

# Step by Step Through the Inspection Process



## Arriving in New York

First- and second-class passengers were examined aboard steamship. Steerage passengers were ferried to Ellis Island for medical and legal inspection.



## Entering Ellis Island

Officers directed immigrants from the ferries and into the main building.



## Medical Inspection

Doctors scanned the moving line of immigrants, looking for signs of illness.

The healthy were allowed to pass.



Those who appeared ill were marked with chalk and sent for further medical examination.



## Further Medical Examination

Doctors gave immigrants a more thorough check up which could include a brief overall physical or mental examination.

Some were given a clean bill of health and returned to the inspection line.



Others had to be sent to the hospital.



## Hospitalization

The sick were taken to Ellis Island hospital for observation and care.

Once they had recovered, they could proceed with their legal inspection.



Those with incurable or disabling ailments, however, were excluded and sent back to their homelands.



## Legal Inspection

Inspectors asked immigrants a series of questions to determine their eligibility to land.

Most passed and were admitted.



Others, whose answers aroused the inspectors' suspicions, were detained for a hearing before the Board of Special Inquiry.



## Board of Special Inquiry

Those detained for a hearing presented their cases to a Board of Special Inquiry, which allowed friends and relatives of the immigrants to testify on their behalf.

After hearing the evidence, the Board granted admission to most immigrants.



Those who were rejected could appeal the Board's decision.



## Appeals

Immigrants could appeal an unfavorable Board of Special Inquiry decision directly to Washington, D.C.

Appeals resulted in either exclusion or admission.



## Admission



## Exclusion

Excluded immigrants had to return to their ports of embarkation. Immigration laws required steamship lines to provide the return trip free of charge.