



Medical Symbols at Ellis Island

During the brief time (6-seconds) that doctors had to observe and examine immigrants at Ellis Island, they looked for outward signs of illness and conditions that would possibly prevent immigrants from ever earning a living or anything that could endanger the public's health. Below are some symbols that doctors devised to indicate a medical problem, whereby a second more thorough exam would be required.

Class Activity: If you were conducting medical inspections of immigrants today, what things would you look for?

Create a list of symbols below that describe these medical conditions.

Ellis Island Symbols		Your Symbols	
Letter	Disorder	Letter	Disorder
B	Back		
C	Conjunctivitis		
Ct	Trachoma		
E	Eyes		
F	Face		
Ft	Feet		
G	Goiter		
H	Heart		
K	Hernia		
L	Lameness		
N	Neck		
P	Physical & Lungs		
Pg	Pregnancy		
Sc	Scalp / Favus		
S	Senility		
X	Suspected mental disorder		
(X)	Insanity		