United States Immigration Data
(not just Ellis Island)
1820-1954

Germany 6,740,000
*Austro-Hungarian 5,000,000
Mexico 4,910,000
Britain 4,780,000
Canada 4,600,000
Ireland 4,500,000
Russia 3,300,000
Philippines 1,400,000
Sweden 1,100,000
Korea 760,000
Dominican Republic 750,000
India 740,000
Cuba 720,000
Vietnam 700,000
China 230,000
Africa 50,000

*Austro-Hungarian (Austria and Hungary was a huge empire in the 1800’s.)

Information compiled from:
http://www.ellisisland.org/immexp/wseix_5_3.asp
U.S. Immigration Data 1820-1954

Country of Origin

- Vietnam
- Sweden
- Russia
- Philippines
- Mexico
- Korea
- Ireland
- India
- Germany
- Dominican Republic
- Cuba
- China
- Canada
- Britain
- Austro-Hungarian
- Africa

Number of Immigrants

0 1,000,000 2,000,000 3,000,000 4,000,000 5,000,000 6,000,000 7,000,000 8,000,000
This research is being collected for a class project.
Your participation is important!

Dad’s family came from ________________________________ (country)
Approximate year____

Mom’s family came from ________________________________(country)
Approximate year____

__________________________________________
Researcher’s Name
**Brief History for Teacher Background**

More than twelve million individuals passed through Ellis Island. It has been estimated that nearly half of all Americans today can trace their family history someone who passed through the Port of New York at Ellis Island.

Before being designated as the site of the first federal immigration station by President Benjamin Harrison in 1890, Ellis Island had a varied history. The local Indian tribes had called it "Kioshk" or Gull Island. Due to its rich and abundant oyster beds and plentiful and profitable shad runs, it was known as Oyster Island for many generations during the Dutch and English colonial periods.

On January 1, 1892, Annie Moore, a 15 year-old Irish girl, and her two brothers became part of history as she was the very first immigrant to be processed at Ellis Island. She received a greeting from officials and a $10 gold piece. It was the largest sum of money she had ever owned

On average, the inspection process at Ellis Island took approximately 3-7 hours. Only two percent of the arriving immigrants were excluded from entry. On June 15, 1897, a fire turned the wooden structures on Ellis Island into ashes. No loss of life was reported, but most of the immigration records dating back to 1855 were destroyed.

After 1924, the only people who were detained at Ellis Island were those who had problems with their paperwork, as well as war refugees and displaced persons. In November of 1954 the last detainee, a Norwegian merchant seaman named Arne Peterssen was released, and Ellis Island officially closed. In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson declared Ellis Island part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument.

Source: The National Park Service
FACT SHEET

TIMELINE of American Immigration through Ellis Island

1790 Naturalization Act- Any free white person could become a citizen of the United States.

1819 Steerage Act - Ship captains must keep complete passenger records and provide healthy conditions for those on board.

1840's and 1850's - Irish immigrants from the came to escape the nightmare of a potato famine in their homeland.

1880s- Nine percent of the total population of Norway migrated to America.

1882- Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act meaning only a few Chinese could come to the U.S.

1907- Limits are put on Japanese immigration into the U.S.

1880-1930- over 27 million people entered the United States. About 20 million passed though Ellis Island.

1948- Congress passed the Displaced Persons Act which allowed people who cannot go back to their homelands to come to the U.S.

1965- Laws are passed that removed the quota system which favored Western Europeans, and replaced it with one welcoming immigrants from all continents.