

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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MISSION 4: "City of Immigrants"

Ellis Island Eye Inspection Photo

When immigrants arrived at Ellis Island, U.S. officials examined them for evidence of contagious diseases such as tuberculosis and trachoma (an eye disease). Although relatively few were turned away, it was a nerve-wracking experience for new arrivals. This photograph depicts an immigrant couple undergoing an eye examination at the hands of a U.S. Public Health Service officer.



Source: "U.S. inspectors examining eyes of immigrants, Ellis Island, New York Harbor," Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress. (<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/97501532/>)
