Mennonite History for Young People

Worksheet 2

Volume 4: Leaving Russia – The Journey to Canada

The reading for this Worksheet is about a boy named Jakob who traveled from

Kronsthal Village in Russia to Fort Dufferin in Manitoba. He was 16 years old when he

made this journey. He kept a journal of his trip. Are you keeping a journal of the things that are happening in your life right now? It is a really helpful practice.

**Part I – Chapter 3 - Leaving Russia**

For the first part of this assignment, you will be doing a reading comprehension of the article titled “Jakob Fehr: A Young Man with a Diary,” pg. 26-31. You will be provided with photocopied pages. Do **not** mark up any text book.

**As you read through the article use a highlighter and underline all the headings of different sections. Also highlight all the bolded words.**

1. The following words are bolded in the article. Find the bolded word and read the sentence containing the word. Using context clues and information given by the surrounding words, write what you think the word means.

a) anchored

b) gangplank

c) penetrating

d) estates

e) innumerable

f) mourning

g) yearning

h) surveyed

2. How did young Jakob already know some things about Canada even though he had

never been there before?

3. How do you think Jakob felt as he took one last walk through his mother’s garden?

What evidence do you have from this article to support your opinion?

4. If you have moved recently, describe three things you miss about the place. **OR**

If you were told you had to move from where you now live, describe three things you would miss. Do **not** write about the people you would miss, but what you would miss **about the place**.

5. Please explain what the gangplank had to do with this young man leaving Russia.

6. What did the Churches’ song leaders do when everyone was gathered at the bridge?

7. Please share a memory you have of Mennonite singing. If you do not have one, give

an example of a time you got to hear someone or a group sing live and you really

enjoyed it.

8. What was the name of the Russian city where they met up with the Fürstanländer?

9. Who were the people of the Fürstanländer Colony and who was their Ältester?

10. Please explain how Jakob got from Russia to England.

11. When they had landed in Ireland, Jakob would go up from the bottom of the ship

every day and look at the water. What is the simile he used to describe what the water looked like?

12. When they were in the middle of a storm, what did the Captain ask the people on board to do?

13. When they finally saw land, they saw small white dots. What did the small white dots turn into?

14. Please give an example of a time when you were super excited to see something.

15. What do you think the difference is between a foreign colonist and a citizen?

16. On page 31 there is a box that says “To Think About….” Please read that text box and on the page below it, write your own imagined response.

**Part II – Chapter 5 - Arrival in Manitoba**

The second part of this assignment asks questions about Chapter 5, pgs. 43-49.

17. Why were some family members left in Ontario instead of continuing on to

Manitoba?

18. Where did Jakob and the other Mennonites stay when they first got to Manitoba?

19. Where did Jakob’s smallest brother die?

20. How do you think Jakob was feeling about moving to Manitoba at the time of his

brother’s death?

21. Under the heading “Getting Things Done While Others Wait,” write about what

the settlers were waiting for and about some of the things they got accomplished while they were waiting.

22. The last part of this article is about getting the Church organized. Please read

through the article and write down, using at least 3 sentences, how the Church

was organized.

23. The last question for this assignment asks you to talk to your parents about how your Church is organized today and see if there are some similarities/ differences between your Church today and the Mennonite Church they organized in Manitoba. Please write at least 3 sentences explaining what you learn.

**Final Project Preparation**

In order to prepare for the final project, continue talking to your parents and grandparents about the places where they have lived and their experiences to get more details. Take notes on a separate sheet of paper.