

Inquiry Blueprint

Angel Island Immigration Station: Exploring Borders and Belonging in US History

Compelling Question: How does the history of the Angel Island Immigration Station help us understand how borders are erected, enforced, and challenged?

**Staging the
Compelling Question**

Students will define the term “borders” and think about borders that exist in their own lives. They will also review the history and significance of the Chinese Exclusion Act and the era of Chinese exclusion.

Supporting Question 1

How did the Angel Island Immigration Station both reflect and enforce borders within American society?

Formative Task

Students will hold a class discussion about how the Angel Island Immigration Station both reflects and enforces America’s borders.

Featured Sources

Reading: [Five Facts about Angel Island and Ellis Island, 1910–1940](#)
Video: [The Immigrants of Angel Island \(TIME, 0:00–8:04\)](#)
Reading: [Quotes from Historians Erika Lee and Judy Yung](#)
Reading: [Immigrants’ Experience at Angel Island, 1910–1940](#)
Reading: [Immigrants’ Experience at Ellis Island, 1892–1921](#)

Supporting Question 2

How did border enforcement at the Angel Island Immigration Station impact immigrants and their descendants?

Formative Task

Students will submit an exit card explaining three ways that border enforcement at the Angel Island Immigration Station impacted immigrants and their descendants, using evidence from at least two featured sources.

Featured Sources

Video: [Paper Sons and Daughters \(New-York Historical Society, 0:00–5:41\)](#)
Reading: [Paper Sons and Daughters and the Complexity of Choices during the Exclusion Era](#)
Reading: [Angel Island Poetry](#)

Supporting Question 3

How does the history of immigration through Angel Island help us understand how we create and challenge borders today?

Formative Task

Students will write a paragraph reflection, supported with evidence from two featured sources, discussing how the history of immigration through Angel Island helps us understand how we create and challenge borders today.

Featured Sources

Reading: [“Not American Yet”](#)
Reading: [“Berkeley Renames Downtown Street ‘Kala Bagai Way’ After South Asian Immigrant Activist”](#)

Summative Performance Task	<p>ARGUMENT “How does the history of the Angel Island Immigration Station help us understand how borders are erected, enforced, and challenged?” In a format of your choice (e.g., digital presentation, poster, essay), use the example of the Angel Island Immigration Station and America’s earliest immigration laws and policies to craft an argument in response to the compelling question. Discuss the effects of Angel Island, on immigrants, their descendants, and all Americans, and the lessons we might apply from this history as we wrestle with the borders that exist in American society today.</p>
Taking Informed Action	<p>UNDERSTAND View animated videos from the <i>New York Times’s</i> Hyphen-Nation project to explore contemporary issues related to belonging and American identity and what it means to be excluded in American society today.</p> <p>ASSESS Identify one issue related to exclusion in the United States today that affects your school or local community.</p> <p>ACT Using a format of your choice, educate your school or local community about your chosen issue. This might include inviting experts and/or community members affected by the issue to a public forum, creating a website related to the issue, or interviewing community members affected by the issue and publishing your interviews in a podcast or on social media.</p>