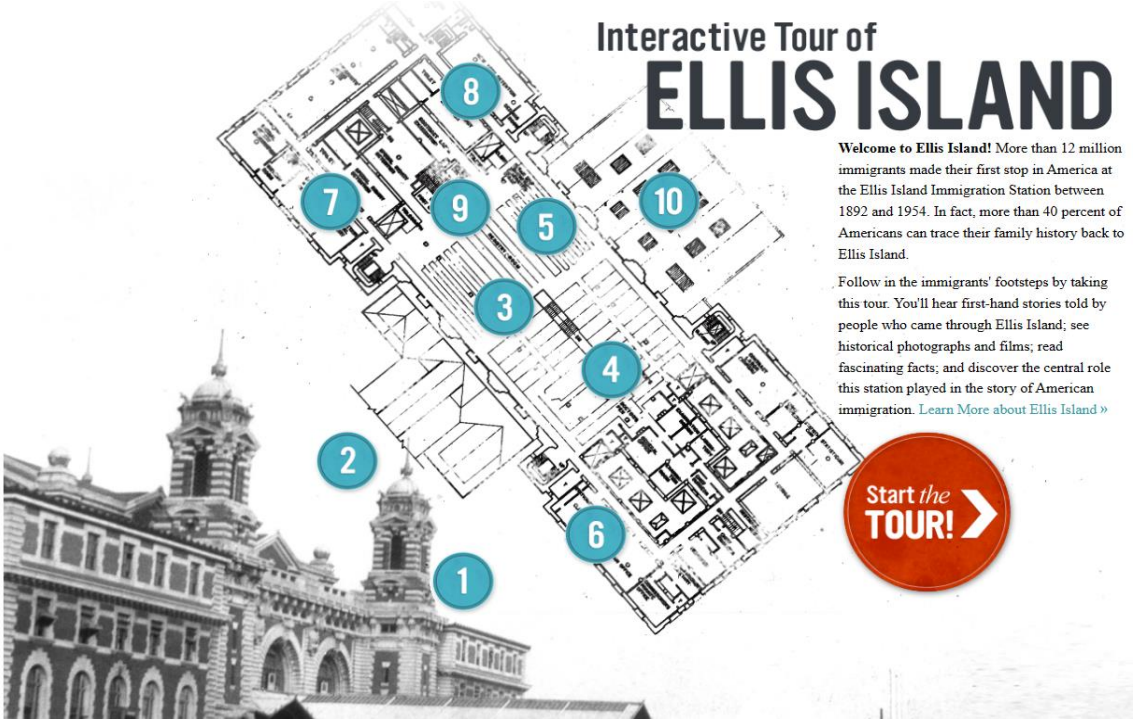
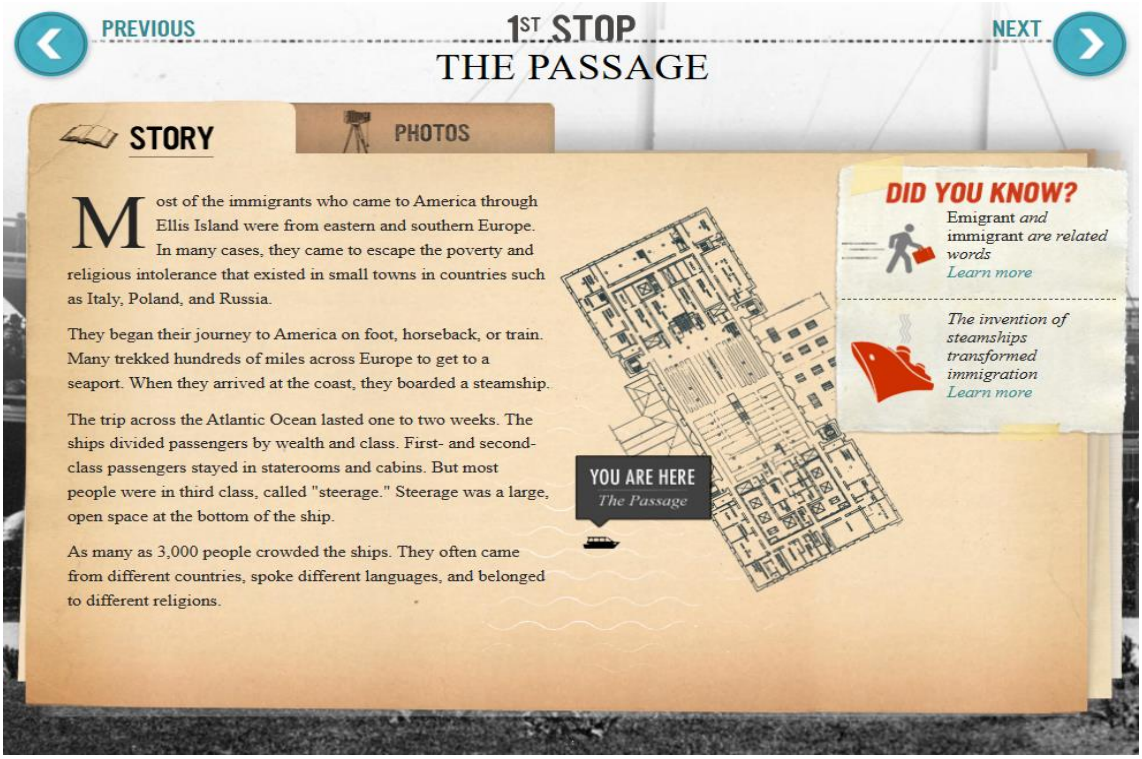




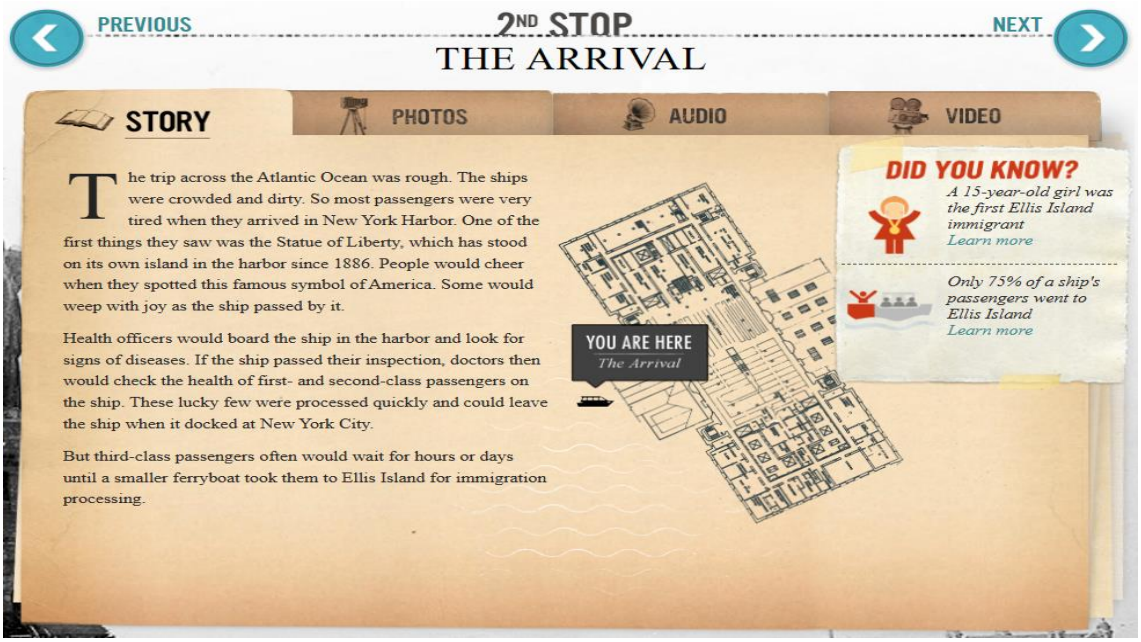
FOLDER ITEM #2
QUESTIONS

[Ellis Island Interactive Tour With Facts, Pictures, Video | Scholastic.com]

Press the "Start the Tour" button. 1st Stop.

1. What is the difference between an Emigrant and an Immigrant?
2. What impact did steam power vs sail power have on immigration?
3. What was "steerage?"
4. What percentage of American can trace their family back to Ellis Island?

Click "Next."



2nd Stop.

5. Who were the 25% that didn't have to go to Ellis Island to be processed?

3rd Stop.

6. Describe what passengers would bring with them in their journey.
7. Watch the video. Describe the women coming off the Ferryboat.

4th Stop.

8. Why did registration take so long?

5th Stop.

9. What could get immigrants send back to their country of origin?
10. Look at the Photos. Describe the "Great Hall."

PREVIOUS

6TH STOP

NEXT

THE MEDICAL EXAM

STORY | PHOTOS | AUDIO

The doctors at Ellis Island developed a system to identify immigrants who needed medical attention. The first test was a "six-second physical." A uniformed doctor looked for any signs of illness or contagious diseases. The doctor noted whether the immigrants limped or were short of breath, if their eyes were red, if they acted disturbed or seemed otherwise abnormal.

If someone was considered a risk to the public health, his or her clothes were marked by a piece of chalk with an identifying letter. An "X" denoted insanity. A "P" denoted pulmonary (lung) problems. Immigrants who were marked were taken out of the line and kept for further examination. Immigrants who passed the six-second exam continued through the maze of metal rails toward the far end of the hall for the legal inspection.

DID YOU KNOW?

Medical detainees were sent to the Ellis Island hospital
Learn more

120,000 people with diseases or disabilities were sent back
Learn more

6th Stop.

11. What percent of all immigrants processed at Ellis Island were forced to return to their country of origin?

PREVIOUS

7TH STOP

NEXT

THE LEGAL INSPECTION

STORY | PHOTOS | AUDIO

Each arriving steamship's crew gave officials at Ellis Island a list of names of the passengers onboard. The manifest, as this list was called, had the name and a description of each passenger. One by one, the passengers were called forward to speak with a uniformed inspector seated on a tall stool behind a high desk. Interpreters helped the immigrants communicate.

Twenty-nine questions were asked of every immigrant. They included: *Where were you born? Are you married? What is your occupation? Have you ever been convicted of a crime? How much money do you have? What is your destination?* An immigrant could be detained for further inquiry if his or her answers differed from the answers listed on the manifest.

DID YOU KNOW?

Immigration policies changed after World War I
Learn more

For 30 years, Ellis Island was a detention center only
Learn more

7th Stop

12. Listen to the Audio. Describe Paul Lauric's experience.

PREVIOUS

8TH STOP

NEXT

DETAINEES

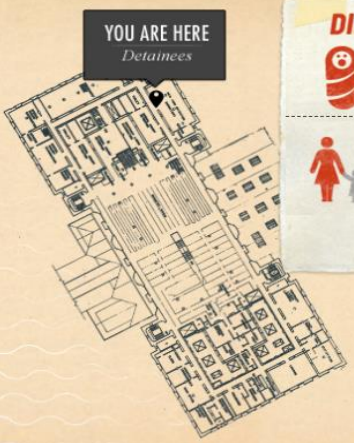
STORY

PHOTOS

For most people, Ellis Island was the "Isle of Hope." But for the unfortunate few who failed the health or legal inspections, it was the "Isle of Tears."

Legal detainees lived in a dormitory room on the third floor. They might wait a few days or even a month. Then their case would be reviewed in the Hearing Room.

People who were detained for medical reasons were cared for at the island's hospital or kept in quarantine. Some were treated for weeks, or even months. Eventually, a Board of Special Inquiry would review an individual's medical report and decide whether to allow him into the United States or to send him back.



DID YOU KNOW?

355 babies were born on Ellis Island
Learn more

Those who were turned away travelled home for free
Learn more

8th Stop.

13. Who paid for immigrants forced to return to their country of origin?

PREVIOUS

9TH STOP

NEXT

THE STAIRS OF SEPARATION

STORY

PHOTOS

AUDIO

After the medical and legal inspections, the immigrants arrived at the top of another staircase at the other end of the Great Hall. This staircase had three aisles. Immigrants who were being detained were often brought down the center aisle. People who were traveling west or south walked down the right side of the staircase. Those going to New York City or to the north walked down the left side.

At the bottom of the stairs was a post office, a ticketing office for the railways, and social workers to help the immigrants who needed assistance. There was also an office to exchange money from their home country for U.S. dollars. No matter where they were going after Ellis Island, immigrants needed money. Exchange rates for currencies around the world were posted each day on the blackboard.

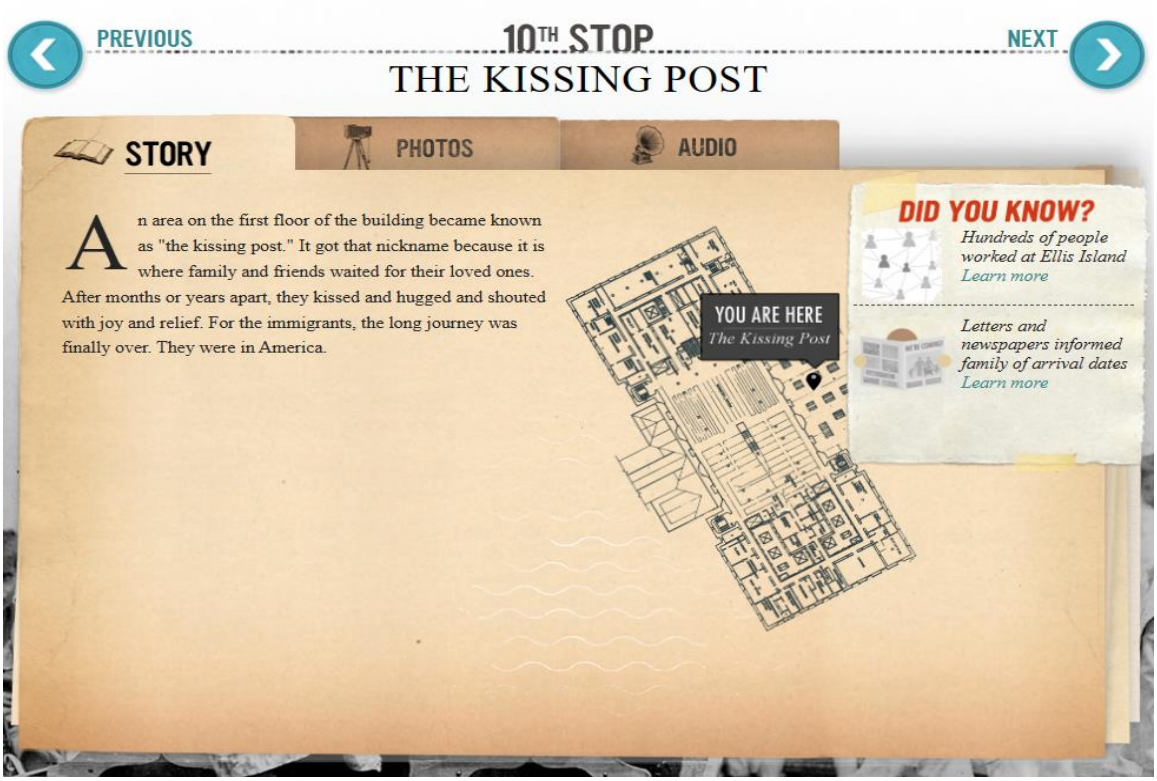
DID YOU KNOW?

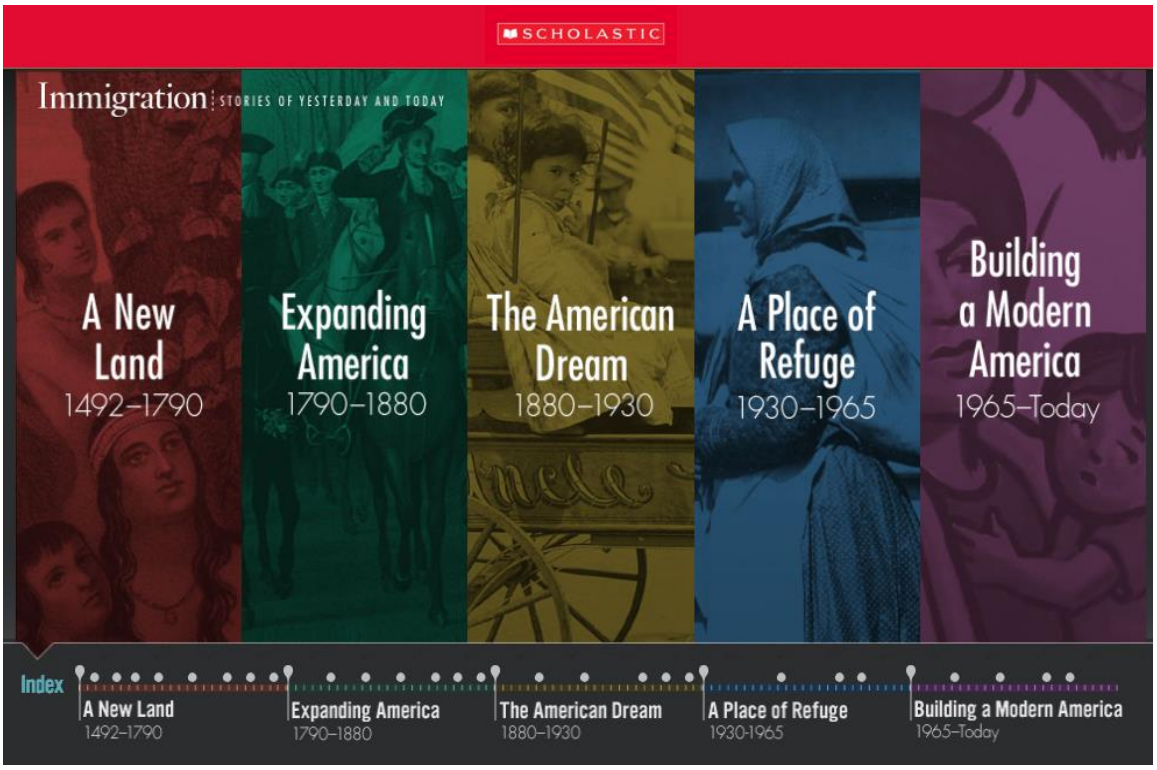
More than 30 languages were spoken at Ellis Island
Learn more

Until World War I, passports and visas weren't required
Learn more

9th Stop.

14. How did World War I change immigrant requirements?





10th Stop.

15. What was the "kissing post?"

Click on "Immigration Data"

16. Using the charts provided, describe the differences between 19th century and modern immigration.
17. What happens to Immigration numbers by the decade of the 1920s?

Click on "Explore the Historical Timeline"

18. What country accounted for most of the immigrants processed at Angel Island, on the West Coast?