

A photograph of the Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island, New York. The statue is green and stands on a stone pedestal. In the background, the New York City skyline is visible across the water, including the Freedom Tower. The sky is clear and blue.

American Immigrants

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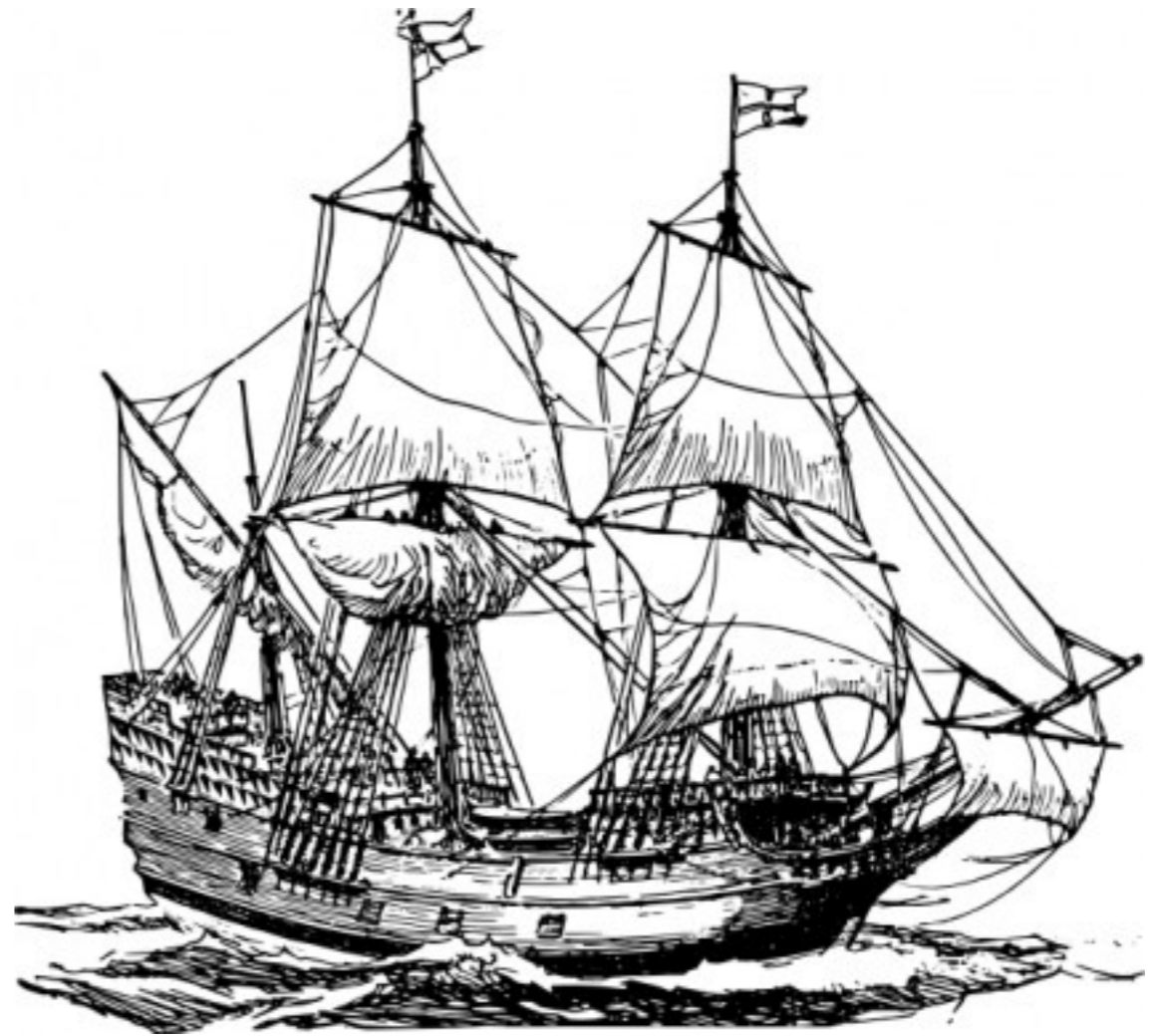
First Stop: The Passage

- Most immigrants started their journey on foot, horseback, or train
- They boarded large steamships or sailboats for their arrival
- The trip lasted 1-2 weeks. The immigrants boarded by wealth and class. More than 3,000 people were on each ship



Second Stop: The Arrival

- The trip was rough and the ships were crowded, but it was worth the wait for the immigrants
- One of the first things they saw was the Statue of Liberty, a sign of hope
- Officers looked for signs of disease, but third class people had to wait longer than first or second class people to be checked



Third Stop: The Baggage Room

- Officers greeted the ferry boats and led everyone off to the brick building
- Often, immigrants didn't know what the officers were saying
- Wearing numbered tags, they dropped off their belongings and went to the registry room for medical inspection



Fourth Stop: The Stairs to the Registry Room

- The immigrants elbowed their way up winding stairs that led to the Registry Room
- Doctors stood on the second floor and watched each person
- They looked for signs of disease in the immigrants



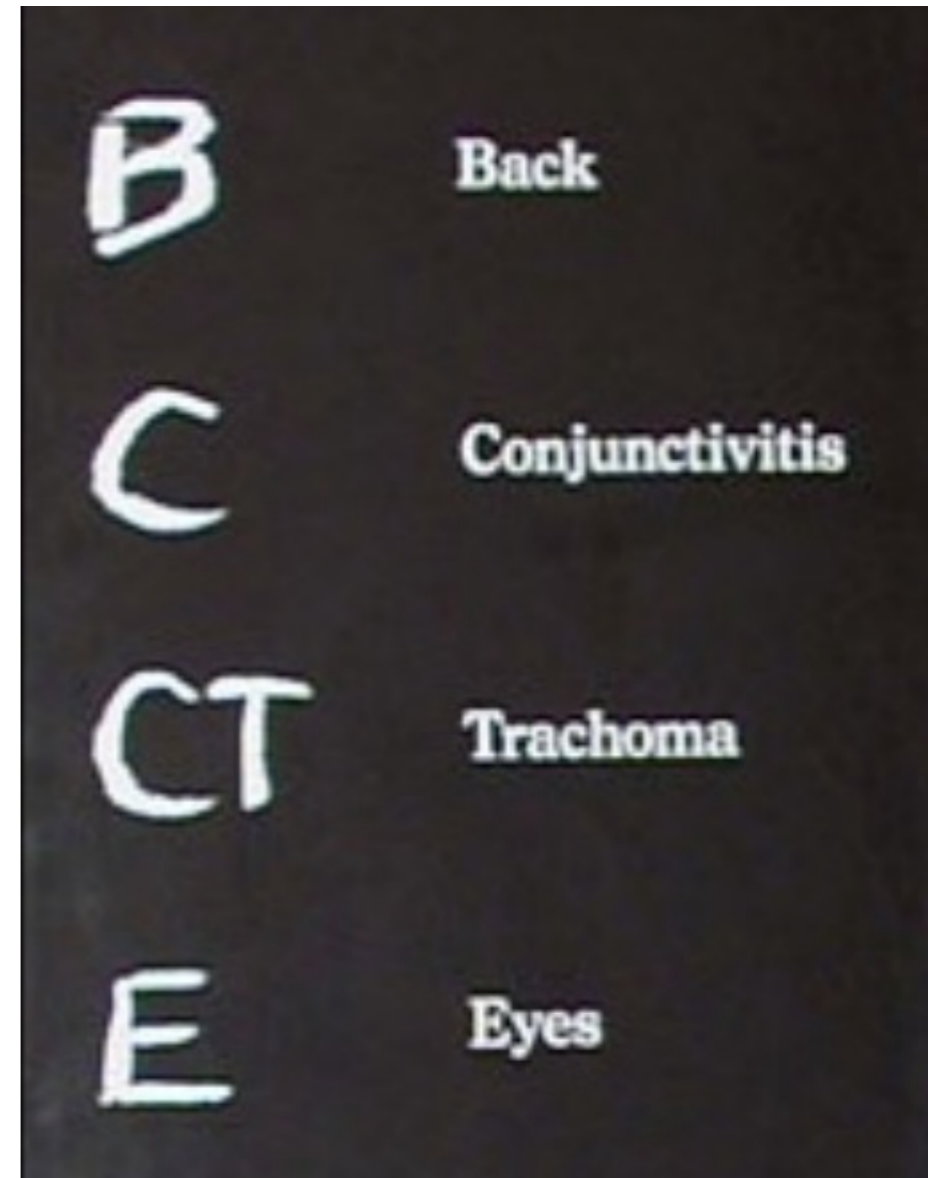
Fifth Stop: The Registry Room

- The immigrants nicknamed the Room "The Great Hall", because many of them had never seen a room so big
- There were wooden benches for the family's to sit at, and some stood in orderly lines. This room was very loud from the voices
- Officers in the hall decided if the immigrants were allowed to enter the United States



Sixth Stop: The Medical Exam

- The doctors in Ellis Island made up a system for the immigrants so that they could check them quickly
- If someone had a cold, the doctors would put a symbol on them, depending on their disease
- Immigrants who passed continued into the metal rails for legal inspecting



Seventh Stop: The Legal Inspection

- Each boat's officer had a list of all the passengers on it, and, one by one, they were called up for more inspection
- Each immigrant was asked twenty nine questions such as if they were married or how old they were
- If their answers were different from the ones on the officers' lists, they would go to another inspection stop



Eighth Stop: Detainees

- For immigrants who passed the tests, Ellis island was "The Isle of Hope", but for those who didn't, it was "The Isle of Tears"
- Legal detainees sometimes had to wait a month for inspection
- Immigrants who were kept for medical reasons sometimes had to wait in the hospitals for weeks



Ninth Stop: The Stairs of Separation

- After medical and legal questioning, the immigrants went up another staircase to another Great Hall
- These stairs had three aisles: one for immigrants entering the city, one for detainees, and one for people traveling south or west
- At the bottom of the stairs, there were money exchanging posts so that the immigrants could change their old money to US money



Tenth Stop: The Kissing Post

- An area on the first floor was nicknamed "The Kissing Post" because immigrants saw their families again
- After long periods of time apart, immigrants saw their families
- Some cried with joy, because now, they were in America



Fun Facts

- The first immigrant to enter America was a fifteen year old girl from Ireland
- Ellis Island had a concession stand and the menu was written in every language
- Only about three quarters of the passengers were allowed in the city



Summary Paragraph

- This was a very important journey for the immigrants. It helped shape America! For these people, the journey, waits, and separation were worth the wait to get into America. They had heard many rumors, such as one that said the streets were paved with gold. All of their struggles and pain paid off because they were in America!!!!

