

# THE ELLIS ISLAND INTERVIEW

## WOULD YOU PASS?

When they arrived at Ellis Island, immigrants had to go through a long interview before being admitted into the country. The government wanted to make sure that each new citizen had a realistic plan for their new life here and had opportunities waiting for them. Being sick, not being able to read and write, or not having family in the United States could sometimes convince immigration officers to send people back to their homeland.

Below are questions from the standard interview that every person processed at Ellis Island had to answer. See if you could pass the test!

What is your name? \_\_\_\_\_

How old are you? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a boy or a girl? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you married? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your job? \_\_\_\_\_

*(If you don't have one, you can write "student".)*

What country are you from? \_\_\_\_\_

*(If you're from the U.S., name the countries your family came from.)*

Where do you plan to live here in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_

Who paid for your passage? \_\_\_\_\_

How tall are you? \_\_\_\_\_

What color are your eyes and hair? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any birthmarks? What do they look like? \_\_\_\_\_

Where were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

Next, try answering the Yes or No questions on the following page. 