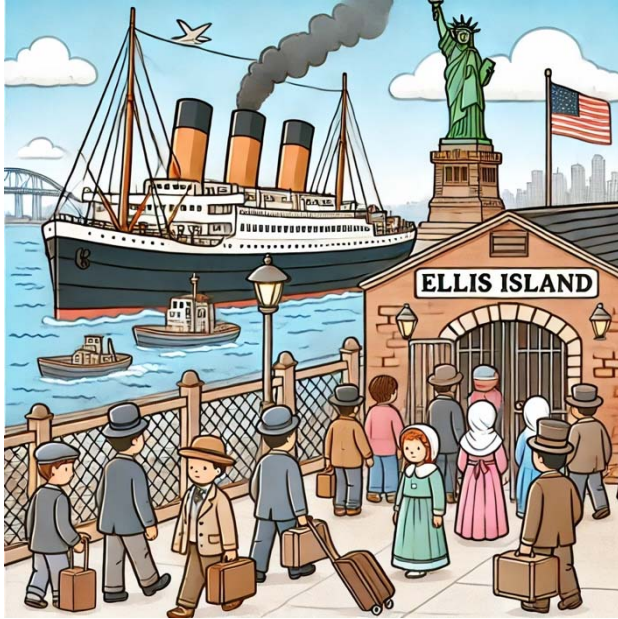


Name _____



Coming to America

Between the late 1800s and early 1900s, millions of people from all over the world left their homes and traveled to the United States. They came for many reasons, including better jobs, safety, and freedom. Most of them arrived at Ellis Island, a famous immigration station in New York Harbor.

Economic Reasons: Searching for a Better Life

Many immigrants came to America looking for jobs. In their home countries, it was hard to find work, and many families struggled to buy food. The United States had factories, railroads, and farms that needed workers. Immigrants took jobs in steel mills, coal mines, and textile factories. Even though the work was tough, they hoped to earn enough money to build a better future.

Political Reasons: Escaping Unfair Treatment

Some immigrants came because of political problems in their home countries. In places like Russia and Eastern Europe, people were forced to follow strict government rules. Some groups, like Jewish families, faced unfair treatment and even violence because of their religion. The United States offered more freedom and safety, so they left their homes in search of a new life.

Social Reasons: A Fresh Start

Many immigrants also wanted a fresh start. Some came to reunite with family members who had already moved to America. Others wanted to escape crowded cities or areas where people had little opportunity to succeed. America was known as the "land of opportunity", where people could work hard and create a better future.

Arriving at Ellis Island

For most immigrants, Ellis Island was their first stop in America. After long, difficult boat trips, they had to go through medical and legal inspections. Doctors checked if they were healthy, and officials made sure they could work and follow U.S. laws. Some families were sent back if they didn't pass the tests, but most were allowed to start their new lives.

A Lasting Impact

Immigrants from this time period helped build the United States. They worked in cities, started businesses, and added their traditions to American culture. Today, many Americans can trace their families back to people who passed through Ellis Island in search of a better life.

