

Industrialization & Immigration

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will explore the immigrant experience during industrialization through a first-person role-play interview activity.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- paper
- pencil
- index cards

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Research (or use provided background) on immigration through Ellis Island during the late 1800s/early 1900s and typical factory/tenement working conditions of the era.
2. Choose a fictional immigrant character (name, home country, reason for leaving, job in America) and write a short backstory on an index card.
3. Conduct a self-interview: write 5 interview questions a historian might ask this immigrant, then answer each question in character based on your research.
4. Ask a family member to read your interview questions aloud to you and role-play answering as your character out loud.
5. Draw a simple sketch of one scene from your character's journey (the ship, Ellis Island, or their workplace).

QUESTIONS

1. What is your immigrant character's name, home country, and reason for leaving?
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2. Describe one working or living condition your character likely experienced in America, based on your research.
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3. What was Ellis Island, and what happened to immigrants who passed through it?
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4. What is one connection between your character's immigrant experience and challenges immigrants face today?
