

## Lesson Plan

### The Immigrant Experience

**Book:** *Exploring Ellis Island*

**Series:** Travel America's Landmarks

**Level:** Beacon

#### Objective

To help students use details and examples from a text to explain a historical event.

#### Supplies

- Several copies of the *Exploring Ellis Island* book
- Pencils and paper

#### Before the Activity

Read *Exploring Ellis Island* out loud, or assign it to students to read on their own. Divide the class into groups of two, and give each group a copy of the book, a pencil, and paper.

#### Activity

Millions of immigrants came through the Ellis Island immigration station in the late 1800s and the early 1900s. Each of them had a story, a reason they were moving to the United States and an experience of life in the United States. Students will explore these different stories through mock interviews.

One person in each group will pretend to be a reporter. The other person will pretend to be an immigrant coming through the Ellis Island immigration station. The reporter should write down a list of at least five questions to ask the immigrant about his or her experience. The reporter can use the book to come up with ideas for interview questions.

Give the immigrants time to review the questions. The immigrants can use the book to infer how to answer the questions. The immigrants should have a clear idea of where they came from, why they came to the United States, and what life was like for them in the United States. At the end of class, invite groups to the front of the class to present their mock interviews.

#### Evaluation

Award each group 1 point for each of the reporter's five questions and 1 point for each of the immigrant's five answers, for a total of 10 points.

**Standards**

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 4 (RI 4.1).