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Grade level: 5

Primary Source Citation: Library of Congress. (2005). "Selected Images of Ellis Island and Immigration, ca. 1800-1920." Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Reading Room. <http://www.loc.gov>. Accessed 20 March 2009.

Link to photograph overview page: http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/070_immi.html.

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the images located at the above link while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

Level 1: Description

1. What do you notice about the people?
2. Where are they?
3. When was each of the photographs taken?

Level 2: Interpretation

1. Why aren't any of the immigrants smiling?
2. What does the inside of the Examination Hall look like?
3. Where is their luggage?

Level 3: Analysis

1. Would you immigrate to the "Land of Freedom"? Why or why not?
2. What would you do if someone in your family failed the examination and wasn't allowed into the country?