



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***YOUR IMMIGRATION INTERVIEW***

Most immigrants who arrived in America from Europe went through immigration stations like the one on Ellis Island in the harbor of New York City. More than 12 million people passed through Ellis Island.

Once you arrived at Ellis Island, you were seen by a doctor who made sure you weren't sick. Then you waited in line for an immigration interview. People might wait in line for 4 or 5 hours! The interview itself was based on about 30 questions. Below are some sample questions from the interview.

Everyone in your family had to answer these questions, including the children. Imagine that you are immigrating to America with your family and answer the questions. Or imagine you are one of your ancestors arriving in this country and answer the questions as this person.

1. What is your full name? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Are you male or female? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are you married, single, widowed, or divorced? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is your occupation? \* \_\_\_\_\_
6. Are you able to read and write? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What country are you from? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What is your race? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What was your last permanent place of residence? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What is your final destination in America? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. How much money do you have? \* \_\_\_\_\_

12. Have you been to America before? If so when, where and how long? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Are you meeting a relative here in America? If so, who and their address? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Have you been in a prison, charity almshouse, or insane asylum? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Are you coming to America for a job? What and where will you work? \* \_\_\_\_\_

16. What is the condition of your health? \_\_\_\_\_

17. How tall are you? \_\_\_\_\_

18. What color are your eyes and hair? \_\_\_\_\_

19. Do you have any identifying marks? \_\_\_\_\_

20. Where were you born? \_\_\_\_\_



**Why would immigration inspectors want to know all this information?**

**The three questions with asterisks (\*) were the ones the inspectors were most interested in. Why? What do three questions have in common?**

**Did you know? The records from all of these interviews have been saved, so if your ancestors came through Ellis Island or one of the other immigration stations, you can look up their**

