

VOCABULARY—continued

Immigration To come into a country of which one is not a native for permanent residence

Indentured servant A person who signs and is bound by indentures to work for another for a specified time, especially in return for payment of travel expenses

Lameness Having a body part and especially a limb so disabled as to impair freedom of movement

Liberty The quality or state of being free; the positive enjoyment of various social, political, or economic rights and privileges, the power of choice

Limp To walk lamely; to proceed slowly or with difficulty

Literacy Test A visual and written examination to determine an immigrant's ability to read and/or write.

Anti-immigration forces had been trying to impose a literacy test since the 1880's as a means of restricting immigration. They finally succeeded with Immigration Act of 1917, passed over President Woodrow Wilson's veto. This law required all immigrants, 16 years or older, to read a 40-word passage in their native language. Dual-language cards were used by inspectors to test immigrants' literacy.

Manifest A list of passengers or an invoice of cargo for a vehicle, as on a ship or plane

In 1893, the United States began to require the steamship companies record in manifests the vital statistics of all passengers. The manifest sheets listed the names of the passengers and their answers to a series of questions regarding nationality, marital status, destination, occupation and other personal information. When a ship arrived in New York, the manifests were turned over to Ellis Island Inspectors and used as a basis for cross-examining each immigrant. Immigrants were tagged with the number of the manifest page on which their name appeared. By checking the tags, inspectors could group and identify new arrivals.

Medical inspection cards Punched daily aboard ship, the cards were presented to the Ellis Island physicians for final examination. If the immigrant was in good health, the card was stamped "passed".

Migration To move from one country, place, or locality to another

Passage A way of exit or entrance; a road, path, channel, or course by which something passes

Radical Of, relating to, or constituting a political group associated with views, practices, and policies of extreme change; advocating extreme measures to retain or restore a political state of affairs

VOCABULARY

Alien: Relating, belonging, or owing allegiance to another country or government

Anarchist: One who rebels against authority, established order, or ruling power

Ancestor: One from whom a person is descended and who is usually more remote in the line of descent than a grandparent

Bigamy: The act of entering into a marriage with one person while still legally married to another

Castle Garden: Immigrant processing center from 1855-1891. Approximately 7.5 million people were processed at Castle Garden

Contagious: Communicable by contact

Deportation: The removal from a country of an alien whose presence is unlawful or prejudicial

Dormitory: A room for sleeping; a large room containing numerous beds

Ellis Island: An island in Upper New York Bay; served as the immigration station from 1892-1954.

The original site of today's Ellis Island was 3.5 acres of land. After tons of shale and granite landfill, excavated from the infant New York subways, as added Ellis Island grew to 27.5 acres.

The New Jersey shoreline is only 2,000 yards away, the southern tip of Manhattan about a mile across the harbor.

Emigrant: One who emigrates

Ethnic: Of or relating to large groups of people classed according to common racial, national, tribal, religious, linguistic, or cultural origin or background

Europe: Continent of the Eastern Hemisphere between Asia and the Atlantic Ocean

Goiter: An enlargement of the thyroid gland visible as a swelling of the front of the neck.

Hospital An institution where the sick or injured are given medical or surgical care

Immigrant A person who comes to a country to take up permanent residence

Spain	72,636
Belgium	63,141
Czechoslovakia (1920-1931-)	48,140
Bulgaria (1901-1931)	42,085
Wales	27,113
Yugoslavia (1920-1931)	25,017
Finland (1920-1931)	7,833
Switzerland	1,103

WHO'S WHO!

Below is a list of persons who not only immigrated to America, but who became celebrated successes in their respective fields.

Name	Yr. of Birth/Death	Native Country	Arrived	Field
Isaac Asmov	1920/1992	Russia	1923	Literature
Charles Atlas	1894/1972	Italy	1903	Body Building
Irving Berlin	1888/1989	Russia	1893	Music
Frank Capra	1897/1991	Italy	1903	Film
Father Edward Flanagan	1886/1948	Ireland	1904	Religion
Felix Frankfurter	1882/1965	Austria	1894	Law
Samuel Goldwyn	1881/1974	Poland	1896	Film
Bob Hope	1903/	England	1908	Show Business
Sol Hurok	1884/1974	Ukraine	1906	Theater
Al Jolson	1886/1950	Lithuania	1894	Show Business
Elia Kazan(joglous)	1909/	Turkey	1913	Film/Theater
William S. Knudsen	1879/1949	Denmark	1900	Auto Industry
Bela Lugosi	1882/1956	Hungary	1921	Film/Theater
Hyman G. Rickover	1898/1986	Russia	1904	Science
Edward G. Robinson	1893/1973	Romania	1903	Film
Knute Rockne	1888/1931	Norway	1893	Sports
Ben Shahn	1898/1969	Lithuania	1906	Art
Lee Strasberg	1902/1982	Austria	1909	Theater
Rudolph Valention	1895/1926	Italy	1913	Film

1941-1954 Part of Ellis Island served as a detention center for enemy aliens.

November 29, 1965 Ellis Island closed and was virtually abandoned.

May 11, 1965 Ellis Island added by President Lyndon Johnson's Presidential Proclamation to the Statue of Liberty National Monument.

1976 Ellis Island opened to the public for limited seasonal visitation.

1983 The restoration of Ellis Island began.

1984 Closed for \$160 million restoration project.

September 10, 1990 Ellis Island reopened with extensive facilities including a new museum, exhibits, and with the main building restored to how it would have been during the period of 1918-1920.

Today Ellis Island continues to entertain thousands of visitors each year. Over 100 million (or 40% of) Americans can trace their roots to an ancestor who entered the United States through Ellis Island.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Below is a list by country of the number of immigrants who passed through Ellis Island from January 1892 to June 1897, and from 1901 to 1931.

Exceptions to those years are noted in parentheses.

Italy	2,502,310
Russia	1,893,542
Hungary (1905-1931)	859,557
Austria (1905-1931)	768,132
Austria-Hungary (1892-1904)	648,163
Germany	633,148
England	551,969
Ireland	520,904
Sweden	348,036
Greece	245,058
Norway	226,278
Ottoman Empire	212,825
Scotland	191,023
The West Indies	171,774
Poland (1892-1897 and 1920-1931)	153,444
Portugal	120,725
France (including Corsica)	109,687
Denmark	99,414
Romania (1894-1931)	79,092
The Netherlands	78,602

Ellis Island Chronology

April 11, 1890 Ellis Island designated an immigration station.

1892-1924 These are considered the peak years: 12 million immigrants were processed at Ellis Island.

January 1, 1892 Ellis Island opened as an immigration station.

1892-1925 Manifest Sheets issued. In 1893, the United States began to require that steamship companies record in manifests the vital statistics of all passengers. The manifest sheets listed the names of the passengers and their answers to a series of questions regarding nationality, marital status, destination, occupations and other personal information. When a ship arrived in New York, the manifests were turned over to Ellis Island Inspectors and used as a basis for cross-examining each immigrant.

Immigrants were tagged with the number of the manifest page on which their name appeared. By checking the tags, inspectors could group and identify the new arrivals.

June 14, 1897 Buildings destroyed by fire, but all persons safely evacuated.

1900-1914 Immigrant arrivals reached approximately one million each year during the peak immigration period, 1900-1914.

December 17, 1900 Reopened as an immigration station, on a larger scale.

1905-1907 3 million immigrants entered Ellis Island during these three years.

April 17, 1907 The most active day in Ellis Island history. 11,745 people were processed on this day.

1917 Literacy Test introduced. Anti-immigration forces had been trying to impose a literacy test since the 1880's as a means of restricting immigration. They finally succeeded with Immigration Act of 1917, passed over President Woodrow Wilson's veto. This law required all immigrants, 16 years or older, to read a 40-word passage in their native language.

1917-1919 Ellis Island served as a detention center for enemy aliens, a way station for navy personnel and a hospital for the army.

1918 Ellis Island served as a deportation center and immigration station until 1954.

1924 Mass immigration ended. Immigrants now were inspected in countries of origin.

1939-1946 Part of Ellis Island was used as a Coast Guard Station.

Sometimes people were refused entry into America
Medical Inspection determines an immigrant's fate of Ellis Island.

Only 2% (or roughly 250,000) of all immigrants passing through Ellis Island were denied entry to the United States. "

Historical Note: According to a 1917 U.S. Public Service manual, 9 out of 100 immigrants were marked with an "X" during the line inspection and were sent to mental examination rooms for further questioning. During this primary examination, doctors first asked the immigrants to answer a few questions about themselves, and then to solve simple arithmetic problems, or count backward from 20 to 1, or to complete a puzzle. Out of the 9 immigrants held for this "Weeding out" sessions, perhaps 1 or 2 would be detained for a secondary session of more extensive testing.

INSPECTOR QUESTIONS

Any Immigrant deemed "liable to become a public charge" was denied entry to the United States. To Ellis Island inspectors, this clause, meant those who appeared unable to support themselves and therefore, likely to become a burden on society. Ellis Island inspectors carefully weighed the prospects of new arrivals, especially those of women and children intending to rejoin husbands and fathers in this country.

To determine an immigrant's social, economic, and moral fitness, inspectors asked as many as 29 rapid-fire series of questions including the ones listed below.

1. What is your name?
2. How did you pay for your passage?
3. Do you have promise of a job?
4. Are you an anarchist?
5. Are you going to join a relative or friend?
6. What is your destination?
7. Are you traveling with family or alone?
8. What is your occupation?
9. Where were you born?
10. Where did you last reside?
11. How much is two and one?
12. How much is two and two?
13. How do you wash stairs; from the top or from the bottom?
14. Can you draw a diamond?

The inspector draws the shape of a diamond and then asks the immigrant to repeat the shape. This exercise can be modified using various geometric shapes.

The apex of my civic pride and personal contentment was reached on the bright September morning when I entered the public school. That day I must always remember, even if I live to be too old that I cannot tell my name. Father himself conducted as to school. He would not have delegated that mission to the President of the United States.

He had very little opportunity to prosecute his education, which, in truth, had never been begun. His struggle for a bare living left him no time to take advantage of the public evening school. In time he learned to read, to follow a conversation or lecture; but he never learned to write correctly; and his pronunciation remains extremely foreign to this day.

If education, culture, the higher life were shining things to be worshiped from afar, he had still a means left whereby he could draw one step nearer to them. He could send his children to school, to learn all those things that he knew by fame to be desirable. His children should be students, should fill his house with books and intellectual company. As for the children themselves, he knew no surer way to their advancement and happiness.

Almost his first act on landing on American soil, three years before, had been his application for naturalization. He had taken the remaining steps in the process with eager promptness, and at the earliest moment allowed by the law, he became a citizen of the United States.

The boasted freedom of the New World meant to him far more than the right to reside, travel, and work wherever he pleased; it meant the freedom to speak his thoughts, to throw off the shackles of superstition, to test his own fate, unhindered by political or religious tyranny.

More links

www.wzo.org.il/home/politic/d132.htm

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/immigrat/ellis/>

http://www.cmp.ucr.edu/exhibitions/immigration_id.htm

<http://www.historychannel.com/ellisland/>

http://www.riverdeep.net/current/2001/08/082001_ellisland.jhtml

http://www.ellislandimmigrants.org/ellis_island_immigrants.htm

They looked to me like beings from another world than mine. But those whom I envied had their troubles, as I often heard. Their school life was one struggle against injustice from instructors, spiteful treatment from fellow students, and insults from everybody. They were rejected at the universities, where they were admitted in the ratio of three Jews to a hundred Gentiles, under the same debarring entrance conditions as at the high school: especially rigorous examinations, dishonest marking, or arbitrary rulings without disguise. No, the czar did not want us in the schools.

(2) In her book *Promised Land*, Mary Antin described what it was like to be Jewish in Russia during the 1880s ---

I remember a time when I thought a pogrom had broken out in our street, and I wonder that I did not die of fear. It was some Christian holiday, and we had been warned by the police to keep indoors. Gates were locked; shutters were barred. Fearful and yet curious, we looked through the cracks in the shutters. We saw a procession of peasants and townspeople, led by priests, carrying crosses and banners and images. We lived in fear till the end of the day, knowing that the least disturbance might start a riot, and a riot led to a pogrom.

(3) Mary Antin arrived in the United States in 1894. She wrote about her early experiences in her book, *Promised Land*, that was published in 1912.

The first meal was an object lesson of much variety. My father produced several kinds of food, ready to eat, without any cooking, from little tin cans that had printing all over them. He attempted to introduce us to a queer, slippery kind of fruit, which he called banana but had to give it up for the time being. After the meal, he had better luck with a curious piece of furniture on runners, which he called a rocking chair.

In the evening of the first day my father conducted us to the public baths. As we moved along in a little procession, I was delighted with the illumination of the streets. So many lamps, and they burned until morning, my father said, and so people did not need to carry lanterns. In America everything was free. Light was free; the streets were as bright as a synagogue on a holy day. Music was free; we had been serenaded, to our gaping delight by a brass band of many pieces.

Education was free. The subject my father had written about repeatedly, as comprising his chief hope for us children, the essence of American opportunity, the treasure that no thief could touch, not even misfortune or poverty. It was the one thing that he was able to promise us when he sent for us; surer, safer than bread or shelter.

If you had not made friends with the police, the case might go to court; and there you lost before the trial was called unless the judge had reason to befriend you.

The czar was always sending us commands - you shall not do this and you shall not do that - till there was very little left that we might do, except pay tribute and die. One positive command he gave us: You shall love and honor your emperor. In every congregation a prayer must be said for the czar's health, or the chief of police would close the synagogue. On a royal birthday every house must fly a flag, or the owner would be dragged to a police station and be fined twenty-five rubles. A decrepit old woman, who lived all alone in a tumble-down shanty, supported by the charity of the neighborhood, crossed her paralyzed hands one day when flags were ordered up, and waited for her doom, because she had no flag. The vigilant policeman kicked the door open with his great boot, took the last pillow from the bed, sold it, and hoisted a flag above the rotten roof.

The czar always got his dues, no matter if it ruined a family. There was a poor locksmith who owed the czar three hundred rubles, because his brother had escaped from Russia before serving his time in the army. There was no such fine for Gentiles, only for Jews; and the whole family was liable. Now the locksmith never could have so much money, and he had no valuables to pawn. The police came and attached his household goods, everything he had, including his bride's trousseau; and the sale of the goods brought thirty-five rubles. After a year's time the police came again, looking for the balance of the czar's dues.

They put their seal on everything they found.

There was one public school for boys, and one for girls, but Jewish children were admitted in limited numbers - only ten to a hundred; and even the lucky ones had their troubles. First, you had to have a tutor at home, who prepared you and talked all the time about the examination you would have to pass, till you were scared. You heard on all sides that the brightest Jewish children were turned down if the examining officers did not like the turn of their noses. You went up to be examined with the other Jewish children, your heart heavy about that matter of your nose. There was a special examination for the Jewish candidates, of course: a nine-year-old Jewish child had to answer questions that a thirteen-year-old Gentile was hardly expected to answer. But that did not matter so much; you had been prepared for the thirteen-year-old test. You found the questions quite easy.

You wrote your answers triumphantly - and you received a low rating, and there was no appeal.

I used to stand in the doorway of my father's store munching an apple that did not taste good any more, and watch the pupils going home from school in twos and threes; the girls in neat brown dresses and black aprons and little stiff hats, the boys in trim uniforms with many buttons. They had ever so many books in the satchels on their backs. They would take them out at home, and read and write, and learn all sorts of interesting things.

totaling 200 in 1881 alone. Approximately 40 Jews were killed, many times that number wounded, and hundreds of women raped. Settlement outside of tulum towns and shtetls, prohibited Jews from buying property in the countryside, and banned Jews from trading on Sunday mornings or Christian holidays.

The next wave of pogroms began in the spring of 1903, in the midst of chaos and anarchy in the countryside, demonstrations and rioting in the cities, and violent anti-Semitic campaigns. Accusations of Jewish treachery in the Russo-Japanese war effort, accusations that Jews were at the forefront of the revolutionary movement and that Jews were murdering Christians all sparked the first pogrom in Kishinev.

The Bund, a Jewish left-wing organization, organized defense networks among Jewish workers and community members. Five months later, when a pogrom broke out in Gomel, the Jewish community actively resisted. Gomel might have been significantly worse were it not for aggressive Jewish defense measures.

However, the worst anti-Jewish violence broke out in 1905, after Tsar Nicholas II was forced to sign the October Manifesto, creating a constitutional monarchy. More than 80 percent of the pogroms of 1905-1906 occurred in the 60 days following the establishment of the monarchy.

The Horowitz Family lived in Odessa where a terrible pogrom took place. They saw their neighbors murdered and homes burned. They made their decision on October 18th, 1905 that they needed to flee to a land of safety and freedom. It took 17 months to gather money for passage and entry to America. They are selecting the few items they can carry and have \$50.00 hidden inside their clothing.

A FIRST HAND ACCOUNT

Mary Antin, *The Promised Land* (1912)

The Gentiles used to wonder at us because we cared so much about religious things about food and Sabbath and teaching the children Hebrew. They were angry with us for our obstinacy, as they called it, and mocked us and ridiculed the most sacred things. There were wise Gentiles who understood. These were educated people, like Fedora Pavlovna, who made friends with their Jewish neighbors. They were always respectful and openly admired some of our ways. But most of the Gentiles were ignorant. There was one thing, however, the Gentiles always understood, and that was money. They would take any kind of bribe, at any time. They expected it. Peace cost so much a year, in Polotzk. If you did not keep on good terms with your Gentile neighbors, they had a hundred ways of molesting you. If you chased their pigs when they came rooting up your garden, or objected to their children maltreating your children, they might complain against you to the police, stuffing their case with false accusations and false witnesses.

RUSSIA, 1905, HUNDREDS OF JEWS ARE KILLED IN ANTI-JEWISH RIOTS (POGROMS)

The Jerusalem Post's feature "This day in history" reports on October 18, 1905, when hundreds of Jews were murdered by Russians in anti-Jewish riots: 1905: A week-long pogrom marking one of the bloodiest periods in Russian Jewish history begins, spreading to dozens of towns and villages throughout Russia. Hundreds of Jews are killed, thousands are wounded and over forty-thousand homes and shops are destroyed in the rioting.

The word "pogrom" became linked to anti-Semitic violence after the outbreak of three great waves of anti-Jewish rioting in the Russian Empire in 1881-82, 1903-06, and 1919-21. The violence usually consisted of looting, assault, arson, rape, and murder.

The pogroms often began in cities and then spread to shtetles, small towns with about 1000 people, centered around a synagogue and marketplace, within the Pale of Jewish Settlement.

Tsar Nicholas I created the Pale of Jewish Settlement in April 1835 --- a limited geographical area where Jews were mandated to live. The Pale included Lithuania, Poland, the south-western provinces, and White Russia with a few variations until its end in 1917 (Ritter).

"The Pale was the single most destructive legal burden borne by Russian Jewry, and one of the most enduring.

Within the Pale, Jews were banned from most rural areas and some cities. They were prohibited from building synagogues near churches and using Hebrew in official documents; barred from agriculture; they earned a living as petty traders, middlemen, shopkeepers, peddlers, and artisans.

By the time the term "anti-Semitism" was first used in the late 1870s, Jews in Europe were seen by many as alien to the nation or the people. The peasants in Russia viewed Jews as aliens; their religion, language, food, clothing, and manners were all different strange, and mysterious.

Russian bureaucrats believed that the teachings of Judaism itself, especially as conveyed by the Talmud, lead Jews into unproductive, parasitical, and exploitative commercial activities.

The assassination of Tsar Alexander II in 1881 threw the Russian government into chaos and directly preceded the first major outbreak of pogroms. Rumors that Tsar Alexander III had issued a decree instructing the people to beat and plunder the Jews for having murdered his father and for exploiting the people encouraged the pogromists. Beginning with Elizabetgrad, a wave of pogroms spread throughout the southwestern regions,



HOROWITZ FAMILY MIGRATES FROM RUSSIA TO NEW JERSEY

Have you heard of the Golden Door?

Do your neighbors whisper stories of a land where the streets are paved with gold: a place there is liberty, freedom and justice for all? A place where hard work is rewarded; where there is enough food for everyone. Is there a place that is safe from pogroms and hatred of Jewish people? Have you heard of America? You say good-bye to your homeland forever.

You embark on a steamer.

You have heard of ELLIS ISLAND You will make the same passage that 12 million immigrants have before you on their way to the United States.

Will America accept you? You have heard the stories of the many people who have been turned back. You have your \$50.00 required to enter hidden in your clothing somewhere. Do you have what it takes to enter the land of the free?

Today is April 17, 1907.

It will be remembered as the busiest day in Ellis Island history. Your bags are packed. Your family is with you. You are one of 11,745 people attempting to gain citizenship on this day alone. Put on the shoes of Russian Jewish immigrant family and take the journey.