1) DISCOVERING THE NEW COLOSSUS

DURATION: 30 MINUTES

Explore Emma’s poem and reflect on her message. Students will generate questions about Emma.

ELA EXTENSION ACTIVITY

DURATION: 30 MINUTES

Explore how Emma used language and poetic devices to communicate her message.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

What is the role of art in helping people express, understand, and debate American identity?
How does knowing about history help us to become better Americans?

OUTCOMES

Students will:
- Examine and interpret primary sources
- Learn about Emma Lazarus, a role model who used her talent to help others see a new possibility for America
- Understand some of the debates that were central to Emma’s life including immigration, inequality, and antisemitism, and how she responded
- Make connections between Emma’s life and theirs today

MATERIALS

The New Colossus worksheet

STEPS

1) Distribute The New Colossus primary source worksheet
2) Read the poem together. (You may wish to play the recording of Laurie Anderson reading the poem)
3) Instruct students to annotate the poem by underlining words or phrases that stand out to them or that raise questions for them. Students should jot down reactions and/or questions in the margin of the poem.
   OPTIONAL ELA EXTENSION ACTIVITY: have students do a close analysis of “The New Colossus”
4) Ask and discuss:
   What words, phrases or images from the poem stood out to you? Why?
   How does “The New Colossus” influence the way you view the Statue of Liberty?
   To what extent does the poem render the Statue as powerful; as powerless?
   In your opinion, how is the poem relevant today?
   How does the author depict the immigrants?
5) Ask students to shift their focus to the author of this poem, whom they have been told very little about. What might you infer about Emma Lazarus from this poem? What questions do you have about her as an individual, her community, and the world she lived in?
6) Record the student generated questions in these three categories. Note: these questions will be directly references in Possible Pathways: Emma & Me. If you are choosing to create your own lesson we suggest using these questions as your framework!