

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## New Beginnings

**Directions:** Read the historical fiction passage below. Then answer the comprehension questions that follow. Use complete sentences when required.

### The Day I Arrived

I stepped off the ship holding tight to my mother's hand. My legs wobbled after so many days at sea, but my heart felt even shakier. Ahead of us rose a huge building with tall windows and a green dome on top. Mother whispered that it was Ellis Island, the place where we would finally find out if we could stay in America.

Inside, crowds of people squeezed into lines that moved slowly forward. I listened to many different languages being spoken at once. It sounded like the world itself was inside that hall. When it was our turn, a doctor checked my eyes and asked Mother questions about our health. I stood as still as I could, hoping we would pass.

Hours later, we were led to a large room with long wooden benches. People waited and waited for their names to be called. Every time a family was allowed to leave, cheers and tears filled the air. I imagined what our new life might be like: a small home, maybe a school where I could learn English, and a chance for Mother to find work.

Finally, the moment came. A worker called our last name with a smile. Mother's shoulders relaxed, and she pulled me close. We were approved to enter America. As we walked outside, bright sunlight hit my face. For the first time since our journey began, I felt hope stronger than fear.

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### Comprehension Questions

1. How does the narrator feel when they first arrive at Ellis Island? Use details from the passage.

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2. What signs show that Ellis Island was a very busy place?

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3. What does the narrator imagine about their future in America?

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4. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. The narrator does not want to leave the ship.
- B. A family waits to learn if they can stay in America.
- C. The narrator loves traveling by boat.
- D. The doctor refuses to let the family enter America.

5. What does the statement "It sounded like the world itself was inside that hall" mean?

- A. There were only English-speaking people there.
- B. The hall was empty and quiet.
- C. Many different people from different places were together.
- D. Everyone was cheering loudly.

6. Complete the chart with one detail for each column:

Challenges at Ellis Island	Feelings After Approval