Book Review
Ellis Island Immigrants

This history begins with the commission of William Williams to oversee the regulation of immigration through Ellis Island. The origins of the island and the early processes for admitting new arrivals are detailed as well. There are chapters devoted to the sea voyage of European immigrants and the difficulties they faced upon arrival, including social injustices and the potential to be detained or deported. The book follows William Williams’ career as he worked to end corrupt practices in the process and regulate it according to the law. The book includes information recorded by Williams about the other workers on Ellis Island who helped him organize the flow of immigrants.

This book can be useful as a research tool for children. There are many quotes and original pictures to reference. The organization is not exactly consecutive, but the chapters separate subjects like “The Journey to Ellis Island” and “Ellis Island after Williams.” The design is clear and easy to understand, but it is limited to a color palette of grays, which seem to have been intended to match the original pictures. This makes the book appear more tedious than if it had been given a brighter or more distinct color scheme.

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Illustrator
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Reviewer
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Dependable
Level
Intermediate

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