



ELLIS ISLAND: DREAM OF AMERICA

Social Studies, Preparation Lesson

Grade 5

Developed by Pat Turner, WOWW Representative

OBJECTIVE

Students will explore and learn about Ellis Island and its role in American immigration in the first half of the Twentieth Century. Students will also describe reasons why immigrants came to America and identify hardships they faced in American cities.

MATERIALS

Scott Foresman Social Studies Textbook

Bookmark Sites: www.revels.org/images/pdf

Google Search: New York Harbor, Ellis Island, Map Study

www.Worldisround.com/articles

www.teacher.scholastic.com

www.library.thinkquest.org/20619

Immigrant Kids by Russell Freedman, Puffin Books, 1995

PREPARATION

Students are asked to share their understanding of the words “immigration” and “immigrant”. They are reminded that immigration means moving from one country to another for the purpose of settling there permanently, an immigrant is someone who does that.

PROCEDURE

Students open current Scott Foresman Social Studies textbook to p. 529 and look at the picture of immigrants entering the New York harbor by boat. Ask class what the first thing in the harbor is that they would have seen. Everyone turns to p. 568 and the class reads the lesson together on immigration to learn why people left their countries to come to America and the hardships they faced. Explain that during this period in American history all European immigrants had to be examined, questioned and registered at Ellis Island. Sometimes this process took hours and sometimes it took much longer. Show world map from revels.org site to point out routes taken from Europe to New York harbor. Next, show Google map of New York harbor indicating the location of Ellis Island. Show them pictures of the Statue of Liberty from Google. Have students go to teacher.scholastic.com site and go through the interactive tour of Ellis Island.

EVALUATION

Have students interview someone in their family to find out where their family originated. Next day write a descriptive narrative on that country, why people wanted to leave that country and any information on immigrant experiences they might have. They can research experiences about immigrants if they do not have a family member who knows the family's origin. A good site for this is library.thinkquest.org/20619.

PRACTICE

Have students read the book *Immigrant Kids*, another similar book or do a web search for a similar reading. Students pretend to be an immigrant and create a journal.

TEKS

Social Studies

5.1A; 5.5AB; 5.9AB, 5.14C; 5.23ABC