

# Time Machine (1892): The first immigrants arrive at Ellis Island

By New York Times, adapted by Newsela staff on 06.15.16

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Immigrants landing at Ellis Island in 1900. BELOW: Immigrants being inspected in 1904, courtesy of Library of Congress. Brown Brothers, Department of the Treasury

*This story was first published in the New York Times on Jan. 2, 1892. Ellis Island opened the day before. This story tells of the first passenger who came through the immigration station. She was an Irish girl named Annie Moore.*

NEW YORK, Jan. 2, 1892 — The new buildings on Ellis Island were built for the Immigration Bureau. It is the office that takes care of immigrants. The immigrants have traveled to America from another country. Ellis Island is now open. The leader of its office is John B. Weber. He arrived at the office early to make sure everything was ready for the first boatload of immigrants.

Three big steamships waited in the harbor. They were waiting for their passengers to get off. Each passenger wanted to be the first to arrive at the new station. The honor went to a little rosy-cheeked girl named Annie Moore. She is 15 years old. Annie is from Ireland. She is now famous for being the first immigrant registered at Ellis Island.

## Irish Teenager Is First Immigrant Registered

As soon as she got off the boat, Annie was hurried into the big building. When she was registered, Weber gave her a \$10 gold piece. He also congratulated and welcomed her. Annie had never seen American money before and said she would always keep it. She was accompanied by her two younger brothers. The children came to join their parents, who already live in New York.

Seven hundred people arrived at Ellis Island on the first day. They were quickly registered and sent on their way. The new immigration office made it easy for them.

"We can easily handle 7,000 immigrants in one day here," Weber said.

### **Workers Like New Offices**

The immigration workers said they are pleased with the new building. They said it is better than the old office. The railroad people were the only ones who complained. They said the building is too large. They have to run around to find their passengers.

After the immigrants are processed, they get on another boat. They will take it to the New York train station. Some will go to places on the East Coast. Others will go all the way to the West Coast.

Except for a doctor, no workers will live on the island.



## Quiz

- 1 Read the following sentences from the section "Workers Like New Offices."

*The immigration workers said they are pleased with the new building. They said it is better than the old office.*

Which word could BEST replace the word "pleased" without changing the meaning of the sentence.

- (A) happy
- (B) upset
- (C) finished
- (D) hurried

- 2 Read the introduction [paragraphs 1-2].

Based on the article, what are immigrants?

- (A) people who travel on boats
- (B) people who do not speak English
- (C) people who move to a new house
- (D) people who move to another country

- 3 Select the paragraph in "Workers Like New Offices" that gives information about what happens to immigrants when they leave Ellis Island.

- 4 Read the caption under the top photo. According to this caption, where are the immigrants landing?

- (A) Ellis Island
- (B) The New York Times
- (C) The Library of Congress
- (D) The Department of the Treasury