



Dear Family Member,

During the next several days, your child will begin learning about some of the most pivotal years in U.S. immigration history, the mid-1800s to the early 1900s. S/he will learn about some of the groups that immigrated to America during that time, some of the reasons why people immigrate to other countries, and why people immigrate to the United States in particular. S/he will also learn about the national motto, *e pluribus unum* (out of many, one), why many immigrants chose to settle in the city, and what life was like for those immigrants.

Below are some suggestions for activities that you may do at home to reinforce what your child is learning about U.S. immigration in the late nineteenth century.

1. Personal Connections

Share with your child your family's immigration history. When did your family first come to the United States? From where did they emigrate? Later in the domain, your child will have an opportunity to retell this family history to his/her class.

2. Statue of Liberty

Talk with your child about this famous statue. Discuss the history of the Statue of Liberty and any personal experiences you have with it. You may also wish to have your child draw and/or write about the Statue of Liberty. Ask questions to encourage your child to use the vocabulary learned at school as s/he draws or writes.

3. Sayings and Phrases: Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover

Your child will talk about this saying and its meaning in relation to the immigrant and mathematician Charles Steinmetz. Talk with your child about the meaning of and the situations in which you can use this saying. Have your child share with you who Charles Steinmetz was and how this saying relates to his life.

4. Song: "This Land Is Your Land"

Listen to the song "This Land Is Your Land" with your child. Discuss what this song means and how it can relate to immigration.

5. Words to Use

Below is a list of some of the words that your child will be learning about and using. Try to use these words as they come up in everyday speech with your child.

- *immigrant*—Charles Steinmetz was an immigrant from Germany.
- *push and pull factors*—Many push and pull factors bring immigrants to America.
- *ancestors*—A person’s ancestors are their relatives who lived long ago.
- *opportunity*—America is known as the “land of opportunity.”
- *customs*—Newcomers to America kept many of their customs and traditions.

6. Read Aloud Each Day

It is very important that you read with your child every day. Set aside time to read to your child and also time to listen to your child read to you. Attached is a list of recommended trade books related to immigration. Many of these may be found at the library.

Be sure to let your child know how much you enjoy hearing what s/he has learned at school.



Recommended Resources for Immigration

Trade Book List

Immigration

1. *All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel*, by Dan Yaccarino (Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2011) ISBN 978-0375866425
2. *American Symbols: Ellis Island (First Facts)*, by Terri DeGezelle (Capstone Press, 2004) ISBN 978-0736847063
3. *Angel Island*, by Lori Mortensen (Picture Window Books, 2009) ISBN 978-1404847040
4. *At Ellis Island: A History of Many Voices*, by Louise Peacock (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2007) ISBN 978-0689830266
5. *Coolies*, by Yin and Chris Soentpiet (Puffin Books, 2001) ISBN 978-0142500552
6. *The Copper Lady*, by Alice and Kent Ross (Millbrook Press, 1997) ISBN 978-0876149607
7. *Ellis Island (A True Book)*, by Patricia Ryon Quiri (Children's Press, 1998) ISBN 978-0516263748
8. *Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty*, by Linda Glasner (Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2010) ISBN 978-0547171845
9. *Everybody Cooks Rice*, by Norah Dooley (Lerner Publishing Group, Inc., 1991) ISBN 0876145918
10. *The Flag We Love*, by Pam Muñoz Ryan (Charlesbridge, 1996) ISBN 978-0881068450
11. *If Your Name Was Changed at Ellis Island*, by Ellen Levine (Scholastic Inc., 2006) ISBN 978-0590438292
12. *Immigration and Citizenship*, edited by E. D. Hirsch, Jr. (Pearson Learning, 2002) ISBN 978-0769050218

13. *The Keeping Quilt*, by Patricia Polacco (Simon & Schuster, 1988) ISBN 978-0689820908
14. *Lady Liberty: A Biography*, by Doreen Rappaport (Candlewick, 2011) ISBN 978-0763653019
15. *Lily and Miss Liberty*, by Carla Stevens (Scholastic Paperbacks, 1993) ISBN 978-0590449205
16. *The Long Way to a New Land*, by Joan Sandin (HarperTrophy, 1981) ISBN 978-0064441001
17. *The Memory Coat*, by Elvira Woodruff (Scholastic Press, 1999) ISBN 978-0590677172
18. *Molly's Pilgrim*, by Barbara Cohen (HarperCollins, 2005) ISBN 978-0688162801
19. *My Name Is Yoon*, by Helen Recorvits (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003) ISBN 978-0374351144
20. *One Green Apple*, by Eve Bunting (Clarion Books, 2006) ISBN 978-0618434770
21. *A Picnic in October*, by Eve Bunting (Voyager Books, 2004) ISBN 978-0152050658
22. *The Statue of Liberty*, by Lucile Recht Penner (Random House, 1995) ISBN 978-0679869283
23. *The Statue of Liberty (A True Book)*, by Patricia Ryon Quiri (Children's Press, 1998) ISBN 978-0516263854
24. *The Story of the Statue of Liberty*, by Betsy Maestro (HarperCollins, 1989) ISBN 978-0688087463
25. *This Land Is Your Land*, words and music by Woody Guthrie (Little, Brown and Company, 2008) ISBN 978-0316042727
26. *Watch the Stars Come Out*, by Riki Levinson (Puffin Books, 1985) ISBN 978-0140555066
27. *When Jessie Came Across the Sea*, by Amy Hest (Candlewick, 2003) ISBN 978-0763612740



Citizenship

28. *The Bill of Rights*, by Christine Taylor-Butler (Children's Press, 2008) ISBN 978-0531147771
29. *The Constitution of the United States*, by Christine Taylor-Butler (Children's Press, 2008) ISBN 978-0531147795
30. *Francis Scott Key and "The Star-Spangled Banner,"* by Lynnea Bowdish and illustrated by Harry Burman (Mondo Pub, 2002) ISBN 978-1590341957
31. *If You Were There When They Signed the Constitution*, by Elizabeth Levy (Scholastic Inc., 2006) ISBN 978-0590451598
32. *James Madison*, by Jill K. Mulhall (Teacher Created Materials, Inc., 2008) ISBN 978-0743989084
33. *James Madison: Founding Father*, by Lynn George (Rosen Publishing Group, 2002) ISBN 978-0823963829
34. *A More Perfect Union*, by Betsy Maestro (HarperCollins, 1990) ISBN 978-0688101923
35. *The National Anthem (True Books: American History)*, by Elaine Landau (Children's Press, 2008) ISBN 978-0531147832
36. *Shh! We're Writing the Constitution*, by Jean Fritz (Puffin, 1997) ISBN 978-0698116245
37. *The Star-Spangled Banner*, by Peter Spier (Dragonfly Books, 1992) ISBN 978-0440406976
38. *We the Kids: The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States*, by David Catrow (Puffin Books, 2005) ISBN 978-0142402764

Websites and Other Resources

Student Websites

1. Immigration: Stories of Yesterday and Today
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration>

Family Websites

2. The Statue of Liberty–Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.
<http://www.ellisland.org/Immexp/index.asp>
3. Immigration: Then and Now
<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/immigration-then-and-now>