

presents

Ellis Island: The Dream of America

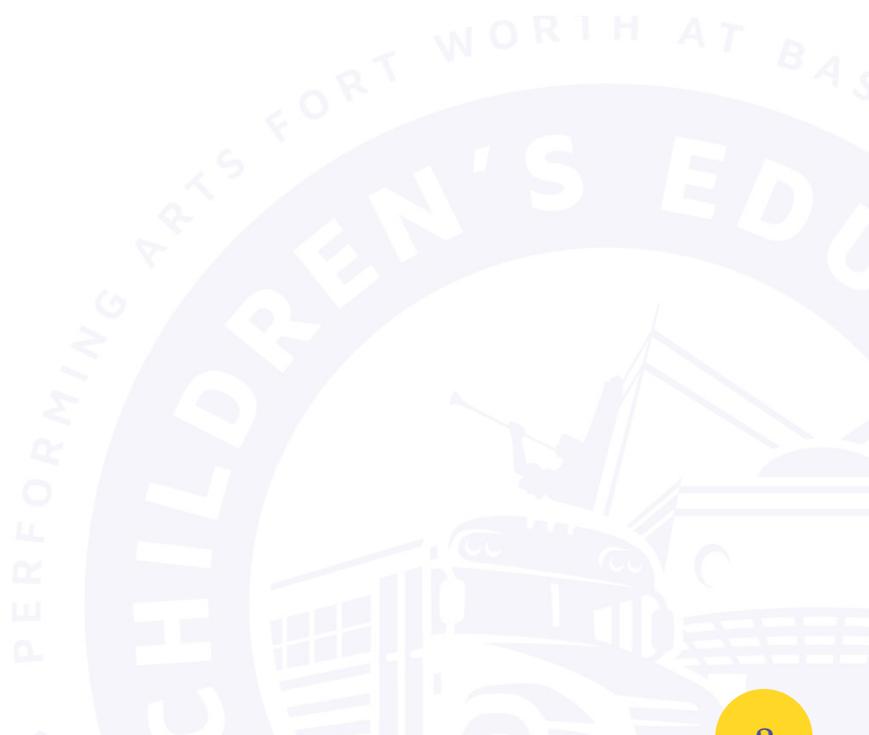
featuring

The Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra

For Fifth Grade Students

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Introduction

Dear Teachers,

We are excited to bring Peter Boyer's *Ellis Island: The Dream of America*, which combines spoken word with music and projected images, to illustrate the American immigrant experience around the turn of the 20th century. The actors onstage embody real immigrants, telling their own stories, taken from the Ellis Island Oral History Project. We hope students grasp that the actors embody immigrants who struggled mightily to come to America. With hope they will appreciate a little more fully that the freedoms which are the foundation of America, are worthy of veneration.

There are several TEKS objectives which this program might meet; choose those that most suit your classroom needs.

113.16 (1) In Grade 5, students survey the history of the United States from 1565 to the present. Historical content includes the American identity, westward expansion, immigration and industrialization, and the 20th and 21st centuries. Students describe the cultural impact of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups in the nation and identify the accomplishments of notable individuals in the fields of science and technology. Students explain symbols, traditions, and landmarks that represent American beliefs and principles. Students use critical-thinking skills to sequence, categorize, and summarize information and to draw inferences and conclusions.

(13) (C) analyze the effects of immigration, migration, and limited resources on the economic development and growth of the United States; (17) Citizenship. The student understands important symbols, customs, celebrations, and landmarks that represent American beliefs and principles and contribute to our national identity. The student is expected to: (E) explain the significance of important landmarks, including the White House, the Statue of Liberty, and Mount Rushmore. (22) Culture. The student understands the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups to the United States. The student is expected to: (A) identify the similarities and differences within and among various racial, ethnic, and religious groups in the United States; (B) describe customs and traditions of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups in the United States; and (C) summarize the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups to our national identity.

117.118 Music (5) Historical and cultural relevance. The student examines music in relation to history and cultures. The student is expected to: (C) identify and describe music from diverse genres, styles, periods, and cultures; and (D) examine the relationships between music and interdisciplinary concepts. (6) Critical evaluation and response. The student listens to, responds to, and evaluates music and musical performances. The student is expected to: (A) exhibit audience etiquette during live and recorded performances.

117. 119 Theater (4) Historical and cultural relevance. The student relates theatre to history, society, and culture. The student is expected to: (A) explain theatre as a reflection of life in particular times, places, cultures, and oral traditions specific to American history; (5) Critical evaluation and response. The student responds to and evaluates theatre and theatrical performances. The student is expected to: (A) analyze and apply appropriate audience behavior at a variety of performances; (B) compare visual, aural, oral, and kinetic aspects of informal and formal theatre with the elements of art, dance, or music; and (C) identify and discuss how movement, music, or visual elements enhance ideas and emotions depicted in theatre.

Any preparation you can do will greatly enhance your students' understanding and appreciation of this program. It is 50 minutes in length. If you have questions or problems, feel free to contact me.



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Ellis Island

Ellis Island

On January 1, 1892 Annie Moore was the first immigrant to land at Ellis Island. She was 15 years old and had arrived from Ireland. Ellis Island was an island off New York that was designed as the gateway into the United States from other countries. Over the next 62 years [between 1892-1954], **twelve million immigrants** entered the United States from all over the world. Today 40%, or almost half of all Americans, have an ancestor who came to the US through Ellis Island.

They were seeking to come to America for a better life,

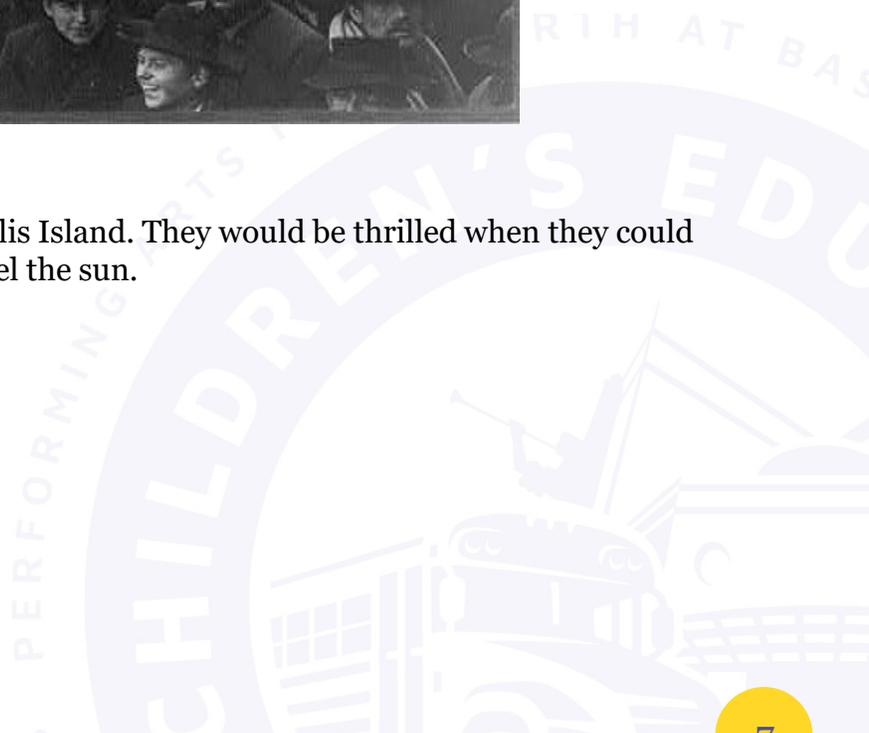
- to escape religious persecution
- to find jobs
- to rejoin family members who had already come to America
- to escape cruel governments and war or political persecution
- to escape natural disasters, famine, drought or crop failure



The ships were crowded, dirty and the food was very bad. Many people would be sick. The cheapest tickets would be in the hold, or very bottom, of the ship.



The trip often took two weeks to get to Ellis Island. They would be thrilled when they could go on deck and breathe the sea air and feel the sun.





They brought their belongings--what they could carry with them.

Everyone had to pass tests to be admitted. First, they had to pass a medical exam, to be checked for infectious diseases, or for physical or mental abnormalities.



Medical Exam Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation

The medical examiners carried pieces of colored chalk. They marked letters on the coats of some newcomers: H for heart problem, X for mental defect, L for lameness. Those with chalk marks on their coats were separated from others and put in areas called pens. People with certain diseases were sent back to their homeland. They were asked questions about their personal beliefs about right and wrong.

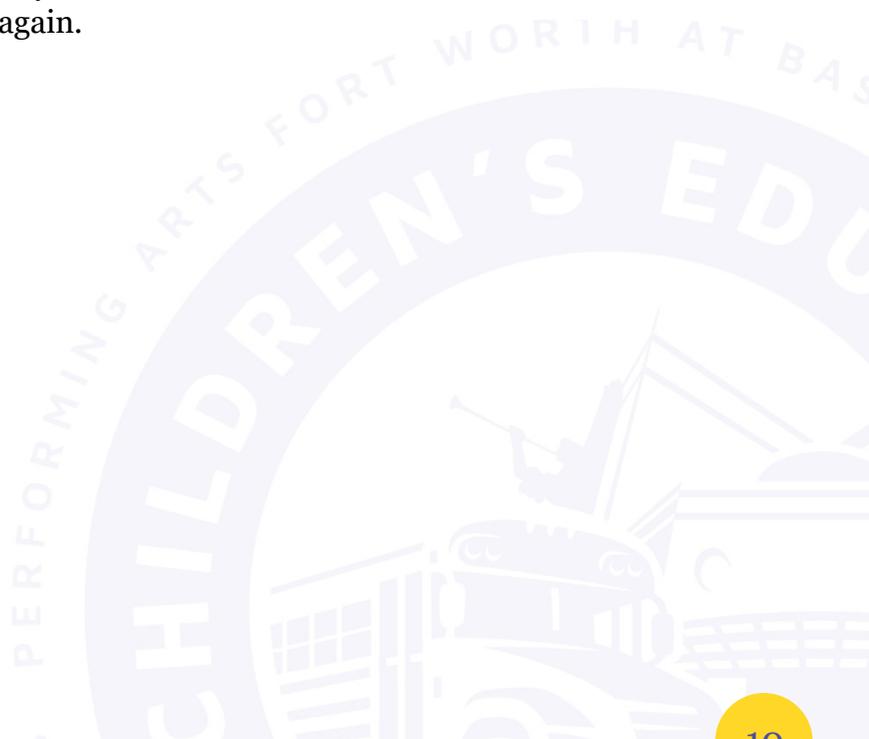


Eye Tests Library of Congress

They had to prove that they would be able to earn a living. They were asked how much money they had with them, if they had family in the United States. The crowds were large, the sound was loud. There was great confusion. After 1900, people needed a passport and a visa. After 1917 they had to be able to read and write at least 40 words. In 1921 the US passed a quota act, to limit the number of people from some countries. Catholics and Jewish people were limited.



Some immigrants were so flustered that they could not answer. They were allowed to sit and rest and try again.





Edwin Levick *The Holding Pens in the Great Hall of Ellis Island*

People from all over the world came to the United States through Ellis Island. The new people had to cope with a new language, new foods, finding a place to live, finding a job, and doing without all the people and things they had left behind.





Man from Algeria



Dutch Children



Man from Turkey



Woman from Guadeloupe



Family from Finland

“When I was about 10 years old I said, ‘I have to go to America.’ Because my uncles were here already, and it kind of got me that I want to go to America, too...I was dreaming about it. I was writing to my uncles, I said I wish one day I’ll be in America. I was dreaming to come to America...And I was dreaming, and my dream came true. When I came here, I was in a different world. It was so peaceful. It was quiet. You were not afraid to go out in the middle of the night...I’m free. I’m just like a bird. You can fly and land on any tree and you’re free.”

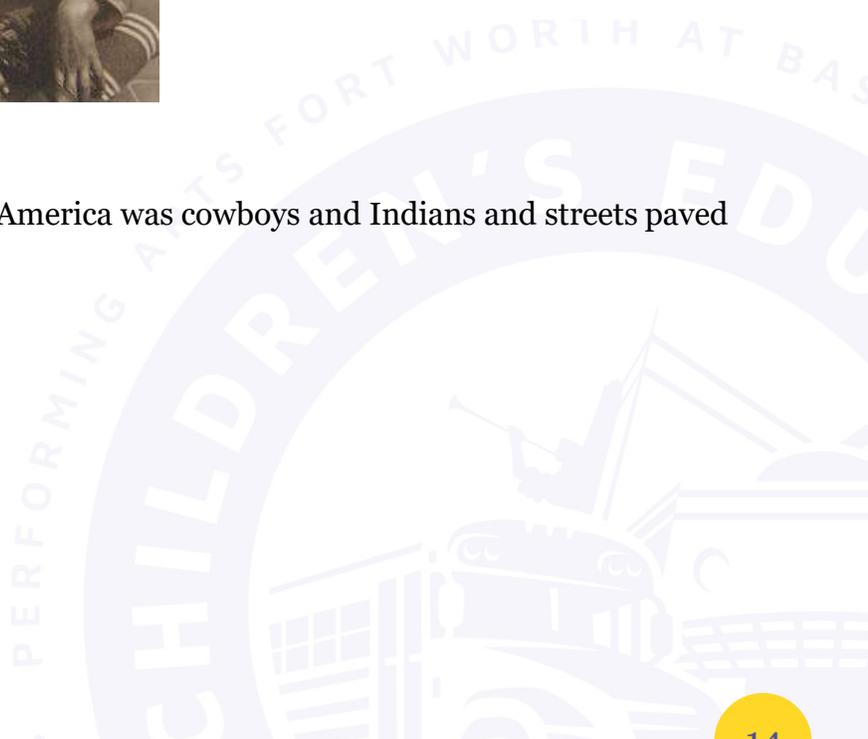
--*Helen Cohen, Poland*
Arrived 1920, Age 20



Gypsy Family New York Public Library

“I knew so little about America. For me, America was cowboys and Indians and streets paved with gold.”

--*Emanuel Steen*, Ireland
Arrived in 1925, Age 19





Cossack from Russia

“I never saw such a big building [Ellis Island]—the size of it. I think the size of it got me. According to the houses I left in my town, this was like a whole city in one, in one building. It was an enormous thing to see, I tell you. I almost felt smaller than I am to see that beautiful [building], it looked beautiful.

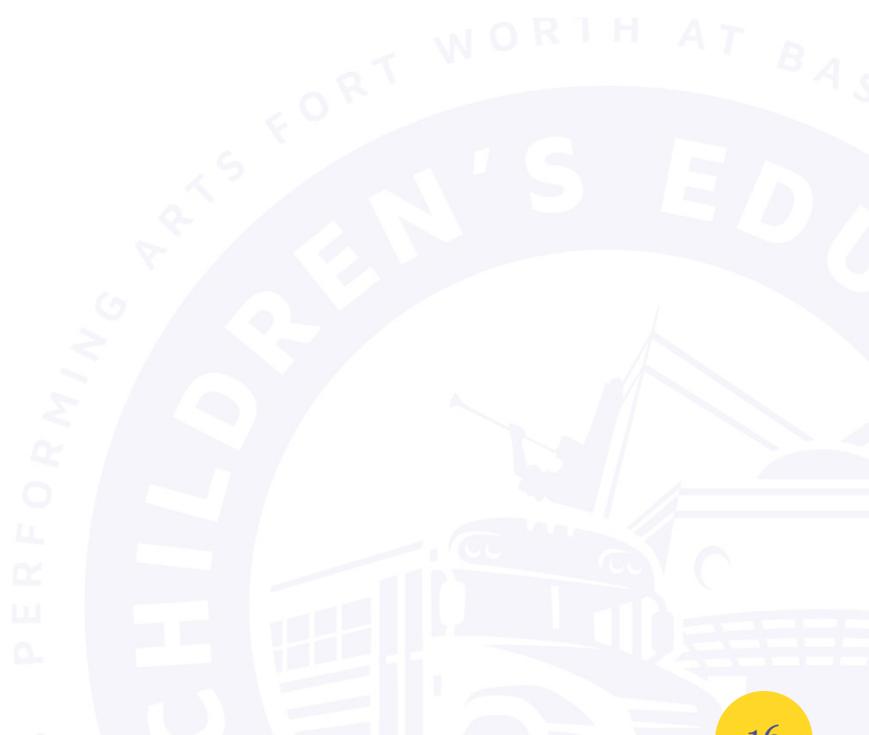
--*Celia Adler*, Russia
Arrived in 1914, Age 12



Lapland Children from Sweden



Pipers possibly from Romania





Men from Morocco

“Now, after fifty-one years, I can’t imagine what a job they had spelling all those names, all different nationalities—it’s not so easy. Some of the names were so long, so hard to pronounce and hard to spell, and so I was always waiting to hear when they were going to call my name if they could only spell it.

--*Marta Forman, Czechoslovakia*
Arrived in 1922



Boys from Scotland



Man from Denmark

“Coming to America had meaning. I was a kid of seven and in contrast to what I had gone through, Ellis Island was like not a haven, but a heaven. I don’t remember any fright when I got to Ellis Island. My father’s dream and prayer always was ‘I must get my family to America.’...America was paradise, the streets were covered with gold. And when we arrived here, and when we landed from Ellis Island and [went] to Buffalo, it was as if God’s great promise had been fulfilled that we would eventually find freedom.”

--*Vartan Hartunian, Turkey*
Arrived in 1922, Age 7



Greek Woman



Greek Soldier

“My father took me to the main street, and all the people that got killed, their bodies were piled up on the sidewalk. It was horrible. Blood all over. So my father says, ‘Well, there’s no use staying here.’...We went from Athens by boat to the Italian coast, and [there] they put us [on another boat] in the freight, in the hold. And we were lucky for that. We made it. It was like a barn down there. They had only cots. ‘You ought to be happy you’re getting out alive,’ someone said.”

--James Karavolas, Greece
Arrived in 1915, Age 6



Swedish Girl



Woman from Italy

“Most dear to me are the shoes my mother wore when she first set foot on the soil of America...She landed in America in those shoes and somehow or the other she felt that she was going to hang on to them. They are brown high-top shoes that had been soled and resoled and stitched and mended in Sweden to hold them together till she could get to America. We just kept them. And then...as I grew up and everything, I said, ‘Don’t ever throw them away.’”

--*Birgitta Hedman Fichter*, Sweden
Arrived in 1924, Age 6

“They [the inspectors] looked at me and at my husband and said, ‘Let them go through. They are young, they will make it! Don’t worry about them.’” [They only possessed \$1.50]

--*Esther Almgren*, Sweden
Arrived in 1923



Once they had passed the tests they had to change their money from their home country for American dollars

Most of the immigrants left Ellis Island and settled in the big cities. They needed jobs. Many immigrants could not speak English when they arrived. They knew little about American laws or customs.

“I waited for my father, but he never came. I was upset because I couldn’t get off Ellis Island, because I didn’t have enough money for them to let me off. In addition, I was not only an immigrant, I was a minor. But he came the next morning, a Friday. “

--*Samuel Silverman*, Austria
Arrived in 1918, Aged 15

“All of a sudden, my mother spotted him, spotted my father. She says, ‘It’s Papa!’ I looked. I had forgotten what he looked like, you know. He hugged me and patted me on the back.”

--*Mario Vina*, Italy
Arrived in 1909, Aged 11



All of the struggles to get to America were worth it, however. There were tears of joy. Some of the newcomers kissed the ground of America. They gave thanks to God. The newcomers thought America was paradise; they would eventually find freedom.

“They were calling people who came to pick somebody up. And finally they called our name....My father and my brother was there, and an uncle of mine. I remember my father putting his arms around my mother and the two of them standing and crying, and my father said to my mother, ‘You’re in America now. You have nothing to be afraid of. Nothing at all.’...That’s the first thing he said to her.”

--*Esther Gidiwicz*, Romania
Arrived in 1905, Age 5



“And this is the only country where you’re not a stranger, because we are all strangers. It’s only a matter of time who got here first.”

--*Lazarus Salamon*, Hungary
Arrived in 1920, age 16

“When we got to America, we saw the Statue of Liberty and Mother said to me, ‘That means we are free.’ I remember her saying that. And I didn’t know what she meant by being *free*. I only learned that after. And to this day I think I’m a better American than a lot of them born here, because when I sing “God Bless America,” I’m in tears.”

--*Margaret Wertle*, Hungary
Arrived in 1910, age 7

Most of the pictures taken on these pages are by Augustus Francis Sherman and Edwin Levick. They can be found in the NY Public Library collection, the Statue of Liberty or Ellis Island Foundation, or at the Library of Congress.



The Statue of Liberty

The Statue of Liberty

- She is a symbol of Liberty and Freedom.
- She was a gift from France and sculpted by Frédéric Bartholdi. The iron frame, which held it in place, was by Gustave Eiffel (who built the Eiffel Tower.)
- They wanted to give it to the United States by 1876, 100 years after the Revolution, but it was not finished.
- She is 151 feet tall and made of copper.
- In her right hand she holds a torch. In her left hand she holds a tablet, inscribed with July 4, 1776. On her head is a crown with 7 spikes for the 7 continents and 7 seas.
- In 1886 the Statue of Liberty officially opened to the public in New York Harbor.



At the base of the statue, is a part of the poem, “The New Colossus”

by Emma Lazarus. It says,

“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

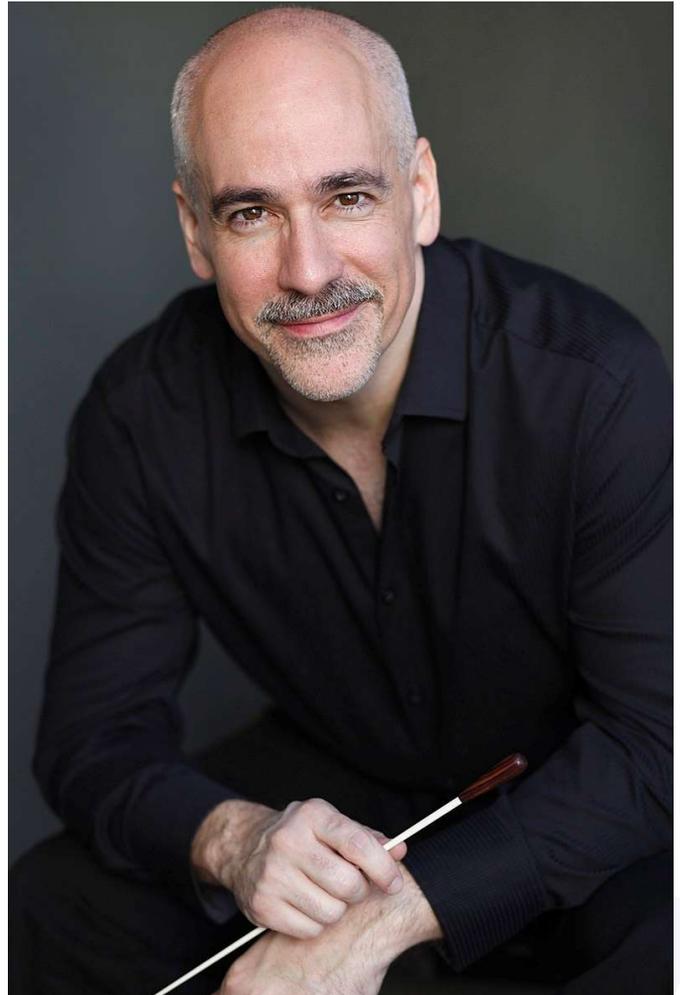


The Composer

Peter Boyer

Peter Boyer, born February 10, 1970 in Providence, Rhode Island, is an American composer, conductor, orchestrator, and professor of music. He is known primarily for his orchestral works, which have received more than 400 performances, by over 150 orchestras.

Boyer received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Rhode Island College. While an undergraduate, he received the Young American Award. He received Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from The Hartt School of the University of Hartford, where he studied composition.. Boyer then studied privately with composer John Corigliano in New York, before relocating to Los Angeles to attend the Scoring for Motion Pictures and Television Program at USC . There Boyer studied with composers including Elmer Bernstein, David Raksin, Buddy Baker and Christopher Young. On completing his studies in 1996, Boyer was appointed to the faculty of Claremont Graduate University. In 2003 Boyer established the publishing company Propulsive Music.



Peter Boyer

Boyer has received a number of significant commissions for his work. In 2003, Boyer conducted London's Philharmonia Orchestra in a recording of his work *Ellis Island: The Dream of America*, later working with a distinguished cast of actors in New York City to complete this recording project. The recording received a Grammy Award nomination for Best Classical Contemporary Composition in the 48th annual Grammy Awards (2006). *Ellis Island* has become Boyer's best-known work, with over 160 performances given by more than 70 orchestras, and has been much acclaimed: "Peter Boyer's *Ellis Island: The Dream of America* is a work of rare authenticity and directness."



Bibliography

Bibliography

Anderson, Dale *Arriving at Ellis Island; Landmark Events in American History*
Discusses immigration to the United States during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and describes the small island in New York harbor that served as the point of entry for millions of immigrants from 1892 to 1954. [2002]

Benoit, Peter *Immigration; Cornerstones of Freedom, Third*
Since its beginning, the United States has been a nation of immigrants. Millions of people have come from all over the world, bringing their varied cultures and histories along with them. This influx of immigrants has shaped the United States into what it is today. This title details the history of immigration in the United States, from the first arrival of European settlers to today's debates over immigrant rights and border security. [2012]

Bial, Raymond *Ellis Island; Coming to the Land of Liberty*
Ellis Island, America's most famous location in its history of immigration, was once a landfill in the upper bay of New York Harbor. Since its opening on January 1, 1892, Ellis Island has come to symbolize the waves of immigrants from a list of countries that seems endless. Although there were other immigration stations along the United States' shores between 1892 and 1924, half of the newcomers to the United States came through Ellis Island. Once a popular spot with picnickers, Ellis Island was purchased by a farmer in 1794. The government reclaimed the island and Ellis Island became the foremost station in immigration services. It was enlarged to six acres, and nearly twelve million people passed through its doors until it closed in 1954. Ages 9-12 [2009]

Bierman, Carol *Journey to Ellis Island; How My Father Came to America*
After fleeing war-torn Russia & trekking across Europe, determined to make a new life for themselves in America, in Sept. 1922, 11-year-old Yehuda Weinstein, his mother, & his younger sister boarded the S.S. Rotterdam, bound for the U.S. But 9 days later, in N.Y. Harbor, inspectors from the Immigration Service notice that Yehuda's arm is in a sling & that his hand is damaged. They refuse to let him board the ferry to Ellis Island (EI). But the Weinstains have been through too much to be turned back now. What happens to Yehuda & his family on EI is both a touching story & an illuminating account of the immigrant experience. Illuminated with beautifully evocative paintings, family photos, & period postcards & sepia prints. A true story! For all ages. [1999]

Binns, Tritan Boyer*Ellis Island*

Discusses the history of Ellis Island, describing its various uses, the structures built upon it, and the experiences of immigrants arriving at the immigration center. [2002]

Bunting, Eve*Dreaming of America* [International Reading Association Teacher's Choice Award]

Annie Moore cares for her brothers on board the ship sailing to America and becomes the first immigrant processed through Ellis Island. [2001]

Bunting, Eve*One Green Apple*

Farah feels alone, even when surrounded by her classmates. She listens and nods but doesn't speak. It's hard being the new kid in school, especially when you're from another country and don't know the language. Then, on a field trip to an apple orchard, Farah discovers there are lots of things that sound the same as they did at home, from dogs crunching their food to the ripple of friendly laughter. As she helps the class make apple cider, Farah connects with the other students and begins to feel that she belongs. Gr: 1-4 [2006]

Burgan, Michael*Ellis Island*

You're one of millions of immigrants leaving your home in the early 1900s to move to the United States. You're searching for a better life. Ellis Island, near New York City, is your first stop in your search for opportunity and freedom. Officials on the island have been processing immigrants there for decades, but not everyone gets through. If you pass the tests, you're on your way to a new life in the United States. If you don't, you may find yourself being sent back to your homeland. What path will you take? Will you: Be a Jewish youth leaving the violence of Russia in hopes of a better life in America? Be an Italian teen who lands at Ellis Island during World War I? A German immigrant who faces deportation? Everything in this book happened to real people. And YOU CHOOSE what you do next. The choices you make could lead you to opportunity, to wealth, to poverty, or even to death. [2013]

Carney, Elizabeth*National Geographic Readers: Ellis Island*

Explore the history of Ellis Island, one of the most recognized landmarks in American history. Kids will learn about its early history as a Mohegan island and rest spot for fishermen through its time as a famous immigration station to today's museum. The level 3 text provides accessible, yet wide-ranging, information for independent readers. [2016]

De Capua, Sarah*How People Migrate*

Explains what immigration is, who may immigrate, what the process is and how immigrants get settled in a new nation. [2004]

DeGezelle, Terri*Ellis Island: American Symbols*

Provides an introduction to Ellis Island, including its history as the first federal immigration station, as part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument, as a museum, and its importance as a symbol of the United States. [2003]

Demuth, Patricia Brennan*What Was Ellis Island?*

From 1892 to 1954, Ellis Island was the gateway to a new life in the United States for millions of immigrants. In later years, the island was deserted, the buildings decaying. Ellis Island was not restored until the 1980s, when Americans from all over the country donated more than \$150 million. It opened to the public once again in 1990 as a museum. Learn more about America's history, and perhaps even your own, through the story of one of the most popular landmarks in the country. [2014]

Fraser, Ian*Ellis Island for Kids; Amazing History of Ellis Island and the Start of the American Dream*

Millions of immigrants passed through Ellis Island from 1892 to 1954. Almost 40 percent of today's U.S. citizens have at least one ancestor who passed through Ellis Island. Discover what it was really like to arrive at Ellis Island in New York harbor. Go step by step as the tired and confused newcomers go through a bewildering array of inspections and along the way discover strange new things about this new land...like pizza! [2014]

Freedman, Russell*Immigrant Kids*

America meant "freedom" to the immigrants of the early 1900s—but a freedom very different from what they expected. Cities were crowded and jobs were scarce. Children had to work selling newspapers, delivering goods, and laboring sweatshops. In this touching book, Newberry Medalist Russell Freedman offers a rare glimpse of what it meant to be a young newcomer to America. [1995]

Gunderson, Jessica*Emma's New Beginning*

The year is 1910, and Emma Schweitzer and her family are immigrating to America in hopes of finding a better life. Their German colony in South Russia is falling under new restrictions imposed by the Russian government, and in order to escape poverty and tyranny, the family decides to move to North Dakota to live with an uncle. But their journey is not an easy one. The ship is overcrowded, health inspectors can detain any family or deny them entry, and swindlers are eager to prey on new immigrants. Can Emma be strong enough to succeed in a new country where she can't even understand the language? Through Emma's story, this gripping historical novel captures the hardships immigrants faced in pursuit of the American dream. [2015]

Hest, Amy*When Jessie Came Across the Seas*

A 13-year-old Jewish orphan reluctantly immigrates to New York City, where she works for three years sewing lace to earn money to bring her grandmother to the United States, too. [1997]

Isaacs, Sally Senzell*Life at Ellis Island*

The Picture the Past series looks at the many kinds of communities in America's past. Each book describes what made each community different and what children and adults did each day. In this book, discover why and how millions of people came to live in the United States. Learn how these people landed in New York, at Ellis Island, and were checked before entering the United States. Visit Ellis Island and see how immigrants lived there. Then use a recipe to make an immigrant treat: noodle kugel! [2002]

Jacobs, William J.*Ellis Island; New Hope in a New Land*

An inspiring chronicle of the immigrant experience recounts the history of Ellis Island from 1892 to 1954, the period during which more than seventeen million immigrants passed through its doors in search of new lives in America [1990]

Jango-Cohen, Judith*Ellis Island; Symbols of American Freedom, 2nd Series*

Presents the history of the Barge Office, Ellis Island's immigration station, which opened in 1900 and still stands today [2008]

Klingel, Cynthia Fitterer.*Ellis Island*

Briefly describes the history of Ellis Island, what happened there when it was used as an immigration station, and how it became a national park in 1965. Age 9-12 [2001]

Knowlton, Marylee*Arriving at Ellis Island*

Describes the experience of immigrants on Ellis Island, where arrivals to the United States were inspected, processed, and introduced to a life in a new country [2002]

Kotker, Norman*Ellis Island: Echoes from a Nation's Past*
High School Resource

A celebration of photography as well as a document of the place, *Ellis Island* contains images by such well-known photographers as Jerry Uelsmann and Emmet Gowin. Filled with dozens of family portraits and both historic and contemporary documentary photos, the book resists the temptation for superficial flag-waving, instead providing a thoughtful and loving portrait of this sacred landmark in the American soul. [1989]

Kroll, Steven*Ellis Island; Doorway to Freedom*

A history of Ellis Island, from Colonial times to the present; describes its use as an immigration station between 1892 and 1954, an era during which more than sixteen million foreigners passed through its doors, and explains how it became part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument. [2008]

Landau, Elaine*Ellis Island*

Discusses why immigrants came to the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the difficulties of the journey, the establishment of the Ellis Island Immigration Station and what went on there, and its decline and restoration. Age 9-12. [2007]

Landau, Elaine*The Statue of Liberty*

This book gives a detailed history of the statue, from how the original idea came to be at a dinner party to recent renovations. It tells how it was built and information about the creator. Age 9-12. [2008]

Lasky, Kathryn*My America: Hope in My Heart*

Meet Sofia, a feisty 9-year-old who has left Italy and her precious tomatoes behind for a new life in America. Despite a grueling journey, all goes according to plan — until she is detained at Ellis Island. This chapter book from the "My America" series offers an unusual look at the experience of detained immigrants from a young girl's point of view. Age 9-12. [2003]

Lasky, Kathryn*My America: Home at Last*

After her dramatic release from quarantine and reunion with her family, Sofia moves to the North End of Boston, where the Monaris start their new lives in their new country. While her parents struggle to make ends meet, Sofia must adjust to her American school, friends and job. Age 9-12 [2003]

Lasky, Kathryn*My America: An American Spring*

In her third and final diary, Sofia continues to face the hardship of her new life in America with her cheerful and courageous spirit. Sofia continues to chronicle life in her new home, the North End of Boston, as her best friend Maureen comes to live with her, and her parents open their own store. Sofia describes the daily hardships and joys that she meets as a new American. Age 9-12 [2004]

Lawlor, Veronica*I Was Dreaming to Come to America*

In their own words, immigrants recall their arrival in the United States. Includes brief biographies and facts about the Ellis Island Oral History Project. In their own words, coupled with hand-painted collage illustrations, immigrants recall their arrival in the United States; includes brief biographies and facts about the Ellis Island Oral History Project. [1997]

Leighton, Maxinne Rhea*An Ellis Island Christmas*

When Krysia is six, her family leaves Poland for America. The journey is difficult, as is the arrival at Ellis Island when the family is separated. While the family waits for Papa, Krysia sits down by the Christmas tree of the Great Hall at Ellis Island and watches as other fellow travelers begin to sing and dance. The mood is festive, but Krysia begins to worry — will Papa ever return? Cultural details from Polish customs passed down through the author's family enhance the touching story of one family's Ellis Island experience. Age 9-12. [2005]

Levine, Ellen*If Your Name was Changed at Ellis Island*

If your name were changed at Ellis Island

- Would everyone in your family travel together?
- How long would you stay at Ellis Island?
- Would your name be changed?

This book tells you what it was like when Ellis Island was opened in 1892 as a center for immigrants coming to live in America. [new edition]

Levinson, Riki*Watch the Stars Come Out*

Every once in a while, Grandma shares the story of her mother's journey to America as a young girl. Grandma doesn't leave anything out, from the moment her mother boards the ship with her older brother to the moment the children are reunited with their parents. Levinson offers a touching portrayal of the immigrant experience that children will relate to, complemented by Goode's detailed and often humorous illustrations. This book is featured in Reading Rainbow episode #29 about immigration. Age 6-9.

Maestro, Betsy*Coming to America: The Story of Immigration*

America's rich and complex history of immigration, highlighting the ways that each wave of immigrants helped America become the nation it is today. Maestro's inclusion of Native Americans and African slaves underscores her thoughtful and sensitive approach, which she masterfully conveys through her accessible writing. Readers will pore over Susannah Ryan's detailed and playful illustration spreads depicting immigrants of all backgrounds sharing activities here in America together. Age: 6-9. [1996]

Marcovitz, Hal*Ellis Island*

Presents the history of Ellis Island from 1892 when it served as the most important center for immigration into the United States, to its near collapse in the 1970s due to neglect, to its rebirth in 1990 as the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. [2003]

Mattern, Joanne*Ellis Island: Gateway to America; Core Content Social Studies—Let's Celebrate America*

For millions of people, leaving home and coming to America meant giving up family and all things familiar. For more than sixty years, one site was the first place in America all new immigrants saw. Find out why Ellis Island holds such an important place in America's history. [2017]

Moreno, Barry*Children of Ellis Island*

Burdened with bundles and baskets, a million or more immigrant children passed through the often grim halls of Ellis Island. Having left behind their homes in Europe and other parts of the world, they made the voyage to America by steamer. Some came with parents or guardians. A few came as stowaways. But however they traveled, they found themselves a part of one of the grandest waves of human migration that the world has ever known. *Children of Ellis Island* explores this lost world and what it was like for an uprooted youngster at America's golden door. Highlights include the experience of being a detained child at Ellis Island—the schooling and games, the pastimes and amusements, the friendships, and the uneasiness caused by language barriers. [2005]

Moreno, Barry*Ellis Island: Images of America*

The United States is considered the world's foremost refuge for foreigners, and no place in the nation symbolizes this better than Ellis Island. Through Ellis Island's halls and corridors more than twelve million immigrants—of nearly every nationality and race—entered the country on their way to new experiences in North America. With an astonishing array of nineteenth- and twentieth-century photographs, Ellis Island leads the reader through the fascinating history of this small island in New York harbor from its pre-immigration days as one of the harbor's oyster islands to its spectacular years as the flagship station of the U.S. Bureau of Immigration to its current incarnation as the National Park Service's largest museum. [2003]

National Geographic*Ellis Island; True Books*

Discusses why immigrants came to the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the difficulties of the journey, the establishment of the Ellis Island Immigration Station and what went on there, and its decline and restoration. [2012]

Nixon, Joan*Land of Dreams*

In 1902 sixteen-year-old Kristin travels with her family from Sweden to a new life in Minnesota, where she finds herself frustrated by the restrictions placed on what girls of her age are expected or allowed to do. [2001]

Nixon, Joan*Land of Hope*

Russian immigrant Rebekah Levinsky hopes desperately that her dream will come true in America. On the difficult ocean journey to the "land of opportunity" she meets two other girls--Kristin Swensen from Sweden and Rose Carney from Ireland. The three quickly become friends as they share their visions of the future and endure life on the overcrowded ship. [1993]

Nixon, Joan*Land of Promise*

Rose Carney, a young girl from Ireland, befriends Rebecca, from Russia, and Kristen, from Sweden, during the long journey to America. They part ways at Ellis Island and Rose continues onto a new life in Chicago. [1994]

Peacock, Louise*At Ellis Island*

Ellis Island was the gateway to America and the promise of freedom for thousands. Its walls are rich with stories. In this book we hear myriad voices. First we follow a young person today. Her great-great-grandmother entered America through Ellis Island. As this young girl walks the halls of the famous site, she wonders about the past, the people, and their hopes, dreams and challenges.

Here, too, is the voice of Sera, an Armenian girl from the early 1900s. Fleeing the unthinkable in her home country, she longs to join her father in America. As Sera enters the halls of Ellis Island, she *lives* those same hopes, dreams, and challenges.

The voices of real immigrants -- their suffering in steerage, their first glimpse of the Statue of Liberty, and their journey through the Great Hall -- complete this touching look into an important part of America's history. A pivotal time and place is brought to life through a combination of many voices speaking in harmony. [2007]

Quiri, Patricia Ryon*Ellis Island; True Books—American Symbols*

Describes how the immigration station on Ellis Island served as a gateway into the United States for millions of immigrants. [1998]

Raatma, Lucia*Ellis Island; We the People*

Describes the history and significance of Ellis Island for immigrants coming to the United States [2002]

Rebman, Renee*Life on Ellis Island; The Way People Live*

This book discusses life on Ellis Island, including detainment and deportation of immigrants, daily activities, the development of the immigration station, its role in the formation of the great melting pot of America, and the later years. It is a well-organized and thorough account of this historic landmark. The introduction provides background information concerning immigration to America and conveys the immigrants' feelings of confusion, sadness, and hope. Chapters focus on topics such as detainment and deportation, food and entertainment, and aid societies and services. The numerous firsthand accounts range from dismal to uplifting. While some immigrants recalled overcrowding, endless delays, and painful medical practices, others reminisced about the Kissing Post and island marriages. Rebman's straightforward, objective presentation successfully balances both the positive and negative aspects of the Ellis Island experience. In addition, the author details the island's role as an immigration center to its abandonment and eventual restoration. Black-and-white photos relate a sense of the bewilderment and wonder that many of these new arrivals felt Ages 9-12. [1999]

Reeves, Pamela*Ellis Island: Gateway to the American Dream.*
High School Resource

Celebrates the grand reopening of one of America's greatest historical monuments by exploring the history of Ellis Island, from the days of its earliest immigrants to its recent restoration [1991]

Ringgold, Faith*We Came to America*

From the Native Americans who first called this land their home, to the millions of people who have flocked to its shores ever since, America is a country rich in diversity. Some of our ancestors were driven by dreams and hope. Others came in chains, or were escaping poverty or persecution. No matter what brought them here, each person embodied a unique gift—their art and music, their determination and grit, their stories and their culture. And together they forever shaped the country we all call home. Vividly expressed in Faith Ringgold's sumptuous colors and patterns, *We Came to America* is an ode to every American who came before us, and a tribute to each child who will carry its proud message of diversity into our nation's future. [2016]

Sandler, Martin*Island of Hope*

The moving story of immigration to America as told through the passionate voices and stories of those who passed through Ellis Island. On January 1, 1892, a fifteen-year-old Irish girl named Annie Moore made history when she became the first person to be processed at a new immigrant station at Ellis Island in New York Harbor. In the next 62 years more than 12 million other immigrants would follow. Many of these newcomers would be "pushed" into America--fleeing religious persecution, political oppression, or economic hardships in their native lands. Millions of others would be "pulled" into the United States by the promise of new opportunities. Once they arrived at Ellis, they were put through the traumatic experience [2004]

Sanna, Francesca*The Journey*

With haunting echoes of the current refugee crisis this beautifully illustrated book explores the unimaginable decisions made as a family leaves their home and everything they know to escape the turmoil and tragedy brought by war. This book will stay with you long after the last page is turned.

The Journey is actually a story about many journeys, and it began with the story of two girls I met in a refugee center in Italy. After meeting them I realized that behind their journey lay something very powerful. So I began collecting more stories of migration and interviewing many people from many different countries. A few months later, in September 2014, when I started studying a Master of Arts in Illustration at the Academy of Lucerne, I knew I wanted to create a book about these true stories. Almost every day on the news we hear the terms "migrants" and "refugees" but we rarely ever speak to or hear the personal journeys that they have had to take. This book is a collage of all those personal stories and the incredible strength of the people within them: from the Author. [2016]

Smith, AG*Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island Coloring Book*

The majestic and imposing Statue of Liberty rising 305' 11" over New York Harbor is more than a monument to freedom. The statue holds a special place in America's heart, inspiring patriotism, hope, courage ... even poetry and tears.

Now this unique educational coloring book details Lady Liberty's rich and stirring history in an entertaining format for children and adults alike. It also documents the experiences of millions of immigrants for whom the statue's striking silhouette was the first glimpse of America after weary days at sea.

Forty-two large line drawings, adapted from historic photographs, paintings and engravings, depict the beloved statue in various stages of construction. There are also views of its inner details (strapwork framing, etc.); a map of New York Harbor; the presentation of Liberty to the American people in Paris; the statue's unveiling in New York on October 28, 1886 before President Grover Cleveland and throngs of other well-wishers; and other fascinating scenes from Liberty's past. Half the illustrations deal with immigration: shipboard life, processing at Ellis Island; pushcarts on the Lower East Side; and more. A gallery of portraits depict Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi, the French sculptor who designed the statue, Emma Lazarus, and a host of famous immigrants: Irving Berlin, Knute Rockne, Felix Frankfurter, Paul Muni, and others. Each crisp picture is highlighted by an interesting caption; an introduction provides a wealth of additional background information.

Carefully researched and precisely rendered, this one-of-a-kind coloring book is an exciting and educational collector's item for anyone intrigued and inspired by the grand old landmark, and the noble ideals it represents.

Staton, Hilarie*Ellis Island; Symbols of American Freedom*

As the main entry facility for immigrants coming to the United States for more than half a century, Ellis Island was the last stop before a move to freedom in America. About 12 million people from Europe and elsewhere entered the United States through this portal. The fascinating *Ellis Island* uses immigrants' own words, photographs, and full-color illustrations to explore the significance to those who wished to pursue the American Dream. [2009]

Stein, R. Conrad*The Story of Ellis Island; Cornerstones of Freedom*

Describes the history, closing, and restoration of the Ellis Island immigration center and depicts the experiences of the immigrants who came to Ellis Island at the turn of the twentieth century [2007]

Swain, Gwenyth*Hope and Tears: Ellis Island Voices*

An original collection of voices, filled with hope and tears, chronicles the history of Ellis Island and the people it served. Indians, settlers, immigrants, inspectors, doctors, nurses, cooks, and social workers all played a big part in that history. Author Gwenyth Swain reimagines the lives of those who landed, lived, and worked on the island through fictional letters, monologues, dialogues, and e-mails, basing them on historical documentation and real-life people. In doing so, she creates a moving picture of their struggles and triumphs. Illustrated with poignant and affecting photographs, this is a unique exploration of Ellis Island's history; includes further resources, bibliography, and source notes. A rich pairing of fact and imagination that provides genuine insight into the immigrant experience." -- Publishers Weekly, starred review "Excellent-quality archival photos or reproductions accompany the entries. A bibliography includes books, articles, interviews, websites, and silent films. This is a welcome companion to other books about Ellis Island, offering a format that can be used for oral presentations, class projects, or simply to read for enjoyment." -- School Library Journal

"Most notable for the extraordinary breadth of experiences and points of view presented, from immigrants to detainees, from cooks to carpenters, from photographers to curators. . . . A fascinating experiment in imagining the backstories of individuals mentioned in historical sources, and the curricular potential is considerable." --Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books Gr: 3-7 [2012]

Tan, Shaun*The Arrival*

Grade 7 Up—Tan captures the displacement and awe with which immigrants respond to their new surroundings in this wordless graphic novel. It depicts the journey of one man, threatened by dark shapes that cast shadows on his family's life, to a new country. The only writing is in an invented alphabet, which creates the sensation immigrants must feel when they encounter a strange new language and way of life. A wide variety of ethnicities is represented in Tan's hyper-realistic style, and the sense of warmth and caring for others, regardless of race, age, or background, is present on nearly every page. Young readers will be fascinated by the strange new world the artist creates, complete with floating elevators and unusual creatures, but may not realize the depth of meaning or understand what the man's journey symbolizes. More sophisticated readers, however, will grasp the sense of strangeness and find themselves participating in the man's experiences. They will linger over the details in the beautiful sepia pictures and will likely pick up the book to pore over it again and again. [2007]

Tarbescu, Edith*Annushka's Voyage*

"Narrated by elder sister Annushka, the story tells of two Russian girls who leave their native home and their beloved grandparents to begin a new life in New York with their father. Their parting from their relatives is wrenching, yet their future is full of possibility...An afterword includes an antique photograph of the real sisters, the author's mother and aunt, along with a historical note regarding the persecution of Jews in Russia during the late 1800s."—School Library Journal. Ages 6-9 [1998]

Thompson, Gare*We Came Through Ellis Island*

Readers witness the life of a Jewish family who moves from Russia to New York City to escape persecution and starvation and to make a new life. Fact-filled narrative and historical photos plus fictional letters and journal entries from 12-year-old Emma Markowitz and her family paint a memorable picture of the typical European immigrant experience in the 1890s. [2003]

Werner, Emmy*Passages to America; Oral Histories of Child Immigrants, Valuable Adult Resource*

More than twelve million immigrants, many of them children, passed through Ellis Island's gates between 1892 and 1954. Children also came through the "Guardian of the Western Gate," the detention center on Angel Island in California that was designed to keep Chinese immigrants out of the United States. Based on the oral histories of fifty children who came to the United States before 1950, this book chronicles their American odyssey against the backdrop of World Wars I and II, the rise and fall of Hitler's Third Reich, and the hardships of the Great Depression. Ranging in age from four to sixteen years old, the children hailed from Northern, Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe; the Middle East; and China. Across ethnic lines, the child immigrants' life stories tell a remarkable tale of human resilience. The sources of family and community support that they relied on, their educational aims and accomplishments, their hard work, and their optimism about the future are just as crucial today for the new immigrants of the twenty-first century. These personal narratives offer unique perspectives on the psychological experience of being an immigrant child and its impact on later development and well-being. They chronicle the joys and sorrows, the aspirations and achievements, and the challenges that these small strangers faced while becoming grown citizens. No other historian has given us more voices from children in difficult circumstances than Emmy Werner. [2009]

Woodruff, Elvira*The Orphan at Ellis Island*

During a school trip to Ellis Island, Dominick Avaro, a ten-year-old foster child, travels back in time to 1908 Italy and accompanies two young emigrants to America. [1997]

Woodruff, Elvira*The Memory Coat*

Coming into Ellis Island from Russia, Rachel and her family are ready to start a new life in America, so when cousin Grisha is singled out by an inspector, Rachel has to think quickly and uses an old tattered coat in an unusual way to keep everyone together. [1999]

Sites on the Web:

<https://www.nps.gov/elis/learn/education/classrooms/oral-histories.htm>

Wonderful site provided by the National Park Service on Ellis Island.

The oral history site gives aural clips of what immigrants expected, the trip over, experiences on the island and adjusting to life in America.

Also contains lesson plans.

Scholastic Website: Outstanding and Interactive

http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/young_immigrants

<http://www.scholastic.com/.../teaching-content/history-ellis-island>

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/tour/htm> outstanding resource

Dorling Kindersley: Interactive

<https://www.dkfindout.com> very good for students to surf

New York Public Library: Digital Gallery and Ellis Island photos

PBS *Forgotten Ellis Island* pbs.org/program video

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/print> pictures at the Library of Congress

<https://loc.gov/search/?in=&q=Ellis+Island&new=true&st=>

http://www.ducksters.com/history/us_1800s/ellis_island.php

<https://www.history.com/the-promised-land/index.html>

Page on the History.com website: The Promised Land

“The Tools that Built a Nation” These were early immigrants who did not come in through Ellis Island

www.nps.gov/elis/ Read about Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty Monument

www.ellislandimmigrants.org Learn about Ellis Island history and search for families that came through the island

Video: Documentary on YouTube:

“Island of Hope; Island of Tears.” Ellis Island History of Immigration to the United States, 1890-1920. Charles Guggenheim; National Park Service. AVA15996VN
28 minutes, 2008.

TeacherTube “A Virtual Voyage to Ellis Island.” 5 ½ minutes, 2008. EXCELLENT

Peter Boyer: “Ellis Island: The Dream of America.” 6 minutes, 2009. This is the video that will start the presentation in the Hall.



Angels In The Wings

Angels In The Wings

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