Three Ways In

Compare immigrant experiences at three entry points

SS24.5.4a "Compare the experiences of immigrants who entered the United States through various ports of entry, including Ellis Island, Angel Island, and the southern border."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the three entry places, underline one check travelers could face at each place, and circle the waiting-time detail for each island. Use your marks to compare the experiences.

Entering the United States

1. In the early 1900s, ships brought many immigrants from Europe to New York Harbor. At Ellis Island, inspectors checked passengers' papers and asked questions. Doctors looked for signs of illness. Many people finished the process in a few hours, though some waited longer or were turned away. For those admitted, the ferry ride to New York City could mark the start of a new life.

2. Across the country, ships brought many immigrants from Asia to Angel Island in San Francisco Bay. Officials checked papers and health there, too. Because laws sharply limited Chinese immigration, Chinese arrivals often faced detailed questions about their families and homes. Some people were held for days, weeks, or longer while officials decided their cases. An arrival at Angel Island could mean a long, uncertain wait.

3. Other immigrants entered by land at the southern border, often from Mexico. They might cross at a busy town instead of arriving by ship. At official crossings, inspectors could check papers and health, as at the island stations. Yet rules and checks changed over time and varied by crossing. Some people crossed regularly for work or family visits, so their journeys did not all look alike.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the waits described at Ellis Island and Angel Island compare?

2. How did laws shape the experience of many Chinese arrivals at Angel Island, compared with the checks described at Ellis Island?

3. How did the route to the southern border differ from routes to Ellis Island and Angel Island?

4. How could a person's trips across the southern border differ from the experience of someone held at Angel Island?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label for an imagined immigrant's travel bag from the early 1900s. Compare what its owner might experience at all three entry points, and include one check people could face at each place.

Three Ways In

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number the three entry places, underline one check travelers could face at each place, and circle the waiting-time detail for each island. Use your marks to compare the experiences. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the waits described at Ellis Island and Angel Island compare?	**Many people finished at Ellis Island in a few hours. Some people at Angel Island were held for days, weeks, or longer.**
2	How did laws shape the experience of many Chinese arrivals at Angel Island, compared with the checks described at Ellis Island?	**Laws sharply limited Chinese immigration, so Chinese arrivals often faced detailed questions about their families and homes. The Ellis Island passage describes checks of papers, questions, and health.**
3	How did the route to the southern border differ from routes to Ellis Island and Angel Island?	**Immigrants could enter the southern border by land, often at a town. Immigrants reached both island stations by ship.**
4	How could a person's trips across the southern border differ from the experience of someone held at Angel Island?	**Some people crossed the southern border regularly for work or family visits. Someone held at Angel Island could wait days or weeks for a decision.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

This travel bag could have reached the United States by ship or by land. At Ellis Island, its owner might have had papers and health checked before leaving a few hours later. At Angel Island, a Chinese owner might have faced detailed questions and a wait of weeks. At the southern border, an owner might have crossed through a town and faced checks of papers and health.

Accept comparisons that use accurate details from the passage without suggesting that every immigrant at an entry point had the same experience. For the museum label, look for all three entry points and at least one possible check at each.