

City of Immigrants Prologue & Part 1

Exit Ticket Answer Key

Exit Questions

1) Why did Lena go to America by herself?

- a) In 1907, young people were much more independent of their parents than young people are today.
- b) Her older brother in America wanted someone to cook for him.
- c) **The family strategy was to send the young adults first to earn money.**
- d) The rest of her family had already left and were living in the U.S.

Answer Explanation: The Brodsky family, like many families from eastern and southern Europe, used the strategy of chain migration. One member of the family or community would emigrate first and help pave the way for others through money and information sent back to the community.

2) Which of the following did **NOT** happen to Lena on Ellis Island?

- a) **Her name was changed to be more American sounding.**
- b) She was examined for disease or disability.
- c) She was asked where she was going in the U.S.
- d) She was asked how much money she had with her.

Answer Explanation: Ellis Island immigration officials used the steamship manifests to record new immigrants and did not need to write or Americanize names. Family stories of name changes on Ellis Island circulated for years, but there is no evidence of it actually happening.

3. What kind of neighborhood and building did Lena's brother Isaac and his family live in?

- a) A three-bedroom apartment in midtown New York
- b) A single-family house in Queens
- c) A brownstone townhouse in Harlem, New York
- d) **A tenement building on the Lower East Side of New York**

Answer Explanation: In the mid-to-late 19th century, housing developers in New York built low-cost multi-dwelling buildings to house large numbers of immigrants. These buildings became known as "tenements" and associated with poor and over-crowded housing.

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4. Which of the following reasons to immigrate did **NOT** apply to the Brodsky family?
- a) They were persecuted for their religion in Russia.
 - b) They hoped for a better life in the U.S.
 - c) **They hoped to save money and return to buy land in Russia.**
 - d) They hoped to be able to help their whole family leave Russia.

Answer Explanation: Due to the extreme discrimination and persecution of Jewish people in Russia, very few Jewish immigrants considered returning to Russia once they had immigrated.

5. Since so many Jewish immigrants lived in New York City's Lower East Side, some people called it a _____. (Fill in the blank)
- a) tenement
 - b) ghetto**
 - c) sweatshop
 - d) slum

Answer Explanation: Since the 16th century, the word "ghetto" has been used to describe neighborhoods with Jewish residents in a city. The term now has negative connotations, but such close-knit communities with shared cultural values also provided support to the inhabitants.