



*Honoring the Spirit of America*

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### **“An Immigrant’s Diary”**

Grades 4-8

**Objective:** The student will identify with the feelings of an immigrant coming into America.

#### **Materials:**

- Student-friendly information about Ellis Island
  - [History.com's Ellis Island Exhibit](http://www.history.com/minisites/ellisland)  
<http://www.history.com/minisites/ellisland>
  - [An Interactive Tour of Ellis Island](http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/tour/index.htm)  
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/tour/index.htm>
- notebook paper
- pencils
- crayons/colored pencils
- drawing paper

#### **Procedure:**

1. Ask students who is an immigrant. Discuss definitions.
2. Ask students to describe Ellis Island. Point out where Ellis Island is located on a national map. Briefly describe Ellis Island to students.
3. Ask students to describe what they think it was like for an immigrant to pass through Ellis Island.
4. Encourage students to check to see if their descriptions were correct by exploring the websites listed above. Have students take notes on their findings.
5. Once students have had a chance to explore the websites, have each student write a several diary entries of an immigrant who passes through Ellis Island. Encourage students to be very descriptive of the thoughts and emotions their person would experience. In addition, have students be descriptive of Ellis Island through the eyes of their immigrant.
6. Once rough drafts have been edited, have students write their final drafts in the form of a very old diary. Have students make it look like their pages are faded and worn. Encourage students to be creative.
7. On the cover of their diary, have students illustrate their immigrant.
8. Encourage students to share their diaries with the class.

#### **Assessment:**

Evaluate students on the accuracy of the information in their diaries.