A Land of Immigrants

Immigrants are people who leave their home country to live in a new country. Except for Native Americans, everyone in your classroom had a family member who was once an immigrant to the United States. Children whose families have lived in the United States for hundreds of years may not have heard about their family members who immigrated. Other children may be immigrants themselves, or they may be the children of people who are immigrants.

Over hundreds of years, immigrants have come to the United States from many different countries. These people may be from many different places, but they all hope to start a new life.
Immigrants come to the United States from all around the world.
A Land of Opportunity

The United States has often been called the "land of opportunity." Over hundreds of years, people have left their home countries to immigrate to the United States.

Some groups came to America to have the opportunity to practice their beliefs freely. Some came because of the opportunity to have better jobs. Some even came because a few states offered free land to farm.

Some people also were brought to America as slaves. It was many years before the United States offered these people the opportunity to be free.

People still immigrate to the United States. Many people immigrate to have opportunities that they did not have in their home countries.
Immigration to America

In the 1800s, many people in the United States went west in wagon trains.
Getting to America

Until 50 years ago, most immigrants came to the United States in ships. Some ship voyages were difficult, especially for the people who were brought from Africa as slaves.

The voyage could be very hard, even for immigrants who chose to come to the United States. Between 1900 and 1920, 13 million immigrants arrived in ships from Europe. Many of these immigrants were poor. They traveled on the bottom deck of the ship. The bottom deck was often crowded and windowless.

Today, most immigrants to the United States arrive on airplanes. However, immigrants from our North American neighbors, Mexico and Canada, can drive to the United States, or even walk.
Immigrants on a ship see the Statue of Liberty in New York.
Ellis and Angel Islands

After 1886, the Statue of Liberty greeted ships arriving in New York. Immigrants often cheered when they saw the Statue of Liberty. Many of these immigrants passed through Ellis Island.

First, the immigrants had a health inspection. Some people with serious illnesses were sent back to their home country. People who passed the health inspection were questioned about their background. After this, the immigrants were told if they could stay in the United States.

Inspections of new immigrants who arrived on the West Coast occurred at Angel Island in California. Most of these immigrants were from China. Many Chinese immigrants were kept for a long time at Angel Island.
Many Chinese immigrants first came to Angel Island in California.
Becoming an American Citizen

Most Americans become citizens by being born in the United States. However, every year more than 700,000 immigrants come to the United States. Many immigrants want to become citizens. However, there are certain things people must do to become citizens.

Before 1906, people did not have to know English to become American citizens. Since then, laws have been passed that require everyone who wants to be a citizen to speak, read, and write English. People who want to become citizens must also pass a test about the history and the laws of the United States. Today, only people who know English and pass this test can become American citizens.
Immigration to America

These people are becoming new citizens of the United States.
Immigration to America

Write words that will help you remember what you learned.

A Land of Immigrants

A Land of Opportunity

Getting to America

Ellis and Angel Islands

Becoming an American Citizen
A Land of Immigrants

1. The main idea of “A Land of Immigrants” is that ____
   A) everyone who lives in any country is an immigrant.
   B) all children in the United States are immigrants.
   C) people come to the United States to be immigrants.
   D) someone in most families in the United States was an immigrant.

2. What is an immigrant?

A Land of Opportunity

1. Why do some people immigrate to the United States?
   A) to find out about their past and to have homes
   B) to find new beliefs and to find their families
   C) to practice their beliefs and to have better jobs
   D) to leave the United States and to find their home countries

2. Why is the United States often called the “land of opportunity”? 
Immigration to America

Getting to America

1. "Getting to America" is MAINLY about ____
   A. how much immigrants had to pay to get to the United States.
   B. how difficult it is to get to the United States today.
   C. how immigrants came to the United States years ago and today.
   D. the rules for getting to the United States on airplanes.

2. Compare how most immigrants came to the United States 50 years ago with how they come today.

Ellis and Angel Islands

1. Another good name for "Ellis and Angel Islands" is ____
   A. "The Statue of Liberty."
   B. "Health Inspections in the United States."
   C. "Living at Ellis Island."
   D. "Arriving in the United States."

2. What happened at Ellis and Angel Islands?

...
Becoming an American Citizen

1. Many immigrants to the United States want to ____
   A. become American citizens.
   B. go to Ellis Island.
   C. be born in the United States.
   D. learn about how to be an immigrant.

2. What are three things immigrants need to know to become citizens?

   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

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Connect Your Ideas

1. What might an immigrant have to do differently in a new country?

   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. Why do you think immigrants come to the United States today?

   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
What is the biggest gift you ever got? America got a super-size gift in 1886. It was from France. The French admired America's freedom. So they gave us a present.

The gift was a statue. It was built in France. Then it was sent here piece by piece. It was put back together on an island in New York Harbor. The statue's name was "Liberty Enlightening the World." We call it the Statue of Liberty.

There are 354 steps inside the statue. In her crown there are 25 windows. Her fingernails are over a foot long. Now that's a big gift!
Read the clues.
Write the answers in the puzzle.

1. Starts with **F**
   In 1886, America got a gift from _____.
   They admired America’s _____.

2. Starts with **S**
   It was the _____ of Liberty.
   There are 354 _____ inside the statue.

3. Starts with **W**
   There are 25 _____ in the crown.
   Its real name is “Liberty Enlightening the _____.”

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Our Symbol of Liberty

Label the parts of the Statue of Liberty.
Write a sentence at the bottom of the page to tell about the statue.

robe
tablet
base
crown
torch
Part by Part

Look at each clue.
Unscramble the letters to find the answer.
Write the answer on the lines.

- otfo
- rhoct
- onwrc
- psset
- eafc
- ewn oryk