

Name: _____ Hour: _____ Date: _____

1.

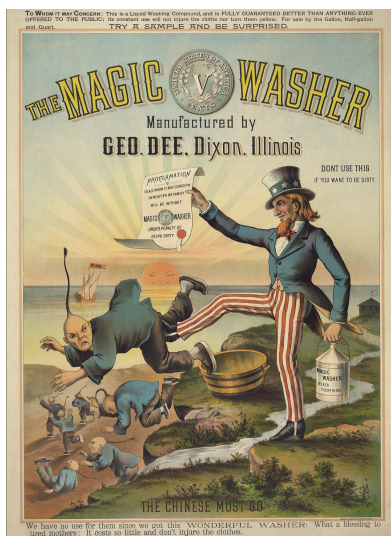
"So later on after we were here about two or three years my uncle, the one who brought us in, gave us an apartment. He had two houses at 161 East Second Street and 159, and my father was the janitor. And he still went to work, but my mother did, cleaned the halls, washed the toilets. And even when she was pregnant with my brother I remember, I felt so sorry for her... So once a week she had to wash the stairs and clean the toilets. And I remember with her belly and all she used to do it so, I used to help her once in a while. And then later on when we became, most of us graduated high school... And we all had jobs, so we moved from Second Street to 544 Throop Avenue in Brooklyn and we became very rich. (she laughs) Very rich. I mean, it was ritzy compared to what we, what we had. But, you know, we got along so well on Second Street. I played with all the different children. There were Polish and Italian, and different nationalities. We were all friends."

From: <https://heritage.statueofliberty.org/oral-history-library>

This is an excerpt of an interview involving Mae Abrams, a Russian immigrant who arrived to the United States through the Ellis Island Immigration Station in 1913. Read the excerpt and answer the following questions:

1. Note one struggle faced by Mae and her family. Note one success.
2. Ellis Island was not perfect, but the lives of the people who went through Ellis Island generally had more opportunity. How/why might this experience have differed from immigrants who arrived at Angel Island?

2.



View this racist advertisement published in 1886 and answer the following questions:

- a. What is the central message being expressed in this advertisement?
- b. How is this advertisement representative of the policies being created at the time? (Think: Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882).
- c. Read some of the text written on the advertisement. List one quote and explain whether the quote is a fact or an opinion based on the historical context of the image. Explain your answer.

3.

Read the following excerpt from an article written by the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation:

“Despite the island’s reputation as an “Island of Tears” the vast majority of immigrants were treated courteously and respectfully, free to begin their new lives in America after only a few short hours on Ellis Island. Only two percent of the arriving immigrants were excluded from entry. The two main reasons for exclusion were a doctor diagnosing an immigrant with a contagious disease that could endanger the public health, or a legal inspector was concerned an immigrant would likely become a public charge or an illegal contract laborer.”

(Optional - Explore: <https://www.statueofliberty.org/ellis-island/overview-history/>)

Answer the following questions:

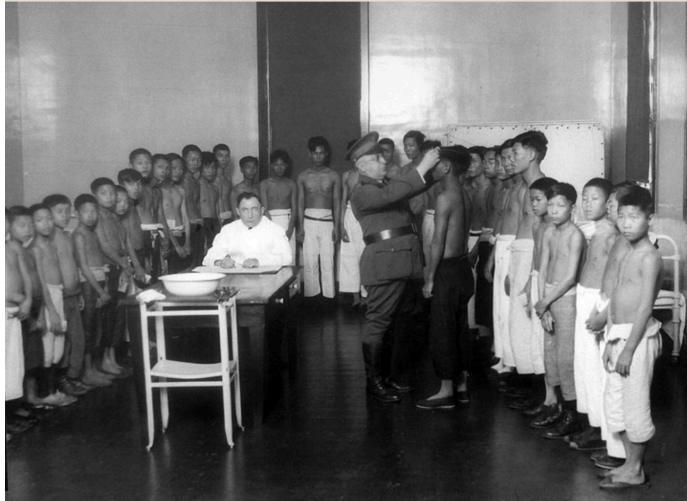
- a. What is one similarity between the way immigrants on Ellis Island and Angel Island were treated? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
- b. What is one difference between the way immigrants on Ellis Island and Angel Island were treated? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
- c. In your opinion, why might there be a difference in the way that immigrants on Ellis Island and Angel Island were treated?

4.

View this image of Hungarian immigrants at Ellis Island in 1905:



View this image of Chinese immigrants at Angel Island in the 1920s:



Using these prompts, compare and contrast the images:

What do you notice about the immigrants in each photo? What does that tell you about the conditions where they are? Do you think they represent all of the immigrants at their respective immigration stations?

5.



View this photograph of immigrants arriving at Angel Island in 1939 and reflect:

- a. What experiences may these immigrants have had on their journey to Angel Island?
- b. List one benefit and one drawback of immigrating to the U.S. at the time, for Asian immigrants. Explain your reasoning.

6.



View this advertisement published in 1976 and answer the following questions:

- What do you think is the purpose of this advertisement for an exhibition at Angel Island?
What is a possible outcome of people visiting this exhibition?
- What is the significance of the color scheme and inclusion of Chinese characters?
- Would you go to this exhibition?

7.



View this photograph of a former Angel Island detainee revisiting an interrogation room, taken in 2003, and answer the following questions:

1. If you were this man, how would you feel returning to Angel Island?
2. Write an open response (2-5 sentences) about how this image makes you feel. Consider the historical context of this photograph, the man's possible experiences at Angel Island, and the information you already know regarding immigration and Angel Island.