Name _____

THE Ellis Island EXPERIENCE

Directions: Imagine that it is 1907 and you have just stepped off a large, crowded steamship onto the dock at Ellis Island. What would you be thinking? How would you feel? Answer the questions below to understand what it might have been like inside the crowded immigration center.

1. The Arrival: Immigration officials are giving your family instructions about where to go and what to do, but you speak only a few words of English. Match the directions to their translations in your native Italian.

"Quickly, please!"	*Velocemente, per favore*
"Documents ready!"	*Il a sinistra*
"To the left!"	*Documenti aspettano*

2. The Baggage Room: Here you pick up the bags you have brought with you from Italy. You could bring only what you could carry. Name three items you have brought.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

3. Medical Exam: You pass the exam, but your sister's coat is marked with an *E* for "eyes" in chalk. The doctor thinks she has bad eyesight, but your father convinces the doctor it is only a temporary condition. What can happen to other immigrants who do not pass their exams? _____

_____

4. The Great Hall: After your medical exam, you wait in line to be interviewed by the legal inspector. You know you need to pass to be admitted into America. Write a short telegram to a friend describing what you are feeling: _____

_____

5. Money Exchange: Your father is given $19.50 for his Italian currency. Immigrants are sometimes cheated and your father should have received twice as much money. How much money should he have received? _____

6. The Journey's End: You have made it through Ellis Island. Welcome to America! On the back of this page, write a paragraph explaining your dreams for a new life in this country.