

Ellis Island

Self-Guided Activity (Grades 2-5)

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration
Statue of Liberty National Monument



Name: _____

Ellis Island: Be an Inspector!

Hey, Inspector! It's time to be a Great Detective.

Directions: Explore the main building to solve the mystery of how immigrants passed through Ellis Island. *Head to the Information Desk to start your investigation! Pick up a map at the Information Desk.*



Leaving Home

Many passengers who immigrated to Ellis Island never saw their homeland again. List three items that you would bring to the United States if you were to leave home today.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Great Hall

(Walk up the middle staircase to the Great Hall. Find the "chalk mark" chart on the Junior Ranger table). Examine the list of diseases inspectors looked for at Ellis Island. What do you think a chalk mark meant in the processing of an immigrant?

What disease might the tool (right) have been used to check for?

What were the letters marked in chalk for that disease?



Optional: Visit the second floor exhibit "Through America's Gate" and learn more about the medical exam in the second room of that exhibit.

Finding a New Home (*Head to the Junior Ranger table in the Registry Room on the 2nd floor*)

Following the instructions on the table, choose one of the immigrant families. Fill out the information at the table to decide where you are going send that immigrant family to live next!

Family Name:

Country of Origin:

Important Information about the Family:

Final Destination in America:

Reason for choosing this destination:



Anatoly is a new immigrant from Russia. Why might he want to live in a Russian neighborhood? What benefits might Anatoly find?

Bonus: You can't crack the case without the right vocabulary. Ask an adult family member or chaperone to help define the terms "immigrant" and "steerage class."