Emma Lazarus and the inscription on the Statue of Liberty

America has always been a place many people want to visit. Some people from other countries choose to make America their home and become **citizens**. Between 1820 and 1920, 34 million people **immigrated** to the United States, arriving at Ellis Island in New York. At that time the **Statue of Liberty** was the first thing **immigrants** saw when they got to the U.S. Many immigrants were poor, tired, hungry, and **homeless** when they arrived. They hoped to build a new and **prosperous** life in America.

Emma Lazarus was a Jewish American who, in 1883, wrote a poem about the **Statue of Liberty** and **immigration**. Lazarus’s poem is called, “The New Colossus.” For Lazarus, the Statue of Liberty was like a mother who gave a home to millions of immigrants.

**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*

*Glows 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-tossed to me,*

*I lift my lamp beside the golden doon!”*

**Questions:**

1. What is immigration?
2. What are the differences between immigration in 1883 and immigration now?
3. Why do people want to be citizens of the U.S.?
4. If you study the Statue of Liberty more closely, what symbols of liberty can you find? Hints: look at the crown, tablet, robe and foot. What do these symbols mean?
5. Do you know other symbols of liberty?
6. Immigrants who apply for American citizenship have to take the Oath of Citizenship. Read the text [here](http://www.schundler.net/The%20Oath%20of%20Citizenship.pdf) and translate it into Norwegian.
7. Do people applying for Norwegian citizenship have to take an oath? Is there any formal ceremony, like in the USA? Find out.
8. There are many famous immigrants in the USA. Many of them are dead by now, but they will still be remembered in history books and among Americans in general. Look at [this](http://www.nps.gov/elis/learn/education/upload/famous%20immigrants.pdf) list, choose a person, and find out more about his/her life.