



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What was the Bessemer steel converter? How did this invention shape U.S. history?
2. Why do you think so many everyday Americans contributed money to help build the Statue of Liberty?
3. What was the “rogues’ gallery” and what was its importance? What were some of the other methods used to curb crime?



4. What was the key factor in Thomas Edison’s success in designing the light bulb? What were some of the new things that were possible because of this invention?
5. Why do you think the Triangle Shirtwaist fire happened? What were some of the results of this tragedy?

Primary Source:

Emma Lazarus wrote the following poem in 1883; today it is engraved on a plaque in the Statue of Liberty museum. Lazarus was an immigrant to the U.S. who became an advocate for other immigrants arriving on new shores for the first time.

THE NEW COLOSSUS

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glowes world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

FURTHER EXPLORATIONS:

What else was going on during this time period? Explore the sites below to learn more about the era of U.S. history covered in this episode.

Read more about the Reconstruction era in U.S. history

www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/reconstruction/index.html

Learn about the Dawes Act of 1887

www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=old&doc=50

Additional background on Ellis Island

www.history.com/topics/ellis-island

The Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum feature on the Wright Brothers and early aviation

www.nasm.si.edu/wrightbrothers

PLACES TO VISIT:

Interested in what you saw in this episode? Visiting historic sites is a great way for teachers, students, and families to learn more about the past. Explore these historic sites, or look for local historic sites in your town or city to visit.

The Statue of Liberty National Monument
www.nps.gov/stli/index.htm

The Chicago History Museum
www.chicagohs.org

The Thomas Edison National Historical Park
www.nps.gov/edis/index.htm

