

SUNDOG THEATRE PRESENTS

Ellis Island: Gateway to a Dream



School Show Study Guide



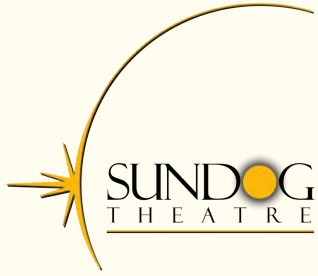


Ellis Island: Gateway to a Dream

Sketch by Lila Quintero Weaver

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Dear Educator,

This study guide offers suggested learning activities for a variety of grade levels to enhance your students' theatre experience. Please select the activities that best align with your curriculum and classroom goals. *Ellis Island* is appropriate for audiences ages 6 through adult.

The production supports New York State Learning Standards in English Language Arts and Social Studies while promoting critical thinking, reading comprehension, communication, and collaboration skills.

We are delighted to welcome you and your students and hope you enjoy this engaging theatrical experience.

Susan Fenley
Executive Director

About Sundog Theatre

Sundog Theatre is a nonprofit arts organization based on Staten Island. We are dedicated to enriching our community through arts education programs, original and contemporary theatre, acting classes for young people, and educational touring productions.

Our Arts in Education (AIE) programs bring learning to life in K-12 classrooms and educational venues. By integrating theatre, dance, music, and visual arts with classroom curriculum, our programs strengthen academic learning while encouraging critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration. Every AIE program is designed to make learning engaging, meaningful, and fun.

What is a Sundog?

A sundog is the reflection of the sun through an ice crystal. This reflection bookends the sun in the sky. Just as a sundog reflects the sun, it is the artist's calling to hold a mirror to the world.

Sundog Theatre's many in-school and educational touring programs support its mission to create lasting, positive change in young people's lives through the arts.



About the Show

Ellis Island: Gateway to a Dream begins in the present day as a tour guide welcomes visitors to the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration. Their tour guide introduces the American Immigrant Wall of Honor, where thousands of names commemorate those who journeyed to the United States in search of a new life. As the visitors search the wall for familiar names, they wonder, "Who could possibly be related to me?"

The modern-day visitors are transported back in time, becoming the immigrants whose stories they have begun to discover. The Wall of Honor opens, revealing the historic entrance to Ellis Island. Filled with anticipation, they imagine the lives they hope to build in America.

Once docked at Ellis Island, the immigrants move through the inspection process, their individual stories unfold. Some eagerly await being reunited with loved ones already in America, while others face uncertainty, disappointment, or heartbreaking decisions.

Through music, dance, and dramatic storytelling, audiences experience the emotions of those who passed through Ellis Island in the early 1900s. From the excitement of a young woman discovering new opportunities, to the humor of language barriers and name changes, to the touching reunions and sacrifices of families, each story reflects the resilience, courage, and hope shared by millions of immigrants.

Ellis Island: Gateway to a Dream celebrates the experiences of the immigrants who helped shape the United States. Their courage, determination, and dreams continue to define our nation's rich and diverse heritage.

Before You Go!

To help your students get the most out of their theatre experience, we encourage you to complete these activities before the performance:

Introduce the Performance

Explain that students will be attending a live theatrical production about Ellis Island and the immigrant experience in the early 1900s. Through acting, music, and dance, they will meet a diverse group of people whose stories reflect the hopes, challenges, and resilience of those who came to America.

Explore Family History

Ask students to talk with their parents, grandparents, or other family members about their family's history and journey to the United States. Encourage them to learn about their country of origin, the occupations of their ancestors, and the reasons their family came to America. Discuss how every immigration story is unique, yet many immigrants shared the courage, determination, dreams, and hope of building a better life.

Discuss Ellis Island

Ask students what they already know about Ellis Island. Have they read a book, watched a film, or learned about it in class?

Create an "Ellis Island Corner"

Set aside a space in your classroom where students can display family photographs, copies of passports or travel documents, books, clothing, keepsakes, artwork, or other items that celebrate their family's heritage and the immigration experience.

Prepare Students for Live Theatre

Encourage students to relax, use their imaginations, and fully engage with the performance. Remind them that live theatre is an interactive experience, and they are welcome to respond naturally with laughter, applause, and thoughtful attention as they connect with the story unfolding on stage.

Theatre Etiquette

A live theatre performance is a shared experience between the audience and the performers. Every audience member plays an important role in creating an enjoyable experience for everyone in the theatre. By practicing proper theatre etiquette, students help the actors perform at their best while ensuring that everyone can fully enjoy the show.

Please review these theatre expectations with your students before attending the performance:

- Remain seated throughout the performance unless there is an emergency.
- Use the restroom before the show begins, as restroom visits during the performance can be distracting to both the audience and performers.
- Photography, video recording, and audio recording are not permitted during the performance.
- Give the performers your full attention. Your focus and energy help create a more engaging experience for everyone.
- Please do not talk during the performance unless audience participation is invited. Even whispering can be distracting to those around you and to the performers on stage.
- Silence all electronic devices, including cell phones and smart watches, before the show begins. Please do not check devices during the show.
- Avoid calling out or interrupting the performers, unless they specifically invite audience participation.
- Show your appreciation by applauding at appropriate times, especially at the conclusion of the performance.

Thank you for helping us create a respectful, enjoyable, and memorable theatre experience for all!

History of Ellis Island

Ellis Island, located in New York Harbor, is made up of three islands. Originally known as Oyster Island by Dutch settlers, it was renamed after merchant Samuel Ellis, who purchased the island in the 1770s. Following his death, New York State acquired the property in 1808, and later that year sold it to the U.S. government for \$10,000.

Before becoming an immigration station, Ellis Island served as a federal military post and arsenal. As immigration to the United States increased during the late 19th century, the existing processing center at Castle Garden in Lower Manhattan could no longer accommodate the growing number of arrivals. On January 1, 1892, Ellis Island officially opened as the nation's primary federal immigration station.

From 1892 to 1954, more than 12 million immigrants passed through Ellis Island seeking new opportunities in America. While the vast majority were admitted after medical and legal inspections, some were detained for further review, and a small percentage were denied entry.

As immigration patterns changed and air travel became more common, the number of arrivals through Ellis Island declined. The immigration station officially closed on November 12, 1954, and its remaining operations were transferred elsewhere.

After decades of restoration, Ellis Island reopened in 1990 as the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration. Today, the museum preserves the stories, photographs, documents, and personal belongings of generations of immigrants, honoring the millions of people whose journeys helped shape the United States.

Immigrant or Emigrant?

Immigrant and Emigrant both refer to a person leaving one country to move to another. **Emigrant** is used to refer to a person as they move *from* their country and **Immigrant** is used to refer to a person as they move *to* their new country.

A person from Russia moving to the United States is *emigrating from* Russia and *immigrating to* the United States!

Remember: a person emigrates from and immigrates to!

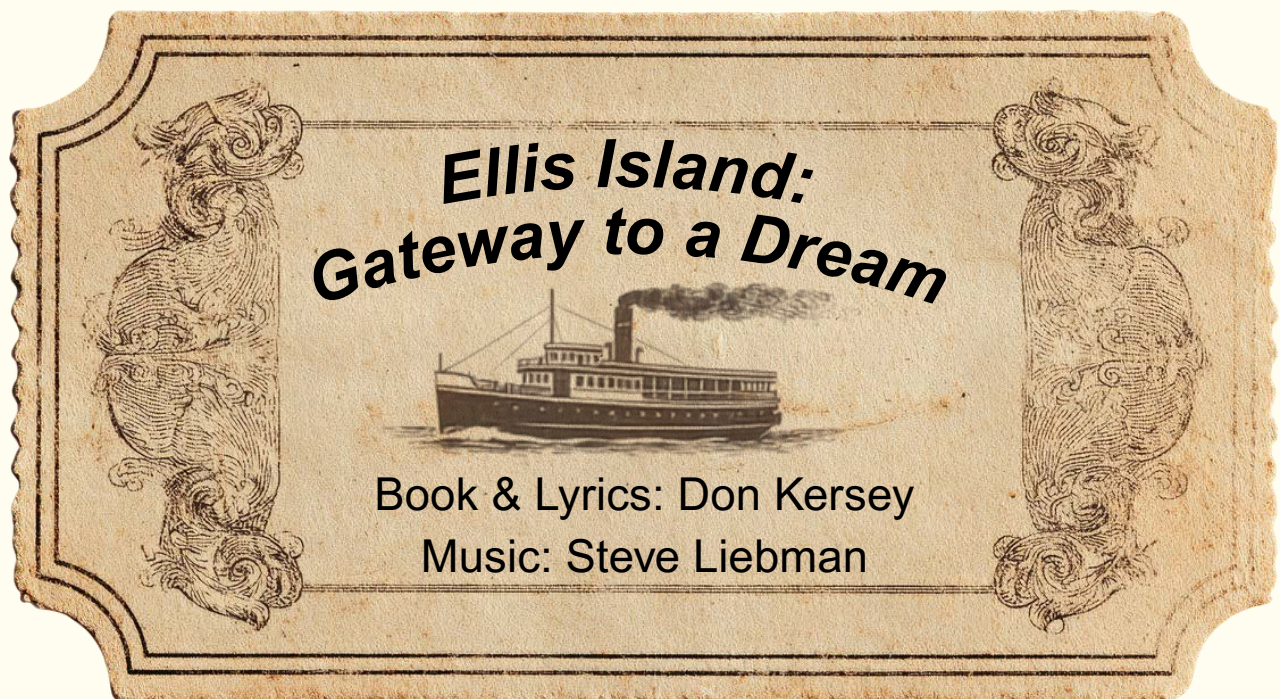
or

e for exit and i for in



Ellis Island Fun Facts

- Dutch settlers called the island Oyster Island because of the abundance of oyster beds nearby. Oysters were a valuable food source for Native American tribes.
- The unofficial motto of Ellis Island workers was “keep it moving!” Workers were trying to keep the line moving because the station was overcrowded. The immigration station was designed to process 5,000 people per day. But during the peak immigration period, more than 11,000 immigrants arrived every day.
- A fire destroyed the main building on Ellis Island in 1897, as well as immigration records kept in the building that dated back to 1855.
- For just 30 cents, an immigrant could purchase bread, cheese, sausage, and lemonade at the concession stand.
- First- and second-class passengers were not required to go to Ellis Island for immigration processing. Officials thought that if an immigrant could afford a first- or second-class ticket, they probably were not sick or in financial trouble, conditions which could make them a burden on American society.
- Before 1907, many children made the trip to America alone. Some traveled thousands of miles without a parent or guardian. But after 1907, it was prohibited for anyone under the age of 16 to come through Ellis Island without an adult.
- The highest number of immigrants came through the Ellis Island immigration station in 1907. In that year 1,004,765 immigrants arrived.
- More than 29,000 tiles were used in building the Great Hall, the largest room in the main building on Ellis Island.
- After 1917, the US government required immigrants to be literate; this meant they had to be able to read and write in their native language. Literacy was determined in the Great Hall during the inspection process.
- Ellis Island was originally 3.3 acres. Over the years, it grew to its current size of 27.5 acres. That’s eight times bigger! Rock and earth taken from massive construction projects, such as the building of New York City’s subway tunnels, was added as landfill around the original island.
- In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed a proclamation to make Ellis Island a National Monument.
- Before Ellis Island opened as the federal immigration station, immigrants arriving in New York City were processed at Castle Garden, at the tip of Manhattan.



Characters

Ninya Petrova
Francie O’Ryan
Raisa Somolavitch

Nathan Somolavitch
Hjordis Dieter
Narrator/Tour Guide

Scene Breakdown & Musical Numbers

Scene 1: Ellis Island - Present Day

“Somewhere on the Wall”.....The Company

Scene 2: Departure Pier , Somewhere in Europe - Fall 1911

“Name Game”.....The Company

“Quartet”.....The Company

Scene 3: The Deck of a Ship about 5 miles off the Coast of New York Harbor

“America”.....The Company

Scene 4: Main Receiving Room on Ellis Island

“Streets”.....Hjordis & Ninya

“Machine”.....Francie, Ninya & Raisa

Scene 5: Main Registry Room on Ellis Island

“Free”.....Nathan, Raisa & The Company

Scene 6: Infirmary Room on Ellis Island

Scene 7: Ferry Dock - the next morning

“Friend”.....Francie & The Company

Post-Show Questions

- How did the show make you feel? What do you remember from what you watched?
- What do you think about Ninya having to go back to Russia because she was sick? How would you feel if you were Ninya?
- How would you feel if you were embarking on a big journey?
- What do you think about the conditions for entering the U.S. in the late 1800s/early 1900s?
- Why would a family/individual want to leave their land of birth and come to a new place?
- Why do you think your family came to America?

Discuss the enormous challenges of:

- Learning a new language.
- Finding a new home and a new job.
- Making new friends.
- Starting a new life in a new country.
- Leaving behind the life that you knew.



Immigrants Arriving in New York City, 1887 Engraving

Interdisciplinary Activities

History/Social Studies

- Research/discuss the reasons behind immigration.
- Study immigration laws from different eras: how do they differ? Why did they change?
- How do you think they will change?
- Research your own family history:
 - Investigate their entry to the United States. Why did they immigrate?
 - Create a timeline of the arrival of each family in the class.
 - Investigate the customs, culture, and social issues of their native land. What did they eat/wear? What were their songs/dances/artworks?
 - Develop spreadsheets showing each student, their family origin, miles traveled, etc.
- Use the “What Every Emigrant Should Know” pamphlet at the end of this guide to inform class discussion and projects.

Language Arts

- Reflect on the symbol of the Statue of Liberty that then, as now, greeted new arrivals when they entered New York Harbor. Analyze the famous poem by Emma Lazarus, “The New Colossus”, that is etched into the great monument.
 - Have students write their own poem about coming to America.
- Write a sequel to *Ellis Island: Gateway to a Dream!*
 - What do you think happened after the ship docked?
 - What do you think happened to Ninya and Hjordis?
 - Have students play the characters in the show and other students interview them and write articles about them.

Acrostic Poem

An acrostic is a simple poem based upon a single word. Use the words 'Ellis Island' and find other words or phrases, beginning with those letters, that relate to Sundog Theatre's show.

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Mathematics



Using the www.history.com/topics/ellis-island website, track the number of immigrants by country and by time period. Collect your data and communicate it clearly and concisely.

- Link the emigration of people to the social/political situations in their country at the high point of emigration.
- What fraction of the immigrants came from each country?
- What percentage of the immigrants came from each country?

Music

Listen to music from different cultures:

- How did each of these cultures influence music history here in America?
- Did the music change in different ways according to the nationality of the immigrants arriving in America?

Art

- Plan and paint a mural showing Ellis Island and the people and cultures that came through.
 - Include your own 'Wall of Honor' with the names of students' family members that came to the United States.
- What do you think the Statue of Liberty looked like from the boat? How do you think the immigrants coming to Ellis Island viewed the Statue of Liberty? Draw your ideas!

Dance

Learn/study dances from different cultures:

- How did each of these cultures influence dance history here in America?
- Demonstrate dances from each students' cultures.



Think Theatrically

About the Production:

- Describe the sets and how they establish the scenes for different parts of the story.
 - What did you actually see and what did you see with your imagination?
- How did music and dance add to the story?
- What did the different costumes tell you about each character?
- Have you ever been to a live stage show before?
- What role did the audience play in the production?
- If you could be in the show, which role would you want to play?
- What other stories do you think would be fun to see as a play?

About You:

- Do you like to act? Sing? Dance?
- Have you ever been on stage?
- What did you do on stage?
- Share your experience with your class.
- Would you like to be in a show?

Create Your Own Musical:

Write your own story or choose a favorite book and make a musical out of it. Start by writing a script, music, and lyrics. Decide who will play each part, who will sing, and who will dance. Choreograph the song(s). Everyone not playing a part will design the sets and costumes and help make them. Give everyone a job that best suits their capabilities! Perform your musical for another class or grade.

Theatrical Terms:

Actor	A theatrical performer.
Applause	Approval expressed by clapping your hands together.
Backstage	The area behind and to the side of the stage away from where the action of the performance takes place.
Choreographer	The person who develops and arranges the dance movements for the dancers and actors.
Composer	A person who writes music.
Crew	The people who run technical operations during a show, including lights, curtain, sets, scene changes, sound, and props.
Designers	Individuals who create sets, costumes, lights, and sound effects for the show.
Director	The person who supervises all the artists during rehearsals and instructs all dramatic parts of the production.
Lyricist	The person who writes the words for a song.
Musical Theatre	A play that uses music, song, and dance to tell a story.
Play	A staged representation of an action or story.
Playwright	A person who writes plays.
Props	All the objects used in a theatrical production.
Score	The sheet music the actor memorizes to perform.
Script	Pages from which the actors read their lines.
Stage Manager	The person who assists the director during rehearsal and supervises the physical aspects of a stage production.

“What Every Emigrant Should Know”

This supplement is taken from a pamphlet entitled “What Every Emigrant Should Know” which was published in 1922 by the Department of Immigrant Aid and written by Cecilia Razovsky. The pamphlet details the complex procedures and problems the prospective immigrants faced on their journey to the United States.

This reading is intended to give students deeper insight into the problems and hardships faced by the immigrants and how much planning they had to do. Please take a look at the activities below or come up with your own!

Critical Thinking Questions

- Who is the intended audience for this pamphlet?
- What parts of the pamphlet did you hear mentioned in the show?
 - Were there any parts not mentioned in the show?
- Do you think any of these points still apply today?

Create Your Own

- Create your own version of this pamphlet for immigrants today.
 - What would you tell them to bring?
 - What would you warn them about?

Character Creation

After reading the pamphlet, write a diary entry of an immigrant who made the journey from their homeland to Ellis Island:

- Did they listen to the pamphlet’s advice?
- What happened on their journey?
- Were they sick? Can they read?
- Did they make friends?
- Did they make it to America? Why or why not?

ADVICE TO IMMIGRANTS SERIES

What Every Emigrant Should Know

A simple pamphlet for the guidance and benefit
of prospective immigrants to the United States.

By
CECILIA RAZOVSKY



Department of Immigrant Aid
Council of Jewish Women
799 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

Can you read?

It is always good to know how to read. A person who cannot read is like a blind man. Some countries will not let you enter if you cannot read. America is one of those countries. **Of course, if you are a wife going to your husband you may come to the United States even if you cannot read.**

Who else besides wives going to husbands may enter the United States if they cannot read?

Boys under 16 going to their parents.

Old men over 55 going to their children or grandchildren.

Unmarried or widowed daughters going to their parents.

Women going to their children or grandchildren.

These are the only people who will be allowed to come to the United States even if they **cannot read**.

What kind of people **must be able to read** to enter the United States?

All boys more than 16 years old.

All men under 55 years of age.

All men over 55 years of age who are not coming to children or grandchildren.

All single girls over 16 or widows who are not coming to parents.

If you can read and understand Yiddish or Hebrew, Polish or Russian, German or Hungarian, or any other language or dialect, you will be able to pass the literacy test.

During the past year many women who could not read were sent back after they reached Ellis Island. One woman, forty years old, who came to her nephew, had to go back because she could not read. Her home is in the Ukraine. She cannot go back to her old home. She is now in Constantinople. She has no friends there. She cannot find work. Her life is broken. What will become of her?

Learn to read before you begin on your journey.

Are You in Good Physical Condition?

Before you plan to start for America, make sure that your health is good. Are the children feeling perfectly well? You know that the trip to America from your home city is a long one. Unless you and the children are strong and healthy when you leave your hometown, you will have trouble on the way. The trains are slow. Many of them are not clean. All of them are crowded.

Sometimes you have to wait for weeks in hotels and lodging houses in big cities until you get all your papers. The food is not as good as you cook it at home. The children do not like it. These things make children weak. It is easy to catch sickness when one is weak.

One woman started from her home with her five children. The youngest, a beautiful girl of six years, had been sick with measles. By the time they were ready to go, the little one was better, so the mother thought it would not harm her to travel. But the trip was long, and the little girl was weak. She had a bad cold. When they were on the ship she was very sick. And when the family came to Ellis Island the child was taken to the hospital. She died one week later. The mother was heartbroken. Last year many children died on the ships and at Ellis Island.

A long journey makes weak people sick and sick people become very ill when they travel.

Sometimes one of the children may be deaf or mute or cannot see. The child may have been born that way or have become that way from some sickness. If the child is under 16 and is going to his father, the child may be allowed to come into the United States. But the father must deposit money with the immigration officials to keep his word that he will never ask public help for the care of such a child.

Men and single women who are deaf, mute, or blind will not be allowed to come in because they cannot find work. Such people cannot earn a living for themselves and must ask for charity, and America will not admit paupers.

Go to your doctor. Have him examine you and the children. He will tell you if you are strong enough to stand the journey. And when the doctor examines you, find out if you or any of the children have any defects. Make sure they are not bad defects. Because many men, women and children are turned back if they have bad defects.

It is better not to leave your home than to go away and then be forced to come back.

What are Bad Defects?

There are six very bad ones.

They are:

Insanity

Feeble-Mindedness

Vile Skin Diseases

Favus

Trachoma

Tuberculosis

Some are defects of the mind and some are defects of the body. The two sicknesses of the mind are insanity and feeble-mindedness. You know how people act when they are crazy. But you cannot always tell when a child is feeble-minded. Sometimes children's bodies grow big, but their minds are like babies. They do not grow with the body.

If one of your children is like that, stay at home. Or leave that child with your relatives and go with your other normal children. Even if both parents of a feeble-minded child are in America already, even if the parents are citizens, their feeble-minded or insane children can never, never come to America to live. This is not only true to children but holds good for older men and women as well.

Absolutely no feeble-minded or insane man, woman or child will be allowed to come and live in the United States.

Many, many people who have weak minds were sent back last year. In one case it cost the father of a young girl over three thousand dollars. And these poor people who are so helpless have to suffer for months until they get back to their old home. They are always in terrible danger. Many times whole families must go back to Europe because one of the family has a weak mind.

Be warned: Have pity on these poor unfortunates. **Do not take them with you when you start for America.**

Remember:

Even if the doctors in Europe pass these people they will be deported when they reach Ellis Island.

Count Your Money

**Have you enough for steamer
tickets, passports, visas,
trainfare, hotels, doctors' bills?**

Before you begin your journey you must be sure you have enough money:

You need money for steamer tickets for yourself and your children.

You need money to buy clothes for yourself and the children.

You need money to pay the doctor in your village who examines you and the children.

You need money to pay for railroad fare from your village to the large city where you obtain visas.

You need money to pay your hotel bill in the big city while you wait for your visas.

You need money to go from the big city to the port city where you must wait for a ship to take you to America.

You need money to pay for your hotel bill while you wait for the ship.

You need money when you are on the ship to buy fruit and other necessary things for the children.

And when you come to Ellis Island and everything is in order, you must show that you have money, which will pay for your train expenses to the city where your relatives live, unless you have prepaid tickets.

Sometimes women and children start on their trip without enough money. When they come to the large city and they find they need more money, they cable to their husbands or other relatives. The relatives are not always certain that the money will reach them. They may think a stranger is trying to get money from them. If you cable to your family for money, be sure to give your own address in the city from which you are cabling. Or tell them to cable the money in your name in care of a bank that has a branch in America. Find out before you cable if the bank will pay you the money in American Dollars. Otherwise, you will lose much money.

Do not go to a stranger to give you advice about money.

Do Not Destroy Your Home

Now you have your passport. Your papers, your tickets are in order. You and the children have no sickness of mind or body. You are ready to go for your visas.

What is a visa? Before a stranger may go to any country in Europe or America, he must obtain permission from an official of that country to do so. You are planning to go to America. So, of course, you must have an American visa. There are American Consuls in every large city in Europe.

You do not know how long it will take before you get your visa. You do not know if the American Consul will be willing to give you a visa. Is it wise to sell your household goods to your neighbor; to give up your little home that cost you so much money – where your children were born – before you are sure you can go direct to America? **Do not break up your home too soon.**

Write to a friend who lives in the big city where the American Consul has no office. Ask your friend to find out if it is necessary for you to wait in the big city near the office of the American Consul until you get your visa. Sometimes it may be possible for you to go to the big city, apply in person for your visa, then go back to your own home, and wait there until a letter comes from the American Consul to call for your visa.

But in any case be very careful. One must not throw away old things before one is sure he has new things, and your old home is very precious to you. You can always come back to it if you have it.

Keep your home together as long as you can.

No American Visa, No America!

Take with you your children, your affidavit, your steamship tickets and your passport. Get a certificate from the doctor to show you are healthy. Have three small photographs made of yourself and the children. If your husband has not sent you steamship tickets, do not buy the tickets until you have received your visa from the Consul.

When you go to the office of the American Consul he will give you a number. If you are the nearest relative of an American citizen, your number will be ahead of the people who are going to relatives who are not American citizens. In the United States citizens have more rights than people who are not citizens. And the American Consul will first give visas to the aged parents, wives and minor children of American citizens or of men who served in the American Army or Navy in the last war.

Sometimes you must wait many weeks in the big city until you are given your visa. If you find you have to wait, go to your friends in this city and ask them to help you find a good lodging place. If you have no friends, go to the office of a reliable Immigrant Aid society.

There are many men and women in every large city in Europe that say they wish to help the immigrants. Some of them are not good. They try to rob immigrants. That is why it is best to go to societies which you know are reliable. You can trust such societies. They will be glad to give you advice. You can also go to the Steamship Company from which your tickets have been bought. The steamship people will tell you what you must do and they will help you.

You may have to wait a long time for your visa. You are worried. Do not send cables or letters to your husband to get you the visa. He cannot help you. You must not blame him. The American Consul in the city where you are waiting is the only one who can give you the visa.

Be careful not to get a false visa.

There are many people in big cities who try to take money from strangers. They will offer to sell you an American visa so you will not have to stand in line at the Consul's office. Do not buy from them. Last year a woman with two children coming to her husband was sent back because she had a false visa which someone had sold her. Many people were deported last year because the visa was false.

You may have to get visas from Consuls of other countries too. If you have to pass through different countries to go to the port where you take your ship, you must get a visa from the officials of all such countries. It is like this: Suppose you are in Warsaw for your visas. Your tickets are for a steamer that sails from Antwerp for America. To go to Antwerp you must pass through Poland, through Germany and through Belgium. So you will need a Polish visa, a German visa, and a Belgian visa. Each visa costs money.

If you cannot get a visa to the United States do not try to go to Canada, unless you are sure you will be allowed to enter Canada. That country is even stricter in some ways than the United States. Many persons were sent back last year from Canada because they could not pass into Canada. Sometimes they did not have enough money. Almost every person needs \$250 to show before he can get into Canada. Sometimes they could not read. Sometimes they were not healthy. Find out if you can enter Canada before you leave Europe. They are Canadian officials in all the large port cities who will give you this advice.

To be safe – always get your visas! And remember without an American visa you cannot enter America.

Do You Know?

How many immigrants may come to America from the country where you were born? Are you within the number allowed for this year?

You know that at the present time only a certain number of immigrants from each country may come into the United States every year. What is the number allowed for your country this year? How many have already gone to America from your country? How many more may still enter this year? Do you know that only one-fifth of the whole number allowed for the year from your country can come in each month? If you start for America after the middle of the month, are you sure the number for that month is not yet filled?

The American immigration officials say each person belongs to the country where he was born. Suppose you were born in Russia. You moved to Austria when you were ten years old. But America says you belong to Russia because that is where you were born, and you will be counted as a Russian for that reason. Remember, when you ask about the number allowed from each country, give the name of the country where you were born.

Each month the United States Secretary of State sends a list to all the American Consuls in Europe which tells them how many people from each country may come to America. Ask questions from every one about this number. Ask the office of the American Consul. Ask at the office of the Ship Company. Ask the Immigrant Aid Society.

About one thousand people came to America last year that did not know that the number from the country where they were born was already filled. They waited at Ellis Island hoping they could come in but they were sent back. Even little children coming to their fathers were sent back because the number was full. How sad for the father and how tragic for the children! If you learn that all persons allowed to come to America from your country for the month or the year have already sailed, wait until you are told that it is safe for you to come.

You will surely be sent back if you come to America after all the people allowed for the month or year from your country have arrived.

The Real Journey Begins

On your way to the seaport

Now you have your visas. You are ready to travel to the seaport where you are to take the big ship for America. If you buy your steamer ticket in the big city where you get your visa, or if your husband has sent you a ticket from America, the steamship company will arrange to take you and your children to the seaport where you board the steamer.

First their doctor to make sure you are well examines you in the office of the steamship company. If this doctor tells you not to try to go to America because you will not pass, or because one of the children has a bad defect, go to another doctor. If the second doctor says the same thing, take his advice and go home. **The American doctors are very strict.**

Whichever way you go, take plenty of food with you. The trip is always longer than you think. And there are very few places where you can buy kosher food. Often the train does not go by a direct way. It does not move with regular passenger trains but with freight or cattle trains and many times your train must wait on a sidetrack to let faster trains go by.

When your train reaches the frontier city, it may be that you and the other immigrants will be examined to see that you are all clean and free from vermin and disease. It is on these trips that you must see that the children are kept clean so that they will not become ill. There are few places in the stations where you and the children can sleep. There are few places where you can wash the children often. Bring with you enough clean underclothes for the children so they can change often.

After you are disinfected or made clean at the frontier station, the train takes you to the seaport. At the seaport the steamship companies have hotels or barracks where all the immigrants must wait until the ship on which they are to sail comes in. In some seaports the immigrants must wait until the ship on which they are to sail comes in. In some seaports the immigrants are not allowed to walk about the city. They must stay in the hotel or barracks until they are ready to go on the ship.

If you are not taken care of by the steamship company when you reach the seaport go to a reliable Immigrant Aid Society. They will advise you and direct you to the proper hotel.

**Be prepared with plenty of food and clean underwear
for use on the journey.**

Are You Ready?

Your train comes into the seaport, usually at night. You and the children are tired. You are taken to the hotel. You put down your baggage and you go to sleep thinking that you have finished with your duties and that you are going on the big ship the first thing in the morning. But there are still things to do.

First there more examinations by doctors. Sometimes a doctor from the country from which you are sailing for America will examine you and the children. This is true in Italy. There is so much pickiness in different parts of Europe that every country wished to protect its own people. They do not want persons who pass through their country to bring sickness or dirt. That is why the doctors examine you so carefully, and that is why in nearly every country the Immigrants must go through a disinfection or cleaning process. You and the children are bathed. The hair is examined to see that there are no vermin. All your clothing and your baggage are disinfected.

Then the American Doctor examines you. He too makes sure that you are clean and free from vermin and disease. And just before you go on the ship to sail away, the doctor belonging to the steamship company examines you again.

If you have followed our advice: If you have started with your children strong and healthy; if no one of you has any of the bad defects mentioned; if you have kept as clean as possible on the journey; you will pass this examination quickly. And now at last you are ready to go on the steamer that will take you to America.

Keep Busy and Cheerful

Very often you must wait your turn to go on the ship. There are many immigrants before you. Or sometimes, one of the children suddenly falls ill with measles or some other slight sickness and you must wait until he/she gets well. So you find again that you have to pay for lodging and food, sometimes for many weeks. You usually wait in the Immigrants Hall belonging to the Ship Company. And you and your children, with nothing to do all day, get so tired and so unhappy. Time is heavy on your hands.

Last year the Council of Jewish Women of America sent three women to the seaports of Holland and Belgium. There the women opened classes for the waiting immigrants. They taught the women and children how to speak and read English. They brought them books. They taught the girls how to sew and knit. They gave much pleasure to the children. This year the Committee of fine women who live in those cities will do the same work for the waiting immigrants. Join these classes. Ask these Committees to teach you English while you are waiting to come to America. If you keep busy you will feel much better.



Aboard the Ship

At last you know the name of the ship on which you will sail. You are nearly ready to leave. You count your money and you find you have very little left. You will need money for the train to take you from Ellis Island to the city where your relatives live. And what about money for food on the train and other little expenses?

Before you sail, send a cable to your husband or family. Tell them you need traveling expenses to Detroit or to Chicago or to some other city or town to which you are going. They will send the money to the Treasurer at Ellis Island or at Boston or Philadelphia so that you will find it waiting for you when you reach America.

And make sure that you have tickets for your baggage before you go on the ship. Many times baggage is lost and if you have the tickets the company will find your baggage for you.

Always let your relatives know the name of the steamer on which you are sailing.

Arriving in America

The ship is crowded. There are many third class passengers. The air is not fresh. The food may not agree with the children. The trip is hard. But do your best to keep yourself and the children well and clean. Try to be on the open deck as much as possible. Try to be cheerful. It is important that you feel well and look well. Because a few miles away from New York the ship stops at an island which is a quarantine station. Here the doctors examine the passengers and the ship. They do not want any vermin or sickness to be brought into the United States. If they find passengers have vermin on their heads or bodies they hold them at this quarantine station until they are clean.

How grateful you are when the steamer comes into the harbor: The first and second class passengers leave the ship at once after they have been examined by the immigration officials. You and all other third class passengers are taken on small boats to Ellis Island if your ship docks in New York.

Again the doctors examine you. This time most carefully. If the doctors find some defect on you, or if one of the children has fever, the entire family is held at Ellis Island until the hospital doctors say that all of you are well. After the doctors pass you, you go into a big hall where the inspectors talk to you. They have a paper before them on which is written your name, your children's names and ages, where you come from, where you are going, to whom you are going and how much money you have with you.

The inspectors ask you many questions. You show them the affidavit from your relatives, your passport and visa. They ask everyone over sixteen years of age to read for them. There are interpreters present who speak your language and who will explain to you what the inspectors ask. Do not be afraid. The inspectors wear uniforms but they are not Cossacks. They are friendly men. They have families too. They understand how anxious you are to be with your relatives, and they will be kind to you.

Now the inspectors have finished. Your papers are all alright. Your husband has received your cable and has sent money to pay your railroad tickets. There is no reason to hold you, so the inspector sends you to another large room. This is called the railroad room. A friendly woman speaking your own language will come to you and offer to help you.

There are fifteen societies on Ellis Island who give advice to immigrants. Their representatives wear a badge or a band to show who they are. If you have any questions to ask, speak to them. They want to help you. They are of every religion and they can speak every language. If you wish advice, ask for one of them who speak your own language to come to you.

At this railroad station at the end of your journey you see your husband and friends who are waiting for you. What joy to be reunited!

You are all happy, as your husband, with the children hanging to his hand, leads the way to the street car or automobile which will take you to your new home. The hard journey is over and the troubles that you had will seem like a bad dream, when you and your husband make plans for your life together in the new land.

**May your hopes be realized!
Our best wishes go with you!**



At last you are in America!!!