

ELLIS ISLAND: A VIRTUAL TOUR (Part I)

Google: Ellis Island interactive tour scholastic

Then, click on “START THE TOUR”.

You will have 10 stops on your visit; write their names.

Stop 1: THE PASSAGE

1. Places of origin of the majority of immigrants: **Eastern and Southern Europe**
2. 2 reasons why people emigrated to the USA at the end of the 19th century:
Poverty and religious intolerance
3. Approximate length of the trip across the Atlantic: **one to two weeks**
4. place where third-class passengers stayed : **steerage**
5. Average number of passengers on a boat: **3000**

Stop 2: THE ARRIVAL

1. What classes of passengers got a medical check on the boats? **1st and 2nd class passengers**
2. What happened to third-class passengers? They had to go through Ellis Island
3. Percentage of passengers sent to Ellis Island: **75 %** (Read “Did you know?”)

Stop 3: THE BAGGAGE ROOM

1. What did the officers use to identify the immigrants? **They used numbered identity tags**
2. picture 1: the baggage room / picture 2: the Registry Room or Great Hall / picture 3 : the stairs

Stop 4: THE STAIRS TO THE REGISTRY ROOM

1. Where did the doctors stand? Why? **They stood at the top of the stairs to see if people had difficulties walking or breathing. They identified sick or weak people.**

Stop 5: THE REGISTRY ROOM (also called the **GREAT HALL**)

1. name of eye disease: **trachoma**
2. Was the atmosphere a) quiet or b) **noisy**?
4. **True** or False?

This was the place where officials decided if the persons could enter the country right away or if they had to take other tests.

Stop 6: THE MEDICAL EXAM

1. Name of the first test: **the six second physical exam**
2. How were they “identified”? **the doctors marked their clothes with chalk signs (= craie): there were identifying letters to health problems.**
3. *Click on the second “Learn more”*
Percentage of the immigrants who didn’t pass (=réussir) this test: **10%**

Stop 7: THE LEGAL INSPECTION

How many questions were asked to each immigrant at this point? **29**

Stop 8: DETAINEES

1. What were the 2 nicknames (surnoms) given to Ellis Island? **Isle of Hope** and **Isle of tears**
2. *Click on the first "Learn more"* How many babies were born on Ellis Island? **355**
3. How many people died there? **More than 3,500**

Stop 9: THE STAIRS OF SEPARATION

1. the way accepted immigrants went was either to the right or left
The staircase (escalier) was divided into 3 parts and immigrants who were being detained went down the center aisle.
2. *Click on the first "Learn more"*
How many languages were spoken on Ellis Island? **More than thirty**
3. **False.** Before 1925, it was **NOT** necessary to have a passport and a visa to enter the US territory.

Stop 10: THE KISSING POST

What happened there? **Families and friends waited and reunited with their loved ones. They kissed a lot and cried a lot.**

You have finished your visit. Ellis Island is a fantastic place to visit and I hope you will go there one day!

Look at all the photos and listen to the oral testimonies (témoignages) of immigrants. It's really interesting.