

## **Annie Moore: the first immigrant to arrive at Ellis Island**

It was December in 1891. Annie Moore stood in line with her two younger brothers, Philip and Anthony. They were waiting to board the SS Nevada, a ship that would take them from Ireland to New York. Annie's red hair blew in the wind and tears fell from her green eyes. She could not believe they were leaving their country. Although she was sad, she was also excited about seeing her parents again. They had gone to America two years earlier with her older brother. It would be wonderful to have the whole family together. Her parents had jobs in New York. They did not like the big city, but they had an apartment and enough money for food and clothing. Life was better than it had been in Ireland.

Annie and her brothers were on the ship for 12 days. The ship was crowded, and the food was poor. Annie watched her brothers very closely to make sure they were safe. It was very cold on the ship. Many people got seasick.

On January 1st, 1892 the ship reached New York. The Statue of Liberty welcomed them as they on da into the harbor. It was a beautiful sight and everyone cheered and cried. Annie was very happy that the trip was almost over. The ship stopped at Ellis Island and the people waited to get off.

Annie was the first one off the ship. She was very surprised when an official gave her a \$ 10 gold piece. At first she didn't understand.

She had never seen so much money, and did not know why he gave it to her. He explained that Ellis Island was new, and the \$ 10 was a gift to the first person off the ship. Annie realized it was also her 15th birthday!

And so Annie became the first immigrant to land on the newly-opened Ellis Island. Now, over 100 years later, a statue of Annie stands on Ellis Island (which is now a museum). A similar statue can be found in Cobh, Ireland, where they began their voyage. Since then, over 17 million people have entered the United States through Ellis Island.

**Answer the questions.**

1. What nationality were Annie and her brothers?
2. Where were they going?
3. Did they travel with their parents?
4. Do you think Annie's family in Ireland were rich?
5. How long was the journey?
6. Do you think they enjoyed the journey? Why / Why not?
7. What was the first American monument that Annie saw?  
read many stories about kids from all over the world.
8. Where did the ship stop?
9. What did an official give her?
10. Why did he give it to her?
11. Where can you see a statue of Annie?
12. How many people have entered the USA through Ellis Island?