Naples, Italy to New York, en route to join Benedetto. They travelled in steerage, on a 16 day long boat trip. Francesco later described the journey:

"That’s how I came to celebrate my 6th birthday, May 18, 1903, in a howling Atlantic storm; in the Germania’s black steerage hold, crammed with retching, praying, terrorized immigrants. Only strong Mama had the courage to brave the wind and spray—hanging on to the deck storm ropes, as she carried trays of food across the heaving deck and down the steep iron stairs to Papa and four seasick children."

SS Germania
The S.S. Germania's manifest shows the family's information, including Francesco on line 22.
Upon arrival the Capra family was transported to Ellis Island for processing, an experience Francesco described as "two more days of panic and pandemonium." After passing inspection the family boarded a train for Los Angeles, an experience Francesco later described as:

"eight more days of cramped, itchy, hardship in an overcrowded chair car: crying to sleep in each other's laps, eating only bread and fruit Papa bought at train stops. And finally, finally after twenty-three days without a bath or change of clothes, our dirty, hollow-eyed immigrant family embraced the waiting Ben at the S.P. station in Los Angeles. Papa and Mama kissed the ground and wept with joy. I cried too. But not with joy. I cried because we were poor and ignorant and tired and dirty."
Case: Nerino Corsi

Nerino Corsi was born in Capistrano, Italy on December 29, 1896, the son of farmer Giuseppe Corsi. The Corsi family departed Naples in 1906 aboard the SS Florida (pictured below) and arrived in New York City, where they would settle.

Nerino described the ship's arrival:

"My first impressions of the new world will always remain etched in my memory, particularly that hazy October morning when I first saw Ellis Island. The steamer Florida, fourteen days out of Naples, filled to capacity with 1,600 natives of Italy, had weathered one of the worst storms in our captain's memory... (My family), happy that we had come through the storm safely, clustered on the foredeck for fear of separation and looked with wonder on this miraculous land of our dreams. Passengers all about us were crowding against the rail. Jabbered conversation, sharp cries, laughs and cheers—a steady rising din filled the air. Mothers and fathers lifted up the babies so that they too could see, off to the left, the Statue of Liberty... Looming shadowy through the mist, it brought silence to the decks of the Florida."
The S.S. Florida's manifest shows the family's information, including Nerino who is listed on line 18.
Case: Emanuel Goldenberg

Emanuel Goldenberg was born to a Yiddish-speaking Jewish family in Bucharest, Romania on December 12, 1893. One of Goldenberg's brothers was hit on the head with a rock and severely injured during a schoolboy pogrom, a riot against Jews. To escape this persecution the family managed to scrape together the fare for steerage passage and came to the United States. He immigrated with his family to New York City in 1903.

Goldenberg described his experience on the steamship crossing the Atlantic as being "So sick I longed to die."

Goldenberg years later described his immigration experience: "At Ellis Island I was born again. Life for me began when I was 10 years old."
Case: Emma Goldman

Emma Goldman was born in Kovno in the Russian Empire June 27, 1869. Goldman immigrated to the US in 1885 and worked in a clothing factory in Rochester before moving to New York City in 1889.

Influenced by the libertarian writings of Johann Most, Goldman became an anarchist. Working closely with Alexander Berkman, Goldman became active in the trade union movement. During one industrial dispute, Berkman shot Henry Frick of the Carnegie Steel Company. Berkman was imprisoned and so was Goldman the following year when she was accused of urging the unemployed to steal the food they needed.

After she was released from prison Goldman became involved in the campaign for women's suffrage and birth control information. She was in the news again in 1901 when Leon Czolgosz, who assassinated President William McKinley, claimed he had been influenced by the speeches of Goldman.

Goldman and Berkman edited and published the journal, Mother Earth, between 1906−1917. Goldman also wrote Anarchism and Other Essays (1910) and The Social Significance of the Modern Drama (1914). An opponent of America's involvement in the First World War, Goldman was imprisoned for two years for obstructing conscription.

In 1919 Alexander M. Palmer, the attorney general and his special assistant, John Edgar Hoover, organized a plan to deport a large number of left-wing figures. On 7th November, 1919, the second anniversary of the Russian Revolution, over 10,000 suspected communists and anarchists were arrested in twenty-three different cities.
Hoover decided he needed a high profile case to help his campaign against subversives. He selected Goldman as he had been particularly upset by her views on birth control, free love and religion. In court Hoover argued that Goldman's speeches had inspired anarchists to commit acts of violence in the United States. Hoover won his case and Goldman, her lover, Alexander Berkman, along with 246 other people, were deported to Russia.

Emma Goldman, in a photo taken during her detention at Ellis Island
United States of America
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WASHINGTON

To
THE ACTING COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION, Ellis Island, N.Y.H.

WHEREAS, from proofs submitted to me, after due hearing before Immigrant
Inspector A. P. Schell, held at Ellis Island, N.Y.H.

I have become satisfied that the alien

Emma Goldman Keramer or Emma Goldman
who landed at the port of New York, N.Y.
on the day of June 15th, 1915, has been found in the United States
in violation of the Act approved October 15, 1917, and the Act approved March 26, 1910, to wit: That she is an alien anarchist; that she teaches the overthrow of government by force or violence; that she believes in the overthrow by force or violence of the government of the United States; that she believes in the overthrow by force or violence of all forms of law; that she advocates and teaches the overthrow by force or violence of the government of the United States; that she advocates and teaches the overthrow by force or violence of all forms of law; that she advocates the assassination of public officials; that she teaches the assassination of public officials; that she is an opponent of all organized government; and that she is in open opposition to all organized government.

I, John W. Abercrombie, Acting Secretary of Labor, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the laws of the United States, do hereby command you to return the said alien to Russia, the country whence she came, at the expense of the appropriation "Expenses of Regulating Immigration, 1920." You are directed to purchase transportation for the alien from New York, N.Y. to Russia at the lowest available rate, payable from the above-mentioned appropriation.

For so doing, this shall be your sufficient warrant.

Witness my hand and seal this 1st day of December, 1919.

John W. Abercrombie
Acting Secretary of Labor.
Case: Emma Goldman

The SS Buford in New York harbor in 1919. The ship would carry 249 deported immigrants to Soviet Russia.

The SS Buford was nicknamed the "Soviet Ark," since it carried hundreds of Communists to Soviet Russia. This political cartoon celebrates giving the immigrants back to Russia.
Case: Emma Goldman

Emma Goldman described her deportation experience:

"Ludicrously secretive were the authorities about our deportation. To the very last moment we were kept in ignorance as to the time. Then, unexpectedly, in the wee small hours of December 21st we were spirited away. The scene set for this performance was most thrilling. It was six o'clock Sunday morning, December 21, 1919, when under heavy military convoy we stepped aboard the Buford. For twenty-eight days we were prisoners. Sentries at our cabin doors day and night, sentries on deck during the hour we were daily permitted to breathe the fresh air. Our men comrades were cooped up in dark, damp quarters, wretchedly fed, all of us in complete ignorance of the direction we were to take. Yet our spirits were high—Russia, free, new Russia was before us."
Wolodia Grajonca was born January 8, 1931 in Berlin, Germany and given the nickname Wolfgang by his family early in his life. Wolfgang was the youngest son of a lower-middle-class Jewish family that had emigrated from Russia prior to the rise of Nazism. Wolfgang's father died just two days after Wolfgang's birth. Wolfgang's mother placed he and his younger sister in an orphanage in Berlin, as it became increasingly difficult for Jews to survive in Nazi Germany. This turned out to be fortunate, as the orphanage sent them to France in a pre-Holocaust exchange of Jewish children for Christian orphans.

Wolfgang's older sisters stayed behind with his mother. After the fall of France, Wolfgang was among a group of Jewish orphans spirited out of France. A majority of the children — including Wolfgang's younger sister Tolla — did not survive the journey.

Wolfgang's mother was killed in the Auschwitz concentration camp. Wolfgang had five sisters: Rita, Evelyn, Sonja, Ester and Tolla. His sister Ester survived Auschwitz.
Case: Wołodia Grajonça

Wolfgang Grajonça (on the left) and another boy at the Auerbach orphanage in Berlin, Germany in May 1938.

Wolfgang described his journey to America:

“I knew I was again going to be pulled away from something I'd gotten used to. Living and travelling with a bunch of people. (I guess I got used to the orphanage in Berlin and then I got used to the chateau at Chaumont). It wasn't my real family. But it was these same people. (you know?) Of the sixty-four kids who set out from the chateau in France three months earlier, eleven made it to New York.”
Case: Wołodia Grajonca

The immigrant in question is listed on the ship's manifest as Wulf Wołodia Grajonca, age 10. He was a passenger on the steamship Serpa Pinto (pictured above) which departed from Lisbon, Portugal on September 9, 1941 and arrived at NY Harbor on September 24, 1941.

Years later when interviewed Wolfgang recalled processing at Ellis Island:

"We were told that people would come visit us on weekends. But we were told that we would not be together. I went through Ellis Island but I have very little memory of that. Space. Lines. Lots of luggage. I had my yarmulkah and my prayer book. Some pictures of my parents and my sisters. I don't recall having anything else."
Case: Leslie Hope

Leslie Townes Hope was born May 29, 1903 in Eltham, London, England, the fifth of seven sons. His father, William Henry Hope, was a stonemason and his Welsh mother, Avis Townes, was a light opera singer who later worked as a cleaning woman.

The Hope family, circa 1906. Leslie is standing in the front center.

Leslie described his family's reason for coming to America: "my father was a mason, and he had a job possibility in Cleveland." The family made their way to Southampton, England preparing for the Atlantic crossing to New York and received their vaccinations, a standard practice designed to help prevent any outbreak of disease aboard ship.
Case: Leslie Hope

Leslie years later described his reaction as a four-year old boy unhappy with the inoculations:

"Everybody was lined up to be vaccinated. I was only two away from getting the scratch when I decided that I didn't like it. I headed a Keystone-cop chase around the decks with everybody after me. They finally cornered me and scraped me with the scalpel."

The family immigrated to the United States aboard the SS Philadelphia, passed inspection at Ellis Island on March 30, 1908, and then settled in Cleveland, Ohio.

The SS Philadelphia
Case: Leslie Hope

The S.S. Philadelphia's manifest shows the family's information, including Leslie on line 13, but their name is misspelled as Hape.
Case: Leslie Hope

The second page of the Philadelphia's manifest contains more information provided by the Hope family, including Leslie on line 13
Case: Elias Kazanjoglou

Elias Kazanjoglou (İlyas Kazancıoğlu in Turkish and Ηλίας Καζαντζόγλου in Greek) was born September 7, 1909 to a Greek family in Kayseri, Turkey, then part of the Ottoman Empire. His family immigrated to the United States in 1913 and settled in New York City, where his father, George Kazanjoglou, became a rug merchant.

Kazanjoglou, when interviewed years later described his family’s reasons for coming to America: “There was a rumbling premonition that a great world war was coming. ...We left Europe a short time before that damn fool thing in the Balkans.”

The immigrant in question is listed on the ship’s manifest as Elia Kazan, age 3. He was a passenger on the steamship Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse (pictured above) which departed from Bremen, Germany on July 1st, 1913 and arrived in New York on July 8th.
The S.S. Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse's manifest shows the family's information, including Elia on line 20, and indicates their name had been shortened to Kazan.
The second page of the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse's manifest contains more information provided by the Kazan family, including Elia on line 20.
Johannes Kluge was born in eastern Germany on December 21, 1914. Kluge never knew his father, who was killed early in World War I. In 1922, with his mother and stepfather, he sailed across the Atlantic to America. Passing the Statue of Liberty on the way to Ellis Island, the 8-year-old boy stood at the ship railing, clutching the only thing he owned, a small Dresden figurine of a proud white charger mounted by a soldier in a red coat.

Johannes Kluge's favorite toy made the journey with him across the Atlantic Ocean.

Years later Kluge recalled: "I treasured that horse. I still have it. And every time I think I'm too smart for my own britches, I look at that horse and I know exactly where I came from."

Johannes Kluge traveled in the steerage area, the lower level with the round windows, aboard the S.S. George Washington, pictured at right.
The S.S. George Washington's manifest shows Johannes Kluge's information on line 3, and numerous handwritten notes made by immigration officials.
Kluge years later recalled his immigration experience:

"I came over on the S.S. Washington, which was a ten-day trip at that time. And we stayed at the Taft Hotel. I don't know, but those days seem that women always looked under the bed. Well, my mother saw piles of marks. She said, 'Where did you get this?' I told her that when she and my stepfather were on their honeymoon in Germany, I would take a few marks out of his pockets every night until I had accumulated -- She said, 'Why did you do that?' 'Because if I didn't like the United States, I'd have money to go back'."
Case: Salvatore Lucania

Salvatore Lucania was born November 24, 1897 to Antonio and Rosalia (Cafarelli) Lucania. He was raised, along with two brothers, in Lercara Friddi, Sicily, a town primarily known for its sulfur mines. The promise of a better life led his family to immigrate to the United States in 1906. Upon arriving at Ellis Island, young Salvatore was diagnosed with smallpox, an affliction that pockmarked his face for life.

The Lucania family traveled in steerage aboard the S.S. Roma, pictured above, from Naples, Italy to New York, a trip which took 17 days.

Upon arrival in New York City, Lucania's parents settled in a Jewish neighborhood on the East Side, at 265 East 10th Street.
The *S.S. Roma*'s manifest shows the Lucania family's information, including Salvatore on line 9.
Case: Salvatore Lucania

The second page of the Roma's manifest contains more information provided by the Lucania family, including Salvatore on line 9
Case: Charles "Lucky" Luciano

Born in Sicily, Charles "Lucky" Luciano and his family moved to New York City in 1906. At an early age he established himself as a creative thug on the Lower East Side and eventually worked his way up to being a top aide to crime boss Giuseppe "Joe the Boss" Masseria. In the 1920s Masseria was involved in a prolonged turf war with rival crime boss Salvatore Maranzano. Luciano, who by this time had earned the nickname "Lucky" (supposedly by surviving a brutal attack on his life), made a deal with Maranzano and arranged for Joe the Boss to be assassinated in 1931. Luciano then arranged for the murder of Maranzano and became the biggest boss in New York City. With the help of childhood friend Meyer Lansky and strongman Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, Luciano then restructured organized crime. Together they created an organization that had a board of directors that focused on profits instead of traditional ethnic loyalties.

His gangster fame caught up with him in 1936, when Luciano was convicted on charges as leader of one of the largest prostitution rings in American history and sentenced to 30 to 50 years in prison.
During World War II, Luciano used his contacts in Italy to help the U.S. government fight the Fascist enemies. In exchange for his assistance during World War II, Luciano was released from prison in 1946 and deported back to Italy. Federal authorities transferred Luciano from Great Meadow Prison to Ellis Island where he remained in detention from February 2 to 9 until boarding the freighter Laura Keene for Sicily.

Luciano described his deportation from Ellis Island:

"I began to get this real sour feeling in my stomach, and when the pilot horn started to blow, the sound of it seemed to fill the inside of my belly. The only other time in my whole life that I had this kind of experience was when the gates closed behind me up at Dannemora (prison)."
Festus Claudius McKay was born in Jamaica on 15th September, 1890. He began writing poetry as a schoolboy. He worked as a policeman in Spanish Town and when he was twenty-two had his first volume of poems, *Songs of Jamaica* (1912) published.

In 1912 McKay moved to the United States where he attended Tuskegee Institute in Alabama and Kansas State University. In 1919 McKay travelled to England where he was introduced to influential left-wing figures in journalism. This included Sylvia Pankhurst, who recruited him to write for her trade union journal, *Workers' Dreadnought*. While in London, McKay read the works of Karl Marx and became a committed socialist.

In 1921 McKay returned to New York aboard the S.S. *Adriatic*, pictured above. He described his arrival in New York: "The feeling of the dirty steerage passage across the Atlantic was swept away in the immense wonder of clean, vertical heaven-challenging lines, glory to the grandeur of space."
Reflecting back on the arrival after having lived in New York for some time McKay added: "Oh, I wished that it were possible to know New York in that way only - as a masterpiece wrought for the illumination of the sight, a splendor lifting aloft and shedding its radiance like a searchlight, making one big and great with feeling. Oh, that I should never draw nearer to descend into its precipitous gorges, where visions are broken and shattered and one becomes one of a million, average, ordinary, insignificant."
The S.S. Adriatic's manifest shows McKay's information, on line 26. Notice his occupation is recorded as waiter, not writer.
The second page of the Adriatic's manifest contains more information provided by McKay, on line 26.
Case: Chaim Rikower

Chaim Rikower was born January 27, 1900 to a Jewish family in Maków Mazowiecki, Poland, which at that time was under Russian jurisdiction. Chaim immigrated to the United States with his parents and sister after fleeing pogroms, riots against Jews.

Chaim Rikower was a steerage passenger on the steamship Finland (pictured above) which departed from Antwerp, Belgium on March 17th, 1906 and arrived in New York Harbor on March 27th. Rickover's sister recalls "The boats were so big, they frightened him." Chaim lived off a barrel of salted herring except when passengers threw oranges to him and other children looking up from the bowels of the ship.
The immigrant in question is listed as Chaim Rikower on line 14 of the ship's manifest, pictured above. The Rikower family was detained at Ellis Island, as indicated by the "S.I.", which stands for Special Inquiry, in the left column of the manifest. The Board of Special Inquiry ruled in favor of the Rikowers at their hearing and they were admitted.
Case: Dalip Singh Saund

Born in Punjab, India in 1899, Dalip Singh Saund grew up under colonial rule, without the freedoms which he read Americans were guaranteed. Pursuing his dreams of education and freedom, Saund moved to the United States in 1920, to study at the University of California at Berkeley. Saund described his immigration experience which took him from India to Britain, then to Ellis Island:

During the stay at Ellis Island, while waiting to be cleared for entry, I felt lonesome for the first time since I left India. Here I was at Ellis Island. I had come to the United States but I was not yet free to go into the country. Then while I was standing in a long line to have my passport examined a kindly inspector who obviously knew India took me out of the line and had my papers stamped. Finally, warmly shaking my hand, he said to me, “You are now a free man in a free country.” Then he whispered into my ear, “You do not have to worry about the C.I.D. either.” (C.I.D. stood for the Criminal Investigation Department in India—the dread and hated secret police.) I looked around and said to myself, “Yes, at long last you are a free man in a free country. You may go where you wish and say what you please.” That certainly proved true, for as long as I have been in the United States, particularly in the early years, while I was cruelly discriminated against many a time because of the place of my birth, not once has my right to say what I pleased been questioned by any man. To me, coming as I did from India, freedom of speech and liberty to go wherever I wished without having any fears of secret police hounding me were of profound and lasting significance.
Case: Dalip Singh Saund

This portrait of Dalip Singh Saund shows him wearing traditional Indian clothing.

Dalip Singh Saund arrived in New York aboard the SS Philadelphia (pictured at right) September 27, 1920 after a ten day passage from Southampton, England.
The *S.S. Philadelphia*’s manifest shows Saund's information, listed on line 14. Notice a change of plans: his original intention of settling in Toronto, Canada with a friend was crossed out and replaced with his new destination - the University of California at Berkeley.
The second page of the *Philadelphia*’s manifest contains more information provided by Saund, listed on line 14.
Igor Sikorsky was born May 25, 1889 in Kiev, Ukraine, then part of the Russian Empire. Igor was the youngest of five children born to Ivan Alexeevich Sikorsky and his wife, Mariya. As a child Igor began to experiment with model flying machines, and, by age 12, he had made a small rubber band-powered helicopter. As a teenager, Sikorsky studying engineering in Russia and France, and travelled with his father to Germany, where he learned of the accomplishments of the Wright Brothers' airplane and Count von Zeppelin's dirigible. Sikorsky later said about this event: "Within twenty-four hours, I decided to change my life's work. I would study aviation."

Sikorsky described his fascination with America, which ultimately led him to immigrate to the U.S.

"As a youth, I was impressed by the skyscrapers that were taller than anywhere else, by the railroad system that included more miles of rails than the total of the rest of the world. I was inspired by the achievements of such men as Edison, Ford, and others, and in my case particularly, the Wright Brothers."

After World War I, Igor Sikorsky briefly became an engineer for the French forces in Russia during the Russian Civil War. Seeing little opportunity for himself as an aircraft designer in war-torn Europe (and particularly Russia, ravaged by the October Revolution and Civil War), he immigrated to the United States in 1919.
Igor Sikorsky traveled from Le Havre, France to New York aboard the SS La Lorraine (pictured above), departing March 22nd, 1919 and arriving March 31st.
The SS *La Lorraine*’s manifest shows Sikorsky’s information, listed on line 28.
The second page of the *La Lorraine*’s manifest contains more information provided by Sikorsky, on line 28.

Page 4
Case: Georg von Trapp and family

Captain Georg von Trapp was a highly-decorated hero of the Austrian Navy during World War I. He and his wife Agathe had had seven children before Agathe's untimely death of scarlet fever in 1922.

Maria Kutschera was a twenty-two year old hired to teach one of the von Trapp children who was too sickly to attend school. The Captain and Maria were married within the year and Maria gave birth to three more children. Music became a big part of their lives and something that knit the family together very tightly.

After the Nazis took over Austria in 1938, the family had to turn down three separate propositions from the enemy: Captain von Trapp was offered the command of a German submarine, the eldest son - who was just barely out of medical school - was offered the post as head of one of the great Vienna hospitals, and the family choir was invited to sing for Hitler's birthday celebration. Each of these offered possibilities of fame and fortune, but the family felt that these would also compromise their basic obligations to God and country. Leaving behind their large estate and nearly all of their belongings, they left Austria and fled to Italy by train and then by boat to the United States, where they were invited to give an extensive concert tour.
When their six months visitors' visas expired, they went on a short Scandinavian tour then returned to New York. The von Trapp family arrived on the steamship Bergensfjord (pictured above) which departed from Oslo, Norway on September 27th, 1939 and arrived in New York Harbor on October 7th.

They were held at Ellis Island for investigation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, apparently because when asked by an official how long they intended to stay, instead of saying "six months," as specified on their visas, Maria exclaimed, "Oh, I am so glad to be here—I never want to leave again!" They were released after a few days and began their next tour.
Case: Georg von Trapp and family

This record of aliens held for special inquiry, dated October 7, 1939, notes that the von Trapp family was detained to clear up confusion about their status. They were approved and released two days later.
Case: Israel Beilin (follow up)

The Beilin family settled in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, in a basement apartment with no windows or hot water. Israel "slept under tenement steps, ate scraps, and wore secondhand clothes." After his father died when he was only 8 years old, Israel sold newspapers and sang on the streets for pennies to help support his family. Though he could not read music he taught himself enough piano to begin writing songs. He sold his first song in 1907 at age 19, but a printer's error on the cover gave him the name, Irving Berlin.

Berlin described his motivation behind songwriting, "my ambition is to reach the heart of the average American." Never learning to read or play music he used a special piano to help him compose. In 1911 had his first big hit with "Alexander’s Ragtime Band," which sparked an international dance craze. Over the years Berlin wrote dozens of plays and films. His song "Blue Skies" was featured in the first movie with sound, The Jazz Singer. Other hits included "White Christmas," "Annie Get Your Gun," and "There's No Business Like Show Business." He later co-founded The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. He retired from songwriting in 1962.

Berlin was also well-known for his charity and patriotism, stating "I owe all my success to my adopted country." He supported the war effort during both World Wars and established several foundations in his lifetime. He signed over all royalties from his song "God Bless America" to the Boy Scouts. Berlin was honored many times over the years. He was awarded the Army's Medal of Merit, a Congressional Gold Medal, the Freedom Medal and the Medal of Liberty. A private man all his life, he became a hermit in his later years. His last public appearance was at his 100th birthday celebration in 1988. He died from natural causes a year later.

Irving Berlin in New York City, circa 1911
Case: Francesco Capra (follow up)

Francesco Capra grew up in Los Angeles, and then graduated from Throop Institute (now the California Institute of Technology) with a degree in chemical engineering. During World War I, Capra enlisted in the United States Army and taught ballistics and mathematics to artillerymen. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1920, adopting the name Frank Russell Capra.

Capra began his film career as a prop man in silent films, then wrote and directed silent film comedies. Capra won an Academy Award for directing the 1934 film It Happened One Night, his first of six Oscars won. He then went on to direct a series of hits including Mr. Deeds Goes to Town (1936), You Can't Take It With You (1938), and Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939).

Frank Capra was commissioned as a major in the United States Army Signal Corps during World War II. He produced, directed or co-directed eight documentary propaganda films between 1942 and 1948, including the seven-episode U.S. government-commissioned Why We Fight series, which won an Academy Award and earned Colonel Capra the Distinguished Service Medal in 1945.

In 1946, Capra directed It's a Wonderful Life, which has been named by the American Film Institute as the most inspiring movie ever produced. Capra films usually carry a definite message about the basic goodness of human nature and show the value of unselfishness and hard work. Many 'feel-good' type movies are described as "Capraesque," a tribute to Frank Capra's legacy.

Frank Capra
Nerino Corsi took the name Edward Corsi after settling in New York, where he grew up. His father, a politician, died early in Edward’s childhood. Edward’s mother remarried and the family migrated to East Harlem. Edward graduated from St. Francis Xavier College and Fordham University Law School, but rather than practice law he preferred writing and served as a correspondent in both Mexico and Italy. Mr. Corsi’s government career began in 1930, when he was appointed supervisor of a census district in New York City. In 1931, President Herbert Hoover appointed Corsi as Commissioner of Immigration at Ellis Island, where Mr. Corsi humanized the entry procedures, and in 1933 he was reappointed by President Roosevelt as Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization. In 1934 Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia asked Mr. Corsi to serve as director of the Home Relief Fund for New York City. An appointment as Deputy Commissioner for the New York City Department of Public Welfare followed.

During the early years of World War II, Mr. Corsi was appointed chairman of the Alien Enemy Hearing Board, Southern District of New York State. In 1950 he was Republican candidate for mayor of New York City, but was defeated by Vincent Impelliteri, another Ellis Island immigrant. In 1954 Corsi served as special assistant on refugee and immigration issues. He died in a car accident in 1965.
Emanuel Goldenberg grew up on New York's Lower East Side. As a boy, as soon as he had mastered English, he made speeches to his family and friends. He took up acting while attending City College, abandoning earlier plans to become a rabbi or lawyer, having hoped to "to defend the human beings who were abused and exploited." He won a scholarship to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and, after changing his name to Edward G. (for Goldenberg) Robinson, began acting professionally in 1913. He found work on Broadway two years later and worked steadily there for 15 years. His work included "The Kibitzer", a comedy he co-wrote. His film debut was a small supporting part in the silent The Bright Shawl (1923), but it was with the coming of sound that he hit his stride. His stellar performance as murderous thug Rico Bandello in Little Caesar (1931) set the standard for movie gangsters. He also portrayed characters in several biographical works such as Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet (1940), psychological dramas including Scarlet Street (1945), and played another notable gangster role in Key Largo (1948).

More than just an actor, Robinson was a sophisticated, cultured man and a philanthropist and art collector, a stark contrast to his screen image as a gruff gangster. Between 1939 and 1949 he contributed over $250,000 to relief and entertainment agencies, and cultural, educational and religious groups. His art collection comprised perhaps the most outstanding group of privately owned paintings in the United States. Despite his seemingly upstanding character, Robinson faced allegations of Communist affiliation during the anti-Communist hysteria of the early 1950s, but was absolved after testifying as a friendly witness for the House Un-American Activities Committee. In 1973 Edward G. Robinson died from cancer at the age of 79. Two months later he was awarded a special, posthumous Oscar for lifetime achievement.

*Actor Edward G. Robinson and actress Joan Bennett performing in the film Scarlet Street*
Case: Emma Goldman (follow up)

Emma Goldman arrived in Russia January 19, 1920, a cold day but she wrote that "spring was in our hearts." Goldman stayed in her native Russia for only twenty-three months. Despite the overthrow of the czar by a revolutionary government, Goldman was shocked by its continuing disregard for political freedom. She met with Vladimir Lenin, the Soviet leader, and questioned him about the lack of free speech. Unhappy with his response that free speech at that point in Russian history was a luxury not a right, Goldman eventually left the country in disgust and disappointment. She was determined to alert the world to what she saw as the Bolsheviks' betrayal of the ideals of the revolution.

For the rest of her life Emma Goldman felt like "a woman without a country," moving from place to place, and allowed to return to the United States only once in 1934 for a brief lecture tour. Throughout her life Goldman wrote many letters, articles, speeches, and a number of books, including her autobiography, Living My Life. In 1936, she visited Spain and witnessed the optimism of the Spanish anarchists and their hope that a real revolution would occur in Spain during the Spanish Civil War. When the dictatorship of Francisco Franco triumphed, a defeated Goldman went to Canada to help raise funds for the refugees of the Spanish war and to be closer to the country in which she had felt most at home.

Emma Goldman died on May 14, 1940 in Toronto. The United States government permitted her body to be returned to America, and she is buried in Chicago.
Once in the United States, Graham stayed in a foster home in The Bronx. After being taunted as an immigrant and being called a Nazi because of his German accented English, Wolfgang Grajonca changed his name to Bill Graham. "Graham" was found in the phonebook; it was closest to his real surname "Grajonca."

Graham was drafted into the United States Army in 1951, and served in the Korean War, where he was awarded both the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Upon his return to the United States he worked as a waiter/maître d’ in Catskill Mountain resorts in upstate New York during their heyday. Later he settled in San Francisco and studied business. He managed the San Francisco Mime Troupe before moving on to present entertainment in his own clubs.

Many consider Graham to be the father of the modern music business. His clubs, The Fillmore, Winterland and The Fillmore East in New York, were top music halls in the 1960s with musicians such as Janis Joplin, The Grateful Dead, The Jefferson Airplane, Led Zeppelin and Cream playing there. Later Graham closed his clubs to focus on promoting large-scale concerts for bands such as the Rolling Stones. Graham was killed in a helicopter crash in 1991, while returning home from planning a benefit concert for the victims of the Oakland firestorm. A few days later approximately 300,000 people attended a free concert held to honor Graham, featuring entertainment acts he had supported including Santana, the Grateful Dead, and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young.
Case: Leslie Hope (follow up)

Leslie Townes Hope settled with his family in Cleveland, Ohio in 1908. An indifferent student, Hope said he kept the truant officer busy and joked that he wrote so many test answers on his sleeve, "my shirt graduated two years before I did." From the age of 12, Leslie earned money to help the family through a variety of odd jobs: delivering and selling newspapers, working games at an amusement park, and selling shoes, but his favorite was entertaining. He would perform singing, dancing and comedy routines on street corners to make extra money. In 1929, as his entertainment career was beginning to take off, Leslie changed his name to "Bob."

Bob Hope achieved great success as a comedian and actor, and appeared in vaudeville, on Broadway, and in radio, television and movies. Hope appeared in the film *The Big Broadcast of 1938* and sang the song later to become his trademark, "Thanks for the Memory." Bob Hope gained worldwide fame starring in a series of seven comedy films referred to as "Road pictures." The movies were a combination of adventure, comedy, romance, and music. Later, Hope hosted the Academy Awards ceremony 18 times.

Bob Hope was also noted for his work with the US Armed Forces and his numerous USO tours entertaining American military personnel. Hope's 1970 and 1971 Christmas specials for NBC, filmed in Vietnam in front of military audiences at the height of the war, are both among the 30 most watched U.S. telecasts of all time. Throughout his career, he was honored for his humanitarian work. In 1996, the U.S. Congress honored Bob Hope by declaring him the "first and only honorary veteran of the U.S. armed forces." He remarked, "I've been given many awards in my lifetime - but to be numbered among the men and women I admire most - is the greatest honor I have ever received." Bob Hope died in 2003, shortly after his 100th birthday.

Bob Hope spend much of his life travelling to far away lands to entertain American troops in U.S.O. shows, like the one pictured here.
Elias Kazanjoglou attended public schools in New York City and New Rochelle, New York, under the shortened name Elia Kazan. Kazan's father expected that his son would go into the family carpet business, but with his mother's encouragement, Elia chose a different path. After graduating from Williams College, Kazan studied at Yale University's School of Drama to further his dreams of a career in theater. Pursuing those dreams, in the 1930s Kazan acted with New York's Group Theatre. His involvement in the group, which had many members interested in Communism, led him to briefly join the "American Communist Party."

In addition to acting, Kazan directed such Broadway plays as "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof". He then directed the film version of A Streetcar Named Desire (1951) and many other films. Kazan received two best director Academy Awards, for the films Gentleman's Agreement (1947) and On the Waterfront (1954). He has written many films about Greek immigrants, such as America, America (1963).

Kazan remained controversial in some circles until his death for testimony he gave before the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1952. Kazan, after previously refusing to do so, provided in his testimony the names of eight other members of the Communist Party, including some who had worked with him in The Group Theater. Some of the people Kazan named were blacklisted because of their Communist affiliation and were unable to find work. In 1999, Kazan received an honorary Oscar for lifetime achievement. While many in Hollywood who had experienced the Communist Scare felt that enough time had passed that it was appropriate to bury the hatchet and recognize Kazan's great artistic accomplishments, others did not and refused to applaud. Kazan died in 2003 at age 94.
Johannes Kluge grew up in Detroit, and shortened his first name to "John." He worked on the Ford Motor Company assembly line, before earning his B.A. degree in Economics from Columbia University in 1937. He then worked for a small paper company before serving in the Army during World War II. Kluge worked in military intelligence, and because of his fluency in German, spent most of the war interrogating captured German officers and translating captured Nazi documents. After the war Kluge worked as an executive with radio broadcasting companies. As Kluge acquired and built many radio and television stations and his outdoor advertising business grew, his Metromedia company became the largest independent broadcast network in the country. In 1985 Kluge sold Metromedia for $2 billion, and by 1989 he was the richest person in America, with his personal fortune estimated at some $5.5 billion.

Generous to a variety of causes, he long supported the United Cerebral Palsy Research and Educational Foundation. But his philanthropies had not been greatly publicized until 1993, when he gave $60 million to Columbia to provide scholarships for minority students; added to the $50 million he had previously donated to Columbia, it made Kluge one of the largest single benefactors of any American educational institution. In 2000 he endowed the Library of Congress to establish an academic centre (the Kluge Center), and to fund the $1 million Kluge Prize in recognition of lifetime achievement in a range of disciplines in the human sciences not covered by the Nobel prizes.
Born in Sicily, Charles "Lucky" Luciano and his family moved to New York City in 1906. At an early age he established himself as a creative thug on the Lower East Side and eventually worked his way up to being a top aide to crime boss Giuseppe "Joe the Boss" Masseria. In the 1920s Masseria was involved in a prolonged turf war with rival crime boss Salvatore Maranzano. Luciano, who by this time had earned the nickname "Lucky" (supposedly by surviving a brutal attack on his life), made a deal with Maranzano and arranged for Joe the Boss to be assassinated in 1931. Luciano then arranged for the murder of Maranzano and became the biggest boss in New York City. With the help of childhood friend Meyer Lansky and strongman Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, Luciano then restructured organized crime. Together they created an organization that had a board of directors that focused on profits instead of traditional ethnic loyalties.

His gangster fame caught up with him in 1936, when Luciano was convicted on charges as leader of one of the largest prostitution rings in American history and sentenced to 30 to 50 years in prison.
During World War II, Luciano used his contacts in Italy to help the U.S. government fight the Fascist enemies. In exchange for his assistance during World War II, Luciano was released from prison in 1946 and deported back to Italy. Federal authorities transferred Luciano from Great Meadow Prison to Ellis Island where he remained in detention from February 2 to 9 until boarding the freighter Laura Keene for Sicily.

Luciano described his deportation from Ellis Island:

"I began to get this real sour feeling in my stomach, and when the pilot horn started to blow, the sound of it seemed to fill the inside of my belly. The only other time in my whole life that I had this kind of experience was when the gates closed behind me up at Dannemora (prison)."
Case: Charles "Lucky" Luciano (follow up)

Although gangster Charles "Lucky" Luciano was deported through Ellis Island in 1946 on the condition that he permanently return to Italy, he secretly moved to Cuba. There he worked to resume control over American mafia operations, and also ran a number of casinos in Cuba with the support of Cuban president General Fulgencio Batista. The U.S. government learned of Luciano’s presence in Cuba and threatened to stop all shipments of medical drugs unless Luciano left. The Cuban government then forced Luciano to return to Italy in 1947.

After being deported to Italy, "Lucky" Luciano fell in love with Igea Lissoni, an Italian dancer 20 years his junior. They lived together peacefully until they learned that there was a hit contract on Luciano, and the two went into hiding. They changed apartments many times throughout the months and moved from hotel to hotel. Barred from Rome after the hit was called off, the two lived together in Luciano’s 60-room house in Naples. When Igea died of cancer, Luciano began to go to pieces, as did his control of the American mafia syndicate and his own projects based out of Italy.

Luciano was reportedly told not to promote or participate in films about his life, as it would have attracted unnecessary attention to the mafia. However Luciano was on his way to meet with a movie producer at the Naples International Airport on January 26, 1962, when he died suddenly of a heart attack. He was buried in St. John’s Cemetery in Queens in 1972, more than ten years after his death, because of the terms of his deportation in 1946. More than 2,000 mourners attended his funeral, including his longtime friend, Carlo Gambino, the only other boss besides Luciano to have complete control of the Commission and virtually every Mafia family in the United States.
Case: Claude McKay (follow up)

Shortly after settling in New York in 1921, Claude McKay became associate editor of The Liberator, a monthly magazine supported by the Communist Party of America which included art, poetry, and fiction along with political reporting and commentary. Over the next year the journal published articles by McKay such as "How Black Sees Green" and "Red and He Who Gets Slapped." He also published his best known volume of verse, Harlem Shadows in 1922. McKay emerged as one of the first and most militant voices of the Harlem Renaissance, the flowering of African American cultural and intellectual life during the 1920s and 1930s centered in Harlem.

In 1922 McKay represented the American Workers Party at the fourth congress of the Communist International in Moscow. He stayed in Europe where he wrote Trial by Lynching: Stories About Negro Life in America (1925) and Home to Harlem (1928), a novel about a disillusioned black soldier in the US Army who returns from the Western Front to live in a black ghetto. Losing faith in Communism, McKay moved back to Harlem and turned his attention to the teachings of various spiritual and political leaders, eventually converting to Catholicism. McKay’s published work during this period included his autobiography, A Long Way From Home (1937) and Harlem: Negro Metropolis (1940). In his later years, Claude McKay was unable to make a living from writing, so he found work in a shipbuilding yard. He died from a heart attack at the age of 59 in 1948.
Case: Hyman G. Rickover (follow up)

Hyman G. Rickover, as he became known in America, settled first in the seething East Side of Manhattan, but the family moved two years later to Chicago, where his father continued his work as a tailor. Hyman began work to help support the family at nine years of age, and later said of his childhood that it was a time of "hard work, discipline, and a decided lack of good times." Hyman went to high school, but he always worked too, as a delivery boy and messenger. Though small, frail and sickly looking, he bicycled solemnly around the streets from 3pm to 11pm, dutifully turning over his earnings to the family. While delivering telegrams, he became acquainted with U.S. Congressman Adolph J. Sabath, who nominated Rickover for appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

Rickover graduated from the Naval Academy in 1922 and served on board USS LaVallette and USS Nevada. Rickover underwent submarine training in 1930, and he eventually assumed command of submarines and other naval vessels. His service as head of the Electrical Section in the Bureau of Ships during World War II brought him a Legion of Merit and gave him experience in directing large development programs, choosing talented technical people, and working closely with private industry. Assigned to the Bureau of Ships in September 1947, Rickover received training in nuclear power and worked to explore the possibility of nuclear ship propulsion. Rickover led the effort to develop the world's first nuclear-powered submarine, USS Nautilus (SSN-571), launched in 1955. Promoted to the rank of Vice Admiral by 1958, Rickover exerted tremendous personal influence over the nuclear Navy in both an engineering and cultural sense.

Admiral Rickover was twice awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for exceptional public service, in 1958, and in 1983. Rickover was also an outspoken supporter of peace through preparedness but worried about the rise of nuclear weapons, and stated 'I would forego all the accomplishments of my life, and I would be willing to forego all the advantages of nuclear power to propel ships, for medical research and for every other purpose of generating electric power, if we could have avoided the evolution of atomic explosives.' In 1980, President Jimmy Carter presented Admiral Rickover with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest non-military honor, for his contributions to world peace. In 1982, after 63 years of service to his country, Rickover was forced to retire from the Navy. Following a stroke, Admiral Rickover died in 1986.
After passing through Ellis Island in 1920, Dalip Singh Saund attended the University of California at Berkeley, earning a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1924. Despite his doctorate degree, Saund found few employment opportunities outside of the isolated Indian American communities. So for the next 25 years, Saund worked as a farmer and chemical fertilizer distributor in California’s Imperial Valley. Saund led efforts to grant citizenship rights to Asian Indians living in the United States. These efforts proved successful when Congress passed the Luce-Cellar Bill in 1946, making Asian Indians eligible for citizenship, and Saund was soon naturalized as an American citizen. He won election in 1952 as a Justice of the Peace, and then won a seat in the House of Representatives from the 29th California District in 1956, becoming the first Asian American elected to the U.S. Congress.

Saund went on to serve three terms in Congress, and left his mark on U.S. policy. As a freshman Congressman, Saund was given a seat in the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which would normally have gone to a senior Congressman. Saund led a House delegation of 11 members to the first conference of the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group in Guadalajara, a group which still exists, working on improving relations and coordinating policies between the two nations. Another of his accomplishments in Congress was the addition of the Saund Amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. This amendment provided means for providing foreign aid without money going solely to the hands of central governments, which Saund feared may be corrupt and misuse the intended aid money.

Tragically, Saund’s rising political career was cut short as a result of a stroke he suffered in 1962, which left him unable to speak at all, or walk without assistance. Dalip Singh Saund died on April 22, 1973, in Hollywood, California. As an immigrant, Saund had an understanding of foreign nations, and an appreciation of the freedoms of the United States, which made him a successful Congressman as well as an inspiring American example.
Case: Igor Sikorsky (follow up)

In the United States, Sikorsky first worked as a school teacher and a lecturer, while looking for an opportunity in the aviation industry. In 1923, helped by several former Russian army officers, he formed the Sikorsky Aero Engineering Company. On an old chicken farm in 1924, Sikorsky built a single S-29A airliner, a metal fourteen-passenger biplane, the world’s first multi-engine fixed-wing aircraft. The S-29A, slow compared to military aircraft of the time, proved a commercial failure, but also an important step towards success.

The company’s fortunes changed when it leased an S-36 eight-seat amphibian flying boat to Pan American Airways. The airline liked it but wanted more power; Sikorsky then produced a series of faster planes culminating in the four-engine flying boat, the S-42. It had a range of over 2500 miles, at a cruising speed of 145 mph, with a payload consisting of twelve passengers and approximately 300 pounds. This enabled Pan American Airways, and later other airlines, to cross oceans with regularly scheduled flights.

Sikorsky was also highly influential in the development of helicopters. Sikorsky was awarded a patent in March 1935 for a "direct lift aircraft." His design plans eventually culminated in the VS-300, which flew successfully in 1940. Its rotor configuration, comprising a single main rotor and a single anti-torque tail rotor, has proven to be one of the most popular helicopter configurations, still used in most helicopters produced today. Sikorsky’s success with the VS-300 led to the R-4, which became the world’s first mass produced helicopter in 1942. Igor Sikorsky retired from Sikorsky Aircraft’s top position in 1957, at the age of 68, after a half-century of pioneering work in aviation. He received more than ninety major awards and honors from many countries and organizations. He always said, however, that his greatest satisfaction did not come from receiving honors, but from knowing that his helicopters were responsible for saving lives. Sikorsky died in 1972, but his legacy flies on.
After gaining approval at Ellis Island in 1939, the von Trapp Family settled in Merion, Pennsylvania. In the early 1940s the von Trapp family moved to a farm in Stowe, Vermont where the mountainous environment reminded them of their beloved Austrian Alps. There they ran a music camp when they were not touring, teaching the campers to sing, play musical instruments, and perform folk dances. During WWII, brothers Werner and Rupert volunteered for the United States 10th Mountain Division, and were sent to Italy to fight against the Nazis. They both returned home safely, but a short while later the family experienced a loss when Georg von Trapp died from lung cancer.

Maria wrote a book about the families adventures, *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers*, which when published in 1949 became a best-seller. The book was later adapted into *The Sound of Music*, a successful Broadway musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein, which resulted in an immensely popular motion picture. The von Trapp family never saw much of the huge profits *The Sound of Music* made since Maria sold the film rights to producers and inadvertently signed away her rights in the process. The family had very little input in either the play or the movie. Family members had mixed feeling about the film, which they felt oversimplified their story and portrayed their personalities inaccurately.

In 1957 after making a series of musical records the Trapp Family Singers disbanded and went their separate ways. Initially, Maria, Johannes, Rosmarie, and daughter Maria went to New Guinea to do missionary work. Later, Maria ran the Trapp Family Lodge for many years. Of the children, Rupert was a medical doctor; Agathe was kindergarten teacher in Maryland; Maria was a missionary in New Guinea for 30 years; Werner was a farmer; Hedwig taught music; Johanna married and eventually returned to live in Austria; Martina married and died in childbirth; Rosmarie and Eleonore both settled in Vermont; and Johannes managed the Trapp Family Lodge. Maria died in 1987 and was buried alongside Georg and Martina. The von Trapp family continues to own and operate the old family farm as a 2,400-acre resort providing accommodations in an Austrian-style lodge.