



What Was Ellis Island?

Patricia Brennan Demuth , Kevin McVeigh (Illustrations) , David Groff (Illustrations)

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From 1892 to 1954, Ellis Island was the gateway to a new life in the United States for millions of immigrants. In later years, the island was deserted, the buildings decaying. Ellis Island was not restored until the 1980s, when Americans from all over the country donated more than \$150 million. It opened to the public once again in 1990 as a museum. Learn more about America's history, and perhaps even your own, through the story of one of the most popular landmarks in the country.

What Was Ellis Island? Details

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Author : Patricia Brennan Demuth , Kevin McVeigh (Illustrations) , David Groff (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review What Was Ellis Island? for online ebook

Jason Polhemus says

"What was Ellis Island" by Patricia Demuth gave a lot detail about Ellis than my social studies did. The book was about a biography about Ellis Island. The book taught me a lot of history. Like when they were redoing the building they found poems under the walls.

What I like about the book was the intriguing information about the history about the Island. I learned a lot about the island. One thing I didn't like about the book was that there was pictures

I recommend this book to people who are interested when immigrants started moving to America

Nate says

This is a worthwhile read for anyone, and I think this would make a good impression on the intended audience of 8-12 year-olds. I love how the book focuses on the bravery that immigrants show in moving to a new country. The courage it must have taken to sell all your worldly goods and take a chance loading your family onto a steamer to cross an ocean to a new land of unknowns is striking indeed. My heart goes out to those with children making such a trip. Nice little history lesson that obviously still resonates today.

Ryan says

Just OK

Kathy Foley says

A great way to introduce Ellis Island and its history to a young reader.

Stacy M. Patton says

A wonderful overview of what Ellis Island was, what took place there and what happened to it.

This book covers everything from the first immigrants who came to Ellis Island to the last immigrants to come through. It also features a few famous people who came through Ellis Island such as Bob Hope. This book also covers the expansion of Ellis Island, the testing that took place, etc. It also covers the recovery and repair of Ellis Island after it was shut down and fell into the hands of thieves and many years of not being maintained.

This was an entertaining look at an important piece of American history that I am glad I shared with my 4th

and 6th grade sons.

Jennifer Siddiqui says

Simple book that explained how immigrants came to America and what they went through once they were here. After reading this book, I appreciate the hardships my grandparents endured to have a better life.

Susan says

It was great! I learned so much about Ellis Island! I read it to my 4 year old who asked a lot of questions.

Cynthia says

I actually learned a lot from this kids/youth book..... a lot! Quite a good book!

Elisabetta says

The book is meant to be for children, but I'd recommend it to anybody who would like to know a few facts about Ellis Island, a place where more than 2.000.000 immigrants from every part of the world passed to start a new life.

I can only imagine the state in which those people would reach a new world, for most of them a place where they couldn't even understand what people would say and many didn't even know where to go or how to survive. Ellis Island was a compulsory passage for those people, quite scary as you could have been sent home, anguish that would add to the exhaustion of a long travel in awful condition. But it was also the start of another travel, the new life path, the hope of a better life.

Quite a refresh for the current situation in many countries.

Emily Smith says

J NF

Cadie Sommer says

The students love this series

Yvonne says

What a great series of books. My niece is going to be a teacher and has asked for these to create her class library. I've been buying them for her and just had to read this one since my grandparents come through Ellis Island. What a great book and full of things I didn't know. I highly recommend this book and the series or What Was and Who Was/Who Is.

Victoria says

Personal Reaction: This book is part of a larger series of informational children's books. Personally, I did not learn about Ellis Island until around 5th grade, so I think the use of this book depends on the curriculum used at a particular school. I found it very informative and a nice change from what students learn in their text books which can be dry sometimes.

Purpose: independent reading, nonfiction, learning about Ellis Island, book report, social studies

Julia says

I love the Who was/What was series. I read this one because we'd just visited Ellis Island and I wanted a quick synopsis of what had gone on there.

Lindsay says

I read What Was Ellis Island? to get a better sense of what the series What Was/Who Was/Who Is series is like.

The text is well written and easy to read. Clean line art drawings enhance the text. An occasional call out page goes into greater depth about the topic. Additional features include a photograph section in the middle, a timeline, and a bibliography.

Recommended to readers of shorter chapter books and up.
