

## ***Study Guide - Immigration Exam***

### ***Vocabulary:***

***Immigrant*** – a person that moves from one country to another country.

***Famine*** – When people are starving on a large scale (many people).

***Religious Persecution*** – When people are discriminated against or killed because of their religion.

***Transatlantic*** – A trip across the Atlantic Ocean.

### ***Why do and did people immigrate to America?***

1. People immigrated to America to escape famine.
2. People immigrated to America to get a job.
3. People immigrated to America to escape religious persecution.
4. People immigrated to America to cash in on the American Dream.
5. People immigrated to America to escape war.

### ***Where did a lot of people immigrate from in the early 1900s?***

Many people emigrated from Europe. They came from different places in Europe for many different reasons. Many people also came from Asia.

### ***Where was the first place that many immigrants came to in America?***

The first stop for many immigrants was Ellis Island. In Ellis Island, people from the government would decide if immigrants could come into America or if they had to go back to their country. Immigrants would have to be examined by doctors. They would also sign paperwork so that they could live in America. The first stop for people from Asia was generally Angel Island in California.

### ***What was Ellis Island like for many immigrants?***

Ellis Island was an exciting yet scary place for many immigrants. For one thing, they feared being sent back to the countries that they just left. If doctors at Ellis Island noticed that an immigrant was sick, they may send them back, so not have diseases spread to the U.S. Also, if immigrants did not have enough money, they were sometimes sent back as well. Finally, communicating with government officials at Ellis Island was very challenging for immigrants because they often times did not speak English.

### ***What were the living conditions like for many immigrants when they came to America?***

The living conditions for many immigrants coming to America were horrible because they were poor. Many times they lived in unsafe houses with a lot of people crammed into one place. They could not afford to live in better places.

### ***What are tenement houses?***

Tenement housing was housing that was found in big cities at the start of the 1900s. People were cramped into small apartments. The apartments were often really dirty, and it was a place where many poor immigrants lived when they came to America

***What kind of jobs did many immigrants have when they came to America?***

When immigrants first came to America they often times did not speak English. Because of this, they usually did not get jobs that required a lot of skill (doctor, lawyer, etc.) Instead, because they had to feed their families and get money right away, they had to work in factories, as maids, seamstresses, or in coalmines. These jobs did not usually pay well, and were many times unsafe.

***What is the American Dream?***

Many times immigrants heard stories about immigrants who came to America without any money but because they worked hard, achieved their dreams and/or became rich. Immigrants living in really poor countries or places where they were discriminated against heard about the American Dream and came to America to have a better life where they would be richer, free to say what they want to say, practice their religion, and get an education. A lot of immigrants found out that achieving the American Dream was a lot harder than the stories made it sound. Some immigrants who came to America decided to go back home because they realized life was really hard, they missed their families, and they felt uncomfortable in a new country with a different language and culture.

***Why did immigrants from the same country often move into the same neighborhoods?***

Immigrants from the same country often times moved into the same neighborhood because they spoke the same language and had similar customs. For instance, people from the same country most likely enjoy the same food, music, and they speak the same language. All of these similarities make communicating and understanding each other easier. Many times these neighborhoods had restaurants with the food immigrants were used to, shops where people spoke their native language, and entertainment that immigrants were enjoyed from their home country. Having a bit of their culture in a faraway place made many immigrants comfortable.