

## **City of Immigrants** Additional Media Resources

*The creators of MISSION US have assembled the following list of websites, fiction, and non-fiction to enhance and extend teacher and student learning about the people, places, and historical events depicted in the game.*

### **I. WEB RESOURCES**

#### ***Portals and Collections***

EDSITEment

<https://edsitement.neh.gov/>

National Endowment for the Humanities portal containing resources and lesson plans categorized by themes and topics in American history, art, and culture.

American History – U.S. History

<https://www.usa.gov/history>

Portal containing links to resources categorized by period, diversity, and topical categories.

Educating for American Democracy

<https://www.educatingforamericandemocracy.org/>

A cross-partisan inquiry framework for teaching U.S. History and Civics, including a variety of classroom resources.

Library of Congress Exhibitions on Immigration

<https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/immigration/>

Online Library of Congress exhibitions chronicling the immigration stories of different ethnic groups throughout American history.

The New Immigrants: NYC 1880-1924

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/new-immigrants-nyc-1880-1924/id892259397?mt=8>

iOS app developed by New York City Department of Education featuring a large collection of primary sources.

Timeline of U.S. Immigration Reform

<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/immigration/timeline.html>

Presents key dates and landmarks in the history of U.S. immigration from 1800-1940.

Scholastic, Inc. Immigration Web Page

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/>

Web resource presenting contemporary youth accounts of U.S. immigration as well as an in-depth exploration and virtual tour of Ellis Island at the turn of the 20th century.

Digital History Webpage on the Progressive Era

<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/era.cfm?eraID=11&smtID=1>

Provides an overview of the important historical events, documents, music, and films of 1890-1914.

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Remember the Triangle Fire Webpage

<http://rememberthetrianglefire.org/resources/>

Contains extensive list of web, literary, and scholarly resources about the Triangle Fire and the events surrounding it.

The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire Trial Webpage

<https://famous-trials.com/trianglefire>

Includes newspaper accounts, court testimonies and timelines, of the trial of Isaac Harris and Max Blanck, the owners of the factory, whose acquittal sparked a storm of labor outrage and new factory regulations.

### ***Links, Resources, and Videos on Demand***

HERB: Social History for Every Classroom

<http://herb.ashp.cuny.edu>

Search "Ellis Island" for numerous primary source documents and lesson plans.

Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/>

A variety of American history resources for teachers and students.

Library of Congress "American Dream" Lesson Plan

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/lessons/american-dream/>

Includes primary sources and key questions for exploring the motivations of immigrants in coming to America.

History.com Tenements Webpage

<http://www.history.com/topics/tenements>

Reviews the history of tenement housing in America and includes video links to presentations on Ellis Island and Jacob Riis, the author of the famous exposé on tenement housing called *How the Other Half Lives*.

Tenement Museum Main Webpage

<http://www.tenement.org/>

Provides virtual tours, interactive quizzes and primary source documents pertaining to the Lower East Side, tenement housing, and the New York immigrant experience.

Ellis Island Foundation Website

<https://www.statueofliberty.org/ellis-island/>

A comprehensive description of the various aspects of the Ellis Island immigration experience, replete with photographs and video interviews with people who immigrated in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### ***Primary Source Documents***

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*New York Times* article on the Triangle Fire

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/primary-resources/triangle-nyt/>

The original *New York Times* article on the fire from March 26, 1911.

*How the Other Half Lives* (1890). Jacob A. Riis.

<http://depts.washington.edu/envir202/Readings/Reading01.pdf> T

This seminal exposé of the dangerous living conditions of immigrants in the tenement houses of New York City helped launch the movement for greater regulation of urban housing, which culminated in the Tenement House Act of 1901.

Cornell Triangle Fire Website

<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/>

This comprehensive resource for exploring the conditions and events surrounding the Triangle Fire contains rare primary sources from The Kheel Center at Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, an archive of sources on labor and industrial relations.

### **II. BOOKS**

#### ***Non-Fiction for Students***

*The Triangle Shirtwaist Company Fire of 1911* (2001). Gina De Angelis. Grades 6-9. Tells the story of the building code violations that contributed to the deaths of 146 workers during the fire, as well as the movements demanding safer working conditions and higher wages that arose in the aftermath of the fire.

*Island of Hope: Ellis Island and the Journey to America* (2004). Martin W. Sandler. Grades 3-6. A thorough volume of firsthand accounts, photographs and detailed historical facts about the Ellis Island facility and the massive wave of immigrants that went through it at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*We Shall Not Be Moved: The Women's Factory Strike of 1909* (1996). Joan Dash. Grades 6-8. Focuses on key individuals in the unprecedented 13 week-long women's strike of 1909 that led to the formation of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

*The Triangle Fire: A Brief History with Documents* (2009). Jo Ann Argersinger. Grades 8 and up. This introductory textbook includes a comprehensive variety of primary source documents to illustrate the perspective of the victims and the labor activists who were inspired by the disaster.

*Ellis Island (True Books: American History)* (2008). Elaine Landau. Grades 3-5. A lively introduction to the history of Ellis Island and the difficult examination process immigrants faced as they entered New York City.

*I Was Dreaming to Come to America: Memories from the Ellis Island Oral History Project* (1997). Veronica Lawlor. Grades 4-6. Collects 15 interviews from men and women who immigrated through Ellis Island as children from 1900-1925 into a stunning picture book.

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*Shutting Out the Sky: Life in the Tenements of New York 1880-1924* (2003). Deborah Hopkinson. Grades 4-7. Relying on oral history and autobiographies, this work of non-fiction brings to life the experiences of five young immigrants struggling to chart their own way through poverty. Includes numerous historical photographs and a section on resources for young readers.

### **Non-Fiction for Teachers**

*From Ellis Island to JFK: New York's Two Great Waves of Immigration* (2000). Nancy Foner. An insightful comparison between the waves of Jewish and Italian immigrants at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the waves of Asian, Latino and former Soviet immigrants at the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*The Transplanted: A History of Immigrants in Urban America*. (1985). John Bodnar. Focuses on the enduring yet modified traditions of immigrant families which helped them cope with industrial America.

*Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (2005). Mae Ngai. Examines the United States' history of permitting yet stigmatizing undocumented workers, primarily from non-European nations, and how immigration policy has evolved since the 1920s.

*Dividing Lines: The Politics of Immigration Control in America* (2002). Daniel Tichenor. Treats the breadth of United States immigration policy shifts since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the unchanging attitudes underlying the politics.

*Emerging Metropolis: New York Jews in the age of Immigration, 1840-1920* (2012). Annie Polland and Daniel Soyer. A scholarly examination of New York City as a center of Jewish culture and Jewish immigrants' role in shaping the city.

*Women of Courage: Jewish and Italian Immigrant Women in New York* (1999). Rose L. Coser, Laura S. Anker, Andrew J. Perrin. Presenting 100 in-depth interviews with Jewish and Italian women who immigrated to New York City at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this interdisciplinary study examines the similarities and differences in family structure and cultural pressures that the two groups faced as they adapted to life in the city.

*Immigrant Women in the Land of Dollars: Life and Culture on the Lower East Side, 1890-1925* (1985). Elizabeth Ewen. Italian and Jewish women's lives and experiences of acculturation.

*Daughters of the Shtetl: Life and Labor in the Immigrant Generation* (1991). Susan A. Glenn. This study examines the attitudes toward labor of women in Eastern European Jewish communities and how these attitudes shaped their fight for worker's rights and the recognition that women could be legitimate breadwinners.

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*World of Our Fathers: The Journey of the East European Jews to America and the life They Found and Made* (1976). Irving Howe. Winner of the 1976 National Book Award, this mammoth study brings to life the world of Ashkenazi Jewry as they chose to leave their homes in Eastern Europe and adapt to America yet also sustain the Yiddish traditions that bound them together.

*Common Sense and a Little Fire: Women and Working-Class Politics in the United States, 1900-1965* (1995). Annelise Orleck. Highlights the lives of four immigrant women activists whose achievements in organizing labor unions, pushing for welfare programs and shaping the modern women's rights movement have far outshone their personal fame.

*America's Working Women: A Documentary History, 1600 to the Present* (1995). Edited by Rosalyn Baxandall and Linda Gordon. This landmark work of women's and labor studies presents a wide selection of personal letters, poems, and other literary artifacts of the female members of America's labor force—of diverse ethnicities and experiences—since the Colonial Era.

*The House on Henry Street*. (1915). Lillian Wald. A memoir by the founder of the pioneering New York settlement.

*As Equals and Sisters: Feminism, the Labor Movement and the Women's Trade Union League of New York* (1981). Nancy Schrom Dye. Illuminates the difficult choices women's rights groups, especially the Women's trade Union League, were forced to make as they struggled with internal disparities in race and class.

*Going Out: The Rise and Fall of Public Amusements* (1993). David Nasaw. Chronicles how cheap public amusements flourished with the rise of American cities between 1870 and 1920, but declined thereafter.

*Cheap Amusements: Working Women and Leisure in Turn-of-the-Century New York* (1986). Kathy Peiss. Working women's experiences in nickelodeons, dance halls and amusement parks.

*Standing at Armageddon: the United States, 1877-1919* (1989). Nell Irvin Painter. This vigorous survey of America's transition from an agrarian to an industrial economy in the Progressive Era evokes the tensions that arose between the promoters of increased rights for organized labor and the defenders of the status quo of class hierarchy.

*Triangle: The Fire That Changed America* (2004). David von Drehle. This acclaimed work of social history documents the lives of the victims and survivors of the Triangle Fire, relying heavily on interviews with survivors, as well as the trial that ensued after the disaster.

*The Triangle Fire* (1962; 2001). Leon Stein. Paints an enduring picture of the chaos of the Triangle Fire itself by presenting interviews with dozens of survivors and eyewitnesses and drawing on a wealth of primary source material.

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### ***Fiction for Students***

*Ashes of Roses* (2002). Mary Jane Auch. Grades 4 and up. Sixteen-year-old Irish immigrant Margaret Nolan must decide whether to stay in New York City following the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in 1911.

*City of Orphans* (2011). Avi. Grades 5 and up. Thirteen-year old newspaper boy Maks must find a way to prove that his sister is innocent of stealing a watch from the Waldorf hotel. To do this, he enlists the help of an eccentric cast of characters living on the vibrant streets of the Lower East Side in 1893.

*East Side Story* (1993). Bonnie Bader. Grades 4 and up. Two teenager sisters from the Jewish immigrant community working in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory join their fellow laborers to demand better and safer working conditions.

*The Triangle Factory Fire* (1995). Victoria Sherrow. Grades 5-8. Presents a concise chronological history of the events leading up to the Factory fire and highlights the fire as a pivotal event in American history.

*Uprising* (2007). Margaret Peterson Haddix. Grades 6-8. Explores three perspectives of young women living at the time of the fire: Bella and Yetta, two workers in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory, and Jane, the daughter of a successful businessman. Gives a well-rounded picture of the forces that set different sectors of society in motion following the fire of 1911.

*The Museum of Extraordinary Things: A Novel* (2014). Alice Hoffman. Grades 8 and up. Two worlds come together as Coralie Sardie, the daughter of a Coney Island boardwalk museum proprietor, falls in love with Eddie Cohen, a poor Jewish Russian immigrant photographer, in the midst of the Triangle Shirtwaist scandal.

*Dreams in the Golden Country: The Diary of Zipporah Feldman, a Jewish Immigrant Girl, New York City, 1903* (1998). Kathryn Lasky. Grades 4-7. Presents the fictional diary of a recent Jewish immigrant whose family struggles to adapt to America while holding fast to their cultural practices.

*Voyage* (1983). Adele Geras. Grades 7 and up. A colorful group of characters from Eastern Europe travels for 2 weeks across the Atlantic on the SS Danzig, while seeking to justify for themselves their decision to leave their homelands.

*At Ellis Island: A History in Many Voices* (2007). Louise Peacock & Walter L. Krudop. Grades 4-7. Presents factual content about Ellis Island side by side with a fictional series of letters written by 10-year-old Armenian immigrant Sera to her mother facing persecution back in Armenia, as well as archived letters from real immigrants through Ellis Island in the early 1900s.

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*The Dragon's Child: A Story of Angel Island* (2011). Laurence Yep. Grades 3-7. Gim Lew, a 10 year old Chinese boy, must follow his father from their home in China to California's Angel Island in 1922 while beset with worries that he will not pass the strict immigration test administered there.

*When Jessie Came Across the Sea* (2003). Amy Hest. Grades 3-5. Thirteen-year-old Jessie is selected by the rabbis of her poor village in Russia to immigrate to America. This story illustrates the painful process of leaving one's family and home for the promise of a better life across the sea.

*All of a Kind Family* series (2005). Sydney Taylor. Grades 4-7. Award-winning series that follows five sisters from an immigrant family in turn-of-the-century New York City as they learn their family's history and go on adventures around the city.

*Rebecca series (American Girl Collection)* (2009). Jacqueline Green. Grades 4-8. Aspiring young actress Rebecca decides to put on a performance in her neighborhood to raise money for her cousin Ana and her family to escape Russia and come to the United States.

*The Rise of David Levinsky* (1993). Abraham Cahan. Grades 8 and up. This groundbreaking work of American Jewish literature depicts the life of a young Talmudic scholar after he immigrates to America: his gradual ascent to millionaire status in the garment industry, and his simultaneous disenchantment with religion and society.

### **General Fiction/Fiction for Teachers**

*Payday at the Triangle* (2001). Ruth Daigon. Small poetry collection presenting dramatic poems combined with newspaper photographs and clippings to provide a vivid perspective of the laborers who fell victim to the fire.

*Away: A Novel* (2008). Amy Bloom. Russian immigrant Lillian Leyb comes to America on a mission to find her 3-year-old daughter Sophie, who was separated from her during a violent pogrom. Her journey takes her through the Jewish community of the Lower East Side, Seattle's African American community and eventually the wilderness of Alaska as Bloom skillfully weaves together Yiddish culture and the American landscape.

*Unterzakhn* (2012). Leela Corman. With illustrations inspired by Russian folk art, this black-and-white graphic novel follows two Jewish sisters Esther and Fanya living in the Lower East Side circa 1910. *Unterzakhn (Underthings)* starkly depicts the humble jobs immigrants took on and the difficult sacrifices they had to make to survive in the overcrowded city.

*The Diary of a Shirtwaist Striker* (1910). Theresa S. Malkiel. The diary is fictional, though written by an eyewitness to the actual shirtwaist strike at the turn of the century in New York City.

*Passages to America: Oral Histories of Child Immigrants from Ellis Island and Angel Island* (2009). Emmy E. Werner. Adapts 50 firsthand accounts from children who immigrated to

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America from all over the world to paint a portrait of the hardships they fled from and how they coped with the culture shocks and language barriers of their new lives.

*The Triangle Factory Fire Project* (2005). Christopher Pielher and Scott Alan Evans. A play that combines eyewitness accounts, court transcripts and other primary source material to produce a compelling account of the fire and the social upheaval that followed it.

*Rivington Street* (1982). Meredith Tax. Depicts the plight of four courageous Russian women fleeing to America and striving to form new lives for themselves in the Lower East Side.

*Triangle: A Novel* (2006). Katharine Weber. The granddaughter of a survivor of the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire goes on a quest to discover the truth of how her grandmother survived the tragedy 106 years earlier.

*By the Waters of Manhattan* (1930; 2009). Charles Reznikoff. This acclaimed novel chronicles the story of a courageous family as they flee from pogrom-riddled Russia to settle in Brooklyn at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Dreamland* (2006). Kevin Baker. Brings together an eclectic range of characters, from strikers and gangsters to Freud and Jung, in turn-of-the-century New York as they pursue their own definitions of the American Dream.

*Christ in Concrete* (1939). Pietro di Donato. Brings to life the world of Italian blue-collar immigrant workers in the 1920s, as a bricklayer struggles to make a living following his father's death in a construction accident.

*The Breadgivers* (1925). Anzia Yezierska. Presents a vivid, semi-autobiographical account of a young Jewish immigrant's quest to Americanize herself and the tension that ensues between her and her father, who maintains a rigid definition of Jewish orthodoxy.

*Call it Sleep* (1934; 2005). Henry Roth. This seminal work of immigrant fiction captures the plight and success of the East Side Jewish community through the perspective of 10-year-old David Schearl, as he comes of age in the slums of New York.

### **III. FILM AND TELEVISION RESOURCES:**

#### ***Documentaries:***

*Island of Hope, Island of Tears* Documentary (1989).

<https://archive.org/details/gov.ntis.ava15996vnb1>

Short film produced by the National Park Service on the history of Ellis Island as a focal point of U.S. immigration

Documentary Webcast "Haven to Home" from Library of Congress Exhibit "Haven to Home"

[http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature\\_wdesc.php?rec=3712](http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=3712)

Tells the story of two renowned Jewish figures from immigrant families: Emma Lazarus, the

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author of the famous poem “The Colossus,” and Irving Berlin, the celebrated creator of such songs as “White Christmas” and “God Bless America.”

HBO Documentary *Triangle: Remembering the Fire* (2011). Daphne Pinkerson, NR.

<http://www.hbo.com/documentaries/triangle-remembering-the-fire#/>

Documentary released in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fire. Includes a lesson guide and further resources.

*The Century, America's Time—Seeds of Change*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEcpJQxtswA&list=PLC8D9DC28C3EC5223>

ABC documentary that covers the political and social movements that helped shape America into a great power from 1900-1914.

*New York: A Documentary Film* (1999). Ric Burns, G. An exhaustive treatment of the 400-year history of New York City, focusing on its ascent to become the preeminent city in America.

*Ellis Island* History Channel Series (1997). Narrated by Mandy Patinkin, this documentary features interviews with immigrants who experienced the tumult of Ellis Island firsthand, and presents rare film and photography footage of the immigration process on the island.

### ***Narratives***

*The Immigrant*, 2013. James Gray, NR. An acclaimed portrayal of the desperation immigrant women without families faced upon entering New York.

*Avalon*, 1990. Barry Levinson, PG. A Polish-Jewish family comes to America at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and tries to forge a new life in Baltimore.

*Ellis Island* (1984). TV Mini-series tracking the parallel lives and struggles of immigrants arriving in Ellis Island in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Hester Street*, 1975. Joan Micklin Silver, PG. Based on Abraham Cahan's 1896 novella *Yekl: A Tale of the New York Ghetto*, this movie tells the story of Jewish immigrants who try to assimilate into American culture while living on the Lower East Side in 1896.

## **IV. PBS PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES**

*Forgotten Ellis Island* PBS Series (2009). Lorie Conway, NR.

<https://www.pbs.org/video/forgotten-ellis-island-preview-ytoitr/>

Documents the once-abandoned Ellis island hospital, where 350 babies were born and ten times that many immigrants died. Full of primary source accounts of the harsh conditions in the hospital and the limitations of medicine at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*The Jewish Americans* (2008). David Grubin, NR.

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A PBS documentary series chronicling the Jewish American experience as they immigrated to New York, gradually thrived and assimilated into American culture in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*American Experience: Triangle Fire* (2011).

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/triangle/>

Episode of acclaimed documentary series *American Experience* detailing the conditions leading up to the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire and the social repercussions that followed the disaster.

*New York: A Documentary Film* (2003). Rick Burns, NR.

Eight-part series tracing the history of New York City. Includes episodes covering immigration and labor.

*History Detectives*

<http://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives>

Episodes deal with different topics throughout history, including immigration.

*Faces of America: Becoming American* (2010) NR.

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/facesofamerica/video/episode-2-becoming-american/194>

Part of the series *Faces of America with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*, this episode explores the many journeys to becoming American that defined the "Century of Immigration" (1820s - 1924) and transformed the United States from a sleepy agrarian country into a booming industrial power.