

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Essential Questions

MISSION 4: "City of Immigrants"

Mission 4: "City of Immigrants" is designed to help students think about the following questions, among others. Keep them in mind as your students play the game.

1. What was the experience of young immigrants coming to New York in the early twentieth century?

- Why did so many people leave eastern and southern Europe?
- What were the immigrants' hopes for life in America?
- Where did they settle in New York?
- What kinds of homes and businesses did they find in the immigrant neighborhoods?
- What kinds of community support did immigrants find in the city?
- How did immigrant families find ways to prosper?
- Did the immigrant experience differ depending on gender?

2. How did immigrants adapt to life in the United States and what aspects of American culture attracted young immigrants?

- What was the appeal of nickelodeons, amusement parks, and dance halls?
- How did young immigrants view American fashion?
- What cultural activities from Europe continued in immigrant communities in America?

3. What were the working conditions for immigrant workers and how did they try to improve them?

- What jobs did immigrant women find in the city?
- In the clothing industry, how did small sweatshops differ from factories?
- What were some of the problems that workers in sweatshops and factories faced?
- How did the workers try to improve conditions? Were they successful?
- What was unusual about the 1909 Shirtwaist Strike?

4. What was the importance of the Progressive Reform movement?

- What were Settlement houses and what services did they provide?
- How did newspaper and magazine writers influence reform?
- How did the Triangle Shirtwaist fire bring about reform?
- What role did government play in reform?

5. How was women's role in society changing during this period?

- What role did middle-class women play in the labor movement and the Settlement house movement?
 - How did young immigrant women establish new social norms?
 - What were some key issues for women reformers in the 1910s?
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