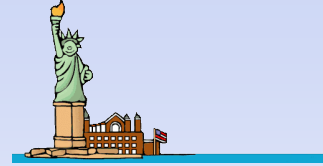


ELLIS ISLAND



What was Ellis Island?

Ellis Island was a landing point for immigrants arriving in New York between the years 1892 and 1954. In total, more than 12 million people went through the Ellis Island immigration station during these years. There were other immigration stations in major American cities, but Ellis Island was the main one.



Where was Ellis Island?

Ellis Island was located on an island in the harbor of New York City, near the island on which the Statue of Liberty stands. Immigrants arriving by ship would first pass the Statue of Liberty and then dock at Ellis Island.

Once the immigration officials had cleared them to enter the United States, immigrants would board ferries that took them across the harbor to New York City. From there, they could travel anywhere in the United States, usually by train. Or they could settle in New York City or the surrounding area.

What happened at Ellis Island?

After arriving at Ellis Island, immigrants passed through a number of checkpoints before immigration officials would allow them to enter the United States. There were lots of lines that people had to stand in, and the lines were often very long. It could take hours to get through all the checkpoints!

Each immigrant went through an interview with an immigration official, who would ask about the immigrant's life in Europe, explore the immigrant's skills and job prospects, and find out if the immigrant had family or friends in America to give support.

Immigrants also had to go through a health inspection when a doctor or nurse checked them for illnesses. Immigrants who might be sick could be sent to a hospital on the island until they recovered.

After passing through the checkpoints, most immigrants were allowed to continue on their journey to America to start their new life.

