



ELLIS ISLAND: DREAM OF AMERICA

Before they came to America
Social Studies, Preparation Lesson
Grade 4
Developed by Pat Turner, WOWW Representative

OBJECTIVE

Students will define the term immigrant and discover reasons that immigrants left their foreign lands.

MATERIALS

Book about immigration: *Molly's Pilgrim* by Barbara Cohen
Immigrant Kids by Russell Freedman found in 5th grade classrooms
Bookmark sites: www.revels.org/images/pdfs/aaf-lesson1-4pdf
www.library.thinkquest.org/org/20619/present.html
Google Search: Statue of Liberty
Book Bibliography
Map Graphic of World
Student Recording Sheet: If you Were an Immigrant
Directions for Cultural Identity Quilt

PREPARATION

Write "Before They Came to Texas" on board. Students are asked to define the word immigrant. They are told that immigration means moving from one country to another for the purpose of settling there permanently, and an immigrant is someone who does that. Ask why people would want to leave their old country. Discuss reasons. Ask if many immigrants came to Texas? Ask if any of them know where their families originated. Their homework assignment is to interview someone in their family about their family's origins and share their findings tomorrow.

PROCEDURE

Read aloud a book about immigration. Have each student pick a country, research it for why people from that country wanted to come to America from 1899 to 1924 and write a narrative to share with the class. Direct them to library.thinkquest site. On a map, show how people from Europe came to America and ask students what the first thing they might have seen in the New York harbor would have been. Show pictures of Statue of Liberty and pass out copy of The New Colossus. Read poem aloud with class and discuss. Show posters and art from revels.org site and

discuss each.

EVALUATION

Have students complete “Student Recording Sheet: If you Were an Immigrant” in small groups.

PRACTICE

Have students do “Cultural Identity Quilt Project.”

TEKS

Social Studies 4.2.A; 4.11A; 4.20.BC

