Did you know that you could find out a lot about a person and not even meet them in person? The Lower East Side Tenement Museum tries to find as much information as possible about immigrants that lived in the apartment building a long time ago. One way the Museum uncovers their stories is through looking at primary resource documents. Some examples of primary resource documents can be postcards, visas, photographs even report cards the immigrants owned! Although it is important that the Lower East Side Tenement Museum does this kind of historical research, it is just as important for students like yourselves to discover the past using primary resource documents. So the challenge today is to tell the story of a young girl, Victoria Confino, who once lived on 97 Orchard St. Good luck!

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What is the name of the town Victoria was born in by looking at this postcard?

Do you know the name of the language that is written on the postcard?

Describe what the town looks like in your own words.

What are some differences between this town and New York City?
What do you think Victoria’s childhood was like in this town?

Do you think Victoria’s class status changed when she moved to New York City?
A VISA is a document people often need in order to work in another country.

According to Victoria, what was the name of the ship she traveled on to America?

How old was she when she arrived in America?

Why do you think Victoria wrote this note?
Family Photograph

This photograph was taken soon after the Confinos arrived in America

Which one do you believe is Victoria?

What kinds of things is the family wearing?

How would you describe their class status just by looking at this picture?

Describe the expression on Victoria’s face.
Why does she have that expression on her face?
What type of school did she go to? Do you think it was the same as Anna's school?
How much was she absent?

What courses did she take?

What did she get grades for?

From all this information you have gathered about her report card, how do you think she felt about school?
Where did they sail from?

Are they permanent residents or aliens?

Where do you think they were located on the boat?

Do you think the conditions on the boat were different for people at the bottom of the boat (steerage) than for people in private quarters? How?
Tell Victoria’s Story

Now that you have done all the hard work finding out facts through primary resource documents try writing out her story as accurately as possible.