

City of Immigrants Prologue & Part 1 Teacher Guide

Essential Question:

What conditions prompt immigrants to leave their homeland and/or draw them to come to the U.S. and what challenges do they face when they arrive?

Mission Reflection

After completing the Prologue and Part 1 of *City of Immigrants*:

1. List some reasons Lena and her family wanted to come to the United States.
2. Briefly describe Lena's experiences at Ellis Island.
3. List one hope, fear, or challenge that Lena faces in coming to America.
4. Do you think immigrants to the United States today have that same hope, fear, or challenge? Why or why not?

Time: 10–15 minutes

Instructions

Take 5 minutes to have students use these questions to reflect on their game play, individually or in small groups.

In a 10-minute discussion, ask students to describe their experiences at Ellis Island and the choices they made. Ask students to share a range of hopes, fears, and challenges that they wrote down.

Encourage students to think about their own hopes, fears, and challenges (e.g., being in a new place with new people, and not knowing how to navigate it. How do these feelings help them understand Lena's experiences?

Additional optional discussion questions:

- How many of you decided to lie at some point on Ellis Island? If so, why?
- Did you fear you would be turned away?
- What might it mean for Lena's family if Lena were turned away?
- How is her family counting on her?
- What is Lena's family hoping for in the U.S. that they don't have in Russia?