

Name _____



The Inspection Line

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Then answer all multiple-choice and short-answer questions using evidence from the text.

The Inspection Line

As soon as the ship docked at Ellis Island, the passengers hurried into the main building, unsure what would happen next. The hall echoed with the noise of footsteps, crying children, and dozens of different languages. Most immigrants knew that moving forward in the line meant getting one step closer to their American dream, but they also feared being turned away.

Doctors stood near the entrance, quickly checking each person. They watched how people walked, examined their eyes, and looked for any signs of disease. Immigrants who showed concerns received a chalk mark on their clothing and were sent for further testing. Others continued to the Registry Room, where inspectors reviewed paperwork and asked questions about jobs, family members, and travel plans.

Even though the process was stressful, many families stayed hopeful. They whispered encouragement to one another and clutched important documents tightly. Every time someone was approved and allowed to leave the hall, cheers and relief spread through the crowd. For most, the inspection line was the final challenge before beginning a new life in America.

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Comprehension Questions

1. What is the main purpose of the inspection line at Ellis Island?
A. To help immigrants find places to live
B. To decide if immigrants could safely enter the United States
C. To teach immigrants the English language
D. To celebrate immigrants arriving in America
2. Why did doctors chalk-mark some immigrants?
A. To show they passed inspection
B. To mark their belongings
C. To help them skip the line
D. To signal that they needed more medical tests
3. The mood in the hall during inspection can best be described as:
A. Calm and quiet
B. Excited but relaxed
C. Stressful yet hopeful
D. Silly and playful
4. Which sentence from the passage supports the idea that the inspection line could be frightening?
A. "They also feared being turned away."
B. "They whispered encouragement to one another."
C. "Passengers hurried into the main building."
D. "The hall echoed with the noise of footsteps."

Short-Answer

1. What types of questions did inspectors ask in the Registry Room?

2. Why did many immigrants feel hopeful during the inspection process?

3. Identify one challenge and one hopeful moment from the passage.

Challenge: _____

Hopeful moment: _____