

American Immigrants

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5th Grade



1st Stop

The Passage

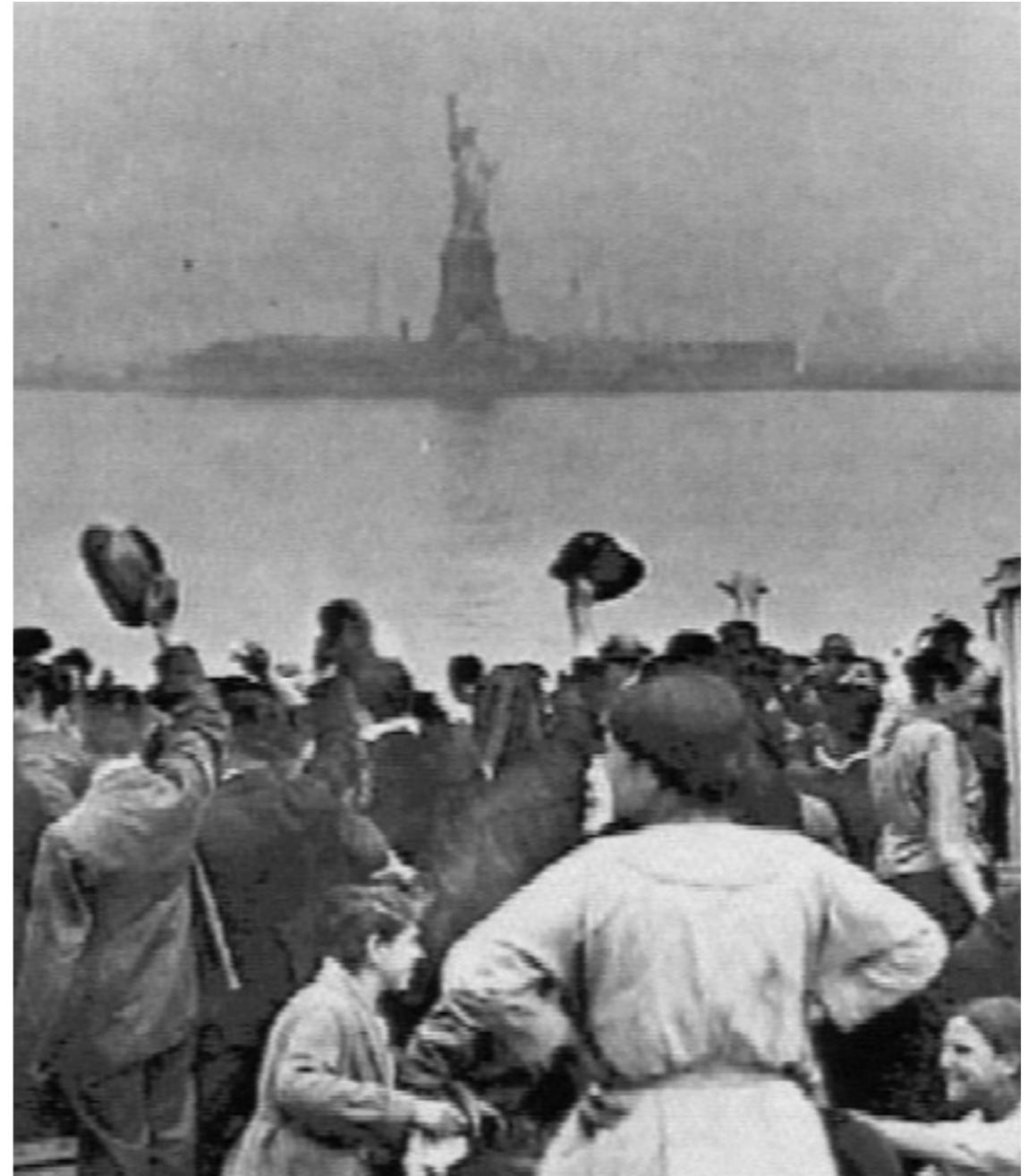
- Most of the immigrants on Ellis were from Eastern and Southern Europe.
- As many as 3000 people crowded the ships.
- The trip across the Atlantic Ocean lasted one to two weeks.



2nd Stop

The Arrival

- Doctors would first check the people in first-class and second-class, but the people in third-class would wait for hours or days for a ferry boat to come by and check them for diseases.
- When the immigrants got to New York harbor most of them were tired from the long ride.
- People would cheer when they past by the Statue of Liberty.



3rd Stop

The Ellis Island Baggage Room

- Men, women, and children struggled off the boat carrying trunks, cloth sacks, and suitcases.
- The immigrants left their belongings until the inspection was done and then went into the Registry Room which is where the medical and legal inspections took place.



4th Stop

The Stairs To The Registry Room

- The doctors on the second floor watched each person. They looked for people that had trouble breathing or walking or showed signs of other health problems.
- When the Ellis Island was built, officials thought no more than half a million immigrants would pass through in a year.



5th Stop

The Registry Room

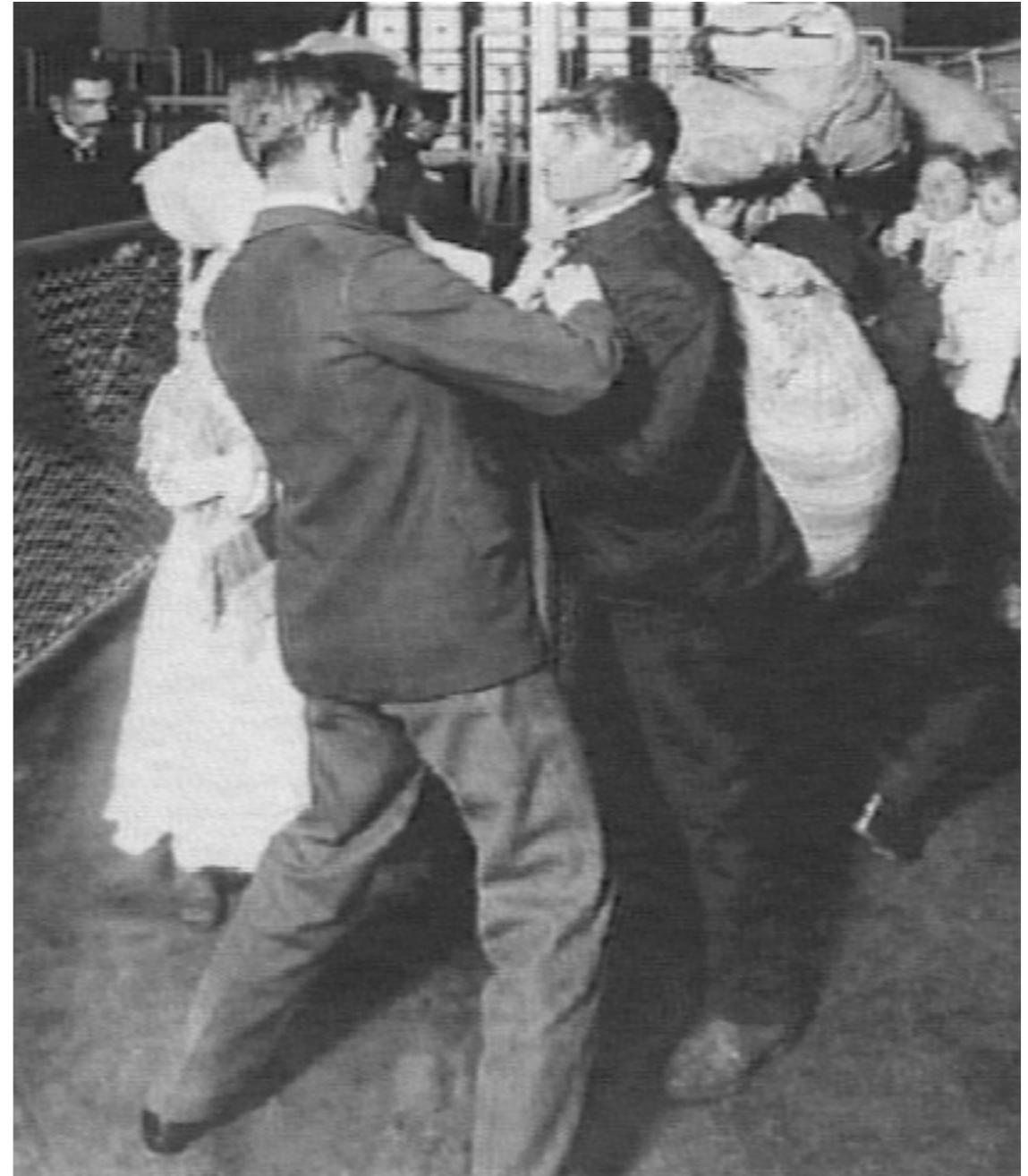
- The Registry Room was nicknamed the Grand Hall because it was so big. The large rectangular room is 200 feet long and 102 feet wide.
- From 1903 to 1914, immigrants were checked for trachoma which was a contagious eye disease.
- Officials in the Great Hall decided whether each person could enter the country right away or whether that person's case required further review.



6th Stop

The Medical Exam

- The doctors at Ellis Island developed a system to identify immigrants who needed medical attention, and the first test was a "six-second physical".
- If someone was considered a risk to public health, his or her clothes were marked by a piece of chalk with an identifying letter.
- 120,000 people with diseases or disabilities were sent back.



7th Stop

The Legal Inspection

- The steamship's crew gave officials at Ellis Island a list of names of the passengers onboard. The manifest, as this list was called, had the names and a description of the passengers.
- An immigrant could be held back for further investigation if his or her answers were different from the answers listed on the manifest.



8th Stop Detainees

- For most people Ellis Island was the Isle of Hope, but for the few unlucky people who failed health or legal inspections, it was the Isle of Tears.
- 355 babies were born on Ellis Island.
- People who were held back for medical reasons were cared for at the Island's hospital or kept in a quarantine which is a place for people with diseases so the infection doesn't spread, and some of them were treated for weeks and even months.



9th Stop

The Stairs of Separation

- More than 30 languages were spoken on Ellis Island.
- People who were traveling west or south walked down the right side of the staircase, and those going to New York City or the north walked down the left side.
- At the bottom of the stairs was an office for exchanging money from their home country for U.S. dollars.



10th Stop

The Kissing Post

- There is a place on the first floor called the "kissing post". It got the nickname because that is where family and friends wait for their loved ones.
- Letters and newspapers arrived family of what day they were arriving.
- By 1913 there were 654 employees working on Ellis Island.



A Summary About the Immigrants

- The immigrants had to go through a lot of things to be able to go in America. They had to be checked for medical disabilities and sickness. The ship ride was most tiring for them, and when they met their destination they could barely move. However, the people who had disabilities or sickness had to wait until they were well enough to go. The immigrants had a hard life, but in the end they came on top.

