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The Statue of Liberty

You may have seen the green statue with the torch in the Hudson River, but do you know all of the true meanings of why it is such an important artifact to America? The statue wasn't America's idea, but it was a gift from France and it was delivered on June 17, 1885. The Statue of Liberty was originally given to America in honor of the friendship between America and France during the American Revolution. It was meant to be a gift to celebrate the centennial that America was a country. At first people were unsure about the statue because they were suspicious of the reason behind the gift, but this statue has grown to be the world's symbol of freedom.

The idea of the Statue of Liberty came from Auguste Bartholdi and Gustave Eiffel. A French sculptor and professor, Frederic Auguste had built many different statues before, He raised money in both France and the U.S. for the New York landmark and his family. In 1870 he designed the Statue of Liberty to mark the Franco-American alliance of 1778. He came up with the idea of the Statue of Liberty at a dinner party in 1865. He wanted to create a statue to represent freedom and show liberty. The French people had a very strict law which they could not say anything against the government without having consequences. He didn't like this way of living and thought people should have more freedom. At this dinner party, he was introduced to Gustave Bartholdi, who was a sculptor. They discussed the idea of the statue together. Gustave

Bartholdi designed the way the statue looks, and Gustave Eiffel was the engineer behind the framework.

Building and transporting the statue to New York took a lot of time and was a huge process. It took four months to build the statue and it was on Bedloe Island, which was best known as Ford Wood, and renamed Liberty Island in 1950. They built the statue in France from 1876 to 1884, it was taken apart into 350 pieces, and shipped it to New York in 214 crates in 1884.

The Statue of Liberty is humongous especially because of all of its components. From the bars of the pedestal foundation to the tip of the torch it is 305 feet and 6 inches. If you were to measure the tip of the heel to the top of the head it would be 111 feet and 16 inches. Measuring the width of the foot would be 35 feet. To all of the little pieces and all of the big pieces they all add up to the weight of 225 tons or 450,000 pounds.

Each part of the Statue of Liberty symbolizes a different meaning. The torch symbolizes the enlightening of the world. Enlightenment means education or awareness to the world. It stands for elegance and the light is leading the way to freedom showing us the path of liberty. She is standing on chains which shows she is breaking the chains of slavery as if she were saying, "There shall be no more slavery in this world." The robe that Liberty wears has a special meaning of the goddess of Liberty and freedom.

Her crown shows many important symbols of the world. For example, the seven spikes on the top of her crown stand for the seven seas and also for the seven continents. This shows that she is a symbol welcoming people from all over the world. There are twenty five windows on the bottom of her crown that let in the rays of heaven's sunlight.

The left hand holds a tablet with the date of Declaration of Independence. This is an important part because that was when America became their own country. This was significant because now they could choose how to rule their own country. It was signed on July 4, 1778. They decided to put the tablet on the Statue of Liberty not only because it was the day America became its own country, but also because in need for laws to help protect freedom.

Additionally, a woman named Emma Lazarus was very famous for writing a poem “The New Colossus.” She had written the poem because of a fundraiser in 1883, after she died November 19, 1887. Her friend Georgina Schuyler had found the poem. A poet named James Russell Lowell was a poet and he loved the poem. Lazarus gave the statue its *raison d’etre*, or most important reason for existing, and he said he liked the poem better than the building itself. It was written on a bronze plaque on a pedestal and was placed on the statue. Now you can find the poem on the bottom side of the plaque. With following is the poem “ The New Colossus” by Emma Lazarus.

The New Colossus

With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command

The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

It was put on the statue in 1903 and it was a welcome sight for immigrants. This poem is a sign for immigrants because when they are coming to America they are probably poor and homeless and wanting to be free, but when you come to America you won't have to worry about that. And this poem is talking about how you can look back at how you used to live.

This green lady with the torch has symbolized and shown us the world's symbols and features. Not only has it been a sign to immigrants, but also to the world, by having its own way of showing us freedom and enlightenment. When immigrants come to America for a better life they would see the Statue of Liberty and it shows them they would have freedom.

Name: Geffen

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Immigration

Ellis Island

It has been said that about 40% of Americans can track back their ancestors as coming through Ellis Island, but it wasn't easy for everyone to get through. It was a long journey across the ocean to get to America and yet many were not allowed to enter. The immigrants came on foot, train, ship, or horseback to get out of Europe, but then they all took a boat across the ocean. Most of the immigrants came from Europe, but there were still a few immigrants from other places. Ellis Island has an interesting history which includes the process the immigrants went through. Ellis Island was established so America could keep control of the immigrants coming in. Ellis Island became an immigration station in 1892 and was turned into a museum in 1954. Some immigrants got sent back but most got to go to America, therefore many people had different opinions about Ellis Island.

To get to America, immigrants had a long journey. When the immigrants started crossing the ocean it was very difficult. Many of the immigrants trekked hundreds of miles just to get to a ship. As many as 3000 people crowded on the ships at one time. The journey across the Atlantic Ocean took about two weeks. The trip was grueling because of all the dirt on the ship, how it was so crowded, and that there was not a lot of food for the passengers so they were exhausted when they got to New York Harbor. This made many sick while traveling across the Atlantic Ocean.

When immigrants got to New York Harbor, they had to go to Ellis Island before entering the city so that the United States could control who was coming in. When they arrived at Ellis

Island, they went to the Baggage Room. In the Baggage Room officers would help immigrants with their bags. They had to leave all of their bags there while they were being inspected. There was a lot of commotion in the Baggage Room because the immigrants were confused and scared to leave their belongings. They did not speak English and they did not know what was going on.

Then the immigrants went to the Registry room which was nicknamed the great hall. It was nicknamed the great hall because it was so big; the room was 200 feet long and 102 feet wide. The waiting area in the great hall was railed to keep people in an orderly line. Benches were added in 1903 because the great hall was so big. This room was intense because the sound of about 1000 immigrants was bouncing off the ceiling.

Next immigrants would be taken to another room for the medical exams. This was in Ellis Island so people wouldn't spread disease if they were sick. The doctors would start before you even knew it. They would see if you looked like you were having trouble breathing or if you were limping and quickly determined your health. For the children, they would have to get their head/hair and nails checked for lice. If you were sick or contagious, you would get a chalk mark on your back. For example, an E was a mark for if you had something contagious with your eyes, and an X meant insanity. If someone got a chalk mark, they would stay to get more examinations.

If someone was sick they were sent to the a hospital on Ellis Island. Most kids and adults would be in the hospital one to two weeks and some were quarantined. One out of ten immigrants didn't make it to America because of a medical condition. Most of these people either stayed in a hospital or got sent back to their home country. The medical staff were so

careful that they added a warning sign on the wall that said no kissing. Why? So disease wouldn't spread. There were many things that happened if someone was sick.

After the medical examinations, the immigrants went to the legal inspection room. Each steam ship's crew gave attendance by calling out every passenger's name onboard using a list called a manifest. Each name on the manifest, had a description of each passenger. One by one the passengers were questioned based on what the manifest said. The inspector asked 29 questions to each passenger and if your answer didn't match the description, then you would go to further questioning.

Next, the immigrants who did not pass the inspections would go to detainment. Legal detainees stayed in a room in the third floor. Then that immigrant would be reviewed and it was decided whether to let them go to New York or to send that immigrant back. Those who stayed for medical reasons stayed for weeks or even months, and then were sent home.

After the legal and medical inspections the immigrants who were not detained went to the other side of the great hall to the top of a staircase called the stairs of separation. There were three aisles. The middle one was for the detainees, the right one for the immigrants traveling west, and the left one was for the immigrants going to New York. At the bottom of the stairs there was a post office and a ticketing office for the railways. There was also an office so the immigrants could exchange their money for American money. Wherever the immigrants were going, they needed money.

Finally, the immigrants would go to the kissing post. This place was called the kissing post because this is where most people got to finally meet up with their family. Many of them would kiss and hug, which was very emotional. Not only were they finally meeting each other

again, but their long grueling journey was over. They were apart for months or years, but it was all over once they got to America.

For most people Ellis Island was the island of hope, but for some it was the island of tears. Immigrants thought of it as the island of hope because they got through Ellis Island and got to go to America. However the immigrants who thought of it as the island of tears thought that because they didn't pass the legal or medical inspections and got detained or deported. Most immigrants were excited about Ellis Island but when they went to Ellis Island they were nervous and afraid. Some also have painful and horrible memories about Ellis Island.

The people of America, the non-immigrants, had some different ideas about immigrants coming to America. There were many discussions on whether immigrants were good or bad for America. Some people didn't like immigrants, but there were more people who thought it was good that immigrants were coming. In the 1800s some presidents like Tyler and Lincoln invited immigrants to America.

Most people against immigrants had strong opinions. There was even a group called the Know-Nothing Party that disliked immigrants coming to America. That group was called the Know-Nothing Party because if someone asked them if they knew anything about the immigrants coming they would say they knew nothing. Some people even wanted to make a law that said something along the lines of “people who cannot read cannot come to America”. After World War I many immigrants were not allowed to come and many more were deported. The amount of people liking that immigrants were coming was slowly decreasing.

It was hard for the immigrants to get through Ellis Island, but because of Ellis Island many immigrants started better lives in America. The story of Ellis Island tells us an example of

how immigrants got to New York and how the United States controlled who was allowed to come. Ellis Island is a museum today and it's a place for education about immigration. Three million people go every year, and it's worthwhile for learning about immigrant experience.

Ronin

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Immigration

Irish Immigration

Have you wondered where the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow came from? Well, it came from Irish mythology. How did Irish mythology come to America? It was because of immigration. Given the unfortunate events such as the great famine and the year of slaughter, the Irish thought it was clear to leave. Unlike Ireland, America had a much better way to live, including better economy, health, education and almost every other thing. Life in America was definitely better than life in Ireland, however, it wasn't as good as they had hoped.

In Ireland there were many reasons to leave to places such as America. One reason was because of the Irish potato famine from 1845 to 1852. This was caused from a blight (sickness that kills plants) and took the lives of hundreds of thousands each year. At the end, over one million people were dead and about half a million people made it to America. Even worse, the main food was potatoes so most people starved and had little to spare. Not only was food hard to obtain, but the most common job was a farmer, a potato farmer. This caused many people in Ireland to lose their jobs. Although most Irish people had a good education, it was hard to get a job and there weren't very much jobs available. Therefore, it would make sense that they would leave to America.

On top of the potato famine, there were economic problems in Ireland too. It wasn't easy to get a hand on any source of money whether people deserved it or not. This means that people could barely afford food, their homes and land. For some time people were lucky because the British offered a free restaurant, but that didn't last long. In other times, the British people took

away things they couldn't afford. Most people going on a ship to America couldn't even afford their ticket, instead, they decided to serve the Americans who paid for seven years. Given that the economy in Ireland was so bad, people decided to leave their country in search of better opportunities in America.

Health was another problem that is a common problem and a definite reason to leave. In many places, people can get sick. Specific for Ireland, the potato famine was not only a reason to starve, but a reason people got sick (Although starvation was another medical issue.) There also wasn't very much medicine in total and there wasn't medicine for very many diseases. The low amount of medicine made it much harder to get cured. On top of food and diseases, water was a problem too because it was hard to get. Health is a critical factor in immigration and is a reason why so much people died or left their home.

There was many beliefs either being true or false, but they both attracted most people to America, not just Irish people. One belief that Irish people had was that the streets of America were "paved with gold," but that was a complete myth. The streets being paved with gold also meant that America was a rich place, which wasn't exactly true. The streets were actually most commonly paved with bricks. Another belief that was also a myth was the American dream, meaning that you would automatically become rich. It was still possible to pull off the American dream, but it wasn't the most common or easy. A belief that was true, was that there was more opportunities. Some opportunities available in the United States included jobs, land ownership, and education.

One opportunity in America was farmland. Farmland in America was much better than farmland in Ireland, although not all. Not only was there better farmland, but it was less likely to

get sick. There was some issues such as famines or not so great conditions, but it was very unlikely. Even that, since America is so big, there were many resources available across the country. America also has a major inventory of natural resources such as crops, livestock, metals, fuels and much more. The environment was also quite clean compared to most places. Since the farmland in Ireland was so poor because of the potato blight, Irish were attracted to the farmland in America.

One reason why America had such good farmland, was because of the geography. In America the landscape can be different depending on where you live. In New York City, it might be more industrialised or urban, but in Nebraska, it is more suburban and it has less industries. There is geography that supports climate, mining, jobs, livestock, farming, lifestyles and much more. The geography also allows you to produce and gather different things such as fruits and vegetables, metals and minerals. America is a land full of amazing diversity which allows so much opportunity attracting people here.

The geography was good, but the hopes and dreams people had weren't all true. Unfortunately, many beliefs the Irish thought to be true were fake, such as the American dream. On the bright side, there were many jobs available and people were getting paid better than in Ireland. But still, many of the jobs that immigrants got were dangerous and low paying. For one of the most dangerous jobs, you would only get paid 50 cents to \$1.50 a day. Some jobs available was a miner, soldier, clam digger and railroad worker. Whether people had a good job or not, people never got paid the way they deserved to.

Britain didn't let the Irish have their own beliefs, even more specific, they weren't allowed to affect anything political. Britain governed Ireland, but America governed its own country,

meaning if you came to America, you could play a role in the government. In fact, many people with Irish heritage became president and was very likely for other people too. Although many people had nothing to do with the government except for the fact that they can vote. Once in the power of governing America, Irish people could help more people in need (such as people from Ireland).

The Irish affected America's economy in many great ways. One good thing Irish people did for Americans was give money to Americans that got them jobs. The Irish also helped America grow making it a better place for everyone. Irish people were even optimistic about a variety of jobs including dangerous ones that non-immigrants did not want to do. As Ireland did so many great things for America, for some reason, Americans think that they badly affected their economy because of how much work they did.

The Irish had a very unique culture which they brought to America. Not only was it so appealing to many people, but it included many things such as music, holidays, foods, clothes and dancing. Some Irish holidays were St. Patrick's day and St. Stephen's day. Irish music commonly including the fiddle, tin whistle, flute, Uilleann pipes, button accordion and the concertina. Irish dancing was joyful and interesting in many people's opinion.

From the 1820s to 1975 about 4.7 million Irish people immigrated to America and they still immigrate today. The reason they immigrate today is not so different from the past, for example, economic problems. Since 1845 to 1852, about 1 million people died because of the Irish potato famine. Once in America, most Irish people were poor and had very few opportunities to get money. Most Irish people were skilled workers and were well educated. Most of the Irish settled in Boston and weren't prepared for industrialisation. Irish people brought

their culture into American society. Both the Irish people and the Americans have benefited from the immigrants into this country.

Malka

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Immigration

The Great Migration

The Great Migration is one of the biggest parts in African American history, because 6 million African Americans moved from the rural south to the urban north. The Great Migration occurred in between 1916 to 1970. Faced with discrimination and segregation, Blacks in the south moved to the north. In the north they created new communities. Now the Great Migration is one of the most well known parts in African American history.

The Great Migration started for many reasons. One of them was the Ku Klux Klan, also known as the KKK. The Ku Klux Klan were white people who believed that Black people should not be free, and if they weren't slaves, they should all be killed or at least hurt. There were also other groups that wanted to hurt black people and they joined forces with the KKK. They wore white hoods and robes so they would not show who they were. The KKK made life very uncomfortable for African Americans by doing unkind things to them.

The Great Migration was also caused by bad jobs in the south. Blacks in the south were forced to work the land. They were no longer slaves, but they rented land from white owners through a sharecropping system. As part of this system, they had to give part of their crops to the white landowner. Therefore they did not have many economic opportunities. Floods and boll-weevil infestations ruined crops so black people needed better land to farm on. Boll-weevil is a bug that feeds off of cotton crops. The bug also has a scientific name, *Anthonomus Grandis*. The boll-weevil mostly ruined cotton crops, and when the crops got ruined they did not have land to farm.

Another reason African Americans left the south was because of segregation. They did not have the same opportunities as white people. They did not have the right to vote because of property qualifications, poll taxes, literacy tests, and the “Grandfather Clause.” Only African Americans whose grandfathers were registered voters could vote, but because most of the African Americans grandfathers were slaves, most Black people could not vote. Many people were lynched every week. That made it very uncomfortable for black people to sleep knowing that they could be killed or hurt in the middle of the night.

One of the things that attracted African Americans to the north were the job opportunities that were available because of WWI. Some of the job opportunities were that they could open shops and be teachers. White men were drafted for the war, so when they left, black people accepted their jobs. They also heard that there were good jobs in the north. Owners however, took advantage of them and paid them less than the white men they replaced.

Meanwhile, in the south, there were not a lot of high paying jobs. Black men worked in southern factories that mostly made war products. Most women restocked shelves in grocery stores. Some women worked in factories with the men. Southern factory owners sent white recruiters to the north to convince Black people that there were “great jobs” in the south, and to recruit them to move there. Black people actually got paid less than they did before in the north. Recruiters said that there was better education for their kids in the south than in the northern cities. The people who came to the south thought that their kids would get a good education but they got the same education that they had received in the north except the teachers treated the kids poorly.

Before the Great Migration, Harlem was a middle and upper class neighborhood for white people. During the Great Migration, many well educated African Americans moved to Harlem, and told their family and friends that there were lots of good jobs and that they should come to Harlem. As a result, many people moved to Harlem which turned into the most populated black neighborhood housing over 200,000 African Americans.

One other spot where the great migration ended was Chicago, IL. Most people came with no money, no jobs, and nowhere to live because most people came by train, and they sold all of their belongings to buy train tickets to Chicago. There were about 15,000 African Americans in Chicago but after the great migration boom, there were over 115,000 African Americans. In Chicago there was a newspaper called *The Chicago Defender*. It was written by a Black man by the name of Robert Abbot. *The Chicago Defender* convinced so many Black people to move to the north by saying that it had wonderful jobs and good homes.

African Americans had to go through the struggles of being poor and not having enough money to get good food and other basic necessities in the south. The big success of moving to the north for the African Americans was that they had decent jobs and they had freedom from the KKK. In the north there was still segregation but not as bad as in the south.

In 2017, there is still lots of discrimination and segregation all over the world, but not as much as there was when the Great Migration began. The Great Migration is a story that has the example of people pushing through tough times and trying to be happy and improve their lives in times that weren't so great.