Mennonite History for Young People

Worksheet 3

Volume 1 Leaving Canada – The Journey to Mexico and

Volume 2 Discovering Mexico – A Strange New Land

**Part I - Questions for Volume 1 Leaving Canada – The Journey to Mexico**

The assigned reading for this week is about Mennonite families leaving Manitoba and emigrating to Mexico.

* Read the question, then read the text.
* When you come to the answer, stop, and write the answer in the space provided. Write your answers in COMPLETE SENTENCES.
* Then move on to the next question.

**Chapter One – Before You Read the Story**

1. Starting at page 1: According to the reading who were the first three Mennonite groups to come to Manitoba from Russia?

2. In 1920 most of the people who moved to Mexico were members of the *Reinländer*

Mennonite Church. When this group reorganized in Mexico, what did they change their

name to?

3. Read section 2 “What is a colony?” and explain in at least 3 complete sentences the

answer to that question.

**Chapter Two - Departure**

4. Please go to Chapter Two and read Section 1 “A Hard Decision.” Use at least 2 complete sentences to explain what the hard decision was.

5. How long did the Old Colony Mennonites spend looking for new land and what were

some of the places they looked at?

6. Where was the land that they bought located, and how much land did they buy?

7. What were the names of the six delegates that were sent to find land?

8. Go to page 21, read the text box and write down the definition of the *Privilegium*.

Then go to page 23 to answer the following question: What were the three things the Mennonites had asked the Mexican government to promise them?

Continue reading Section 5 on page 24 to answer the next 3 questions:

9. When and where was the land deal purchase finalized?

10. What were the names of the two colonies the land was divided between?

11. How much money did each family have to pay per acre to claim some land in the new colony in Mexico?

12. Please read the Vignette about Lena and Frauns. Using a minimum of three sentences explain what they were upset about.

**Chapter Three – Arrival**

13. In Chapter Three, read Section 1- What Have We Done? After a four-day train ride from Manitoba where did the Mennonites arrive?

14. How did the people feel when they first saw Mexico? Please answer in at least 3

complete sentences.

15. Why did twenty soldiers board their train?

16. Please explain the sentence on page 39 –"The adults wondered: Is all of Mexico like this?”

17. Please explain the shock the travellers had in Chihuahua City.

18. What do you think the bolded word **incline** means?

19. How did the people feel when the train stopped on the incline?

20. Please tell me about a time when you have been really afraid. You need to answer with at least 3 complete sentences and remember to use words that **show** not just words that **tell**.

**Chapter 4 – First Things First**

21. After reading this question, start reading the text at page 53. What are the 3 necessities of life the Mennonites were concerned with?

22. What was their immediate plan for shelter?

23. How did they meet their need for water? Please answer in at least 2 complete

sentences.

24. How did they meet their need for food?

25. What was life like in Mexico for the cattle this first year?

26. How did they build their homes?

**Chapter Five – Hard Times and Good Times**

27. Read Section 2 and explain how the Father was like a child again as he learned to be a farmer in Mexico. You need to answer this question with at least 3 complete sentences.

28. What do you think a **furrow** is? What clue words can you find on page 60 that make you think that?

29. Section 3 – When There is No Doctor: Out of the five questions asked on page 62, pick 2 to answer. Please answer the two questions with your best guesses as to what they probably did without a doctor.

30. Please tell me the three serious illnesses that pioneer Mennonites had to deal with.

List the illness and then write a brief explanation for each illness.

**Part II – Questions for Volume Two Discovering Mexico – A Strange New Land**

**Chapter One – Meeting** and **Chapter Two – Getting to Know the Land**

31. Please describe some of the first interactions the Mennonites had with the Mexicans (pgs. 1 and 2)

32. Please write two things the Mennonites liked about the Mexican people and two experiences they had with Mexican people that were not good (pg. 3).

33. On page 4 we meet Walter Schmiedehaus; write 3 things you learned about him.

34. According to the footnote on page 4, what is *Plautdietsch*?

35. What two things did the Mennonites have to get to know before Mexico started to feel like home? (Section 4)

36. Read the vignette about Abram and tell, using at least 3 sentences, what school was like for him. (pgs. 15 to 16)

**Chapter Three – Conducting Business**

37. Read Section 1: How many trees were in San Antonio?

38. San Antonio was the former name of what is now known as the City of Cuauhtémoc. If you or your parents have been to Cuauhtémoc, what businesses are there now?

What business did Jakob Wiebe start when Mennonites first arrived in the area? (pg. 22)

39. Where did the Mennonite men keep their money?

40. Please tell me about the two favorite Mennonite stores and what they sold in those

stores. Why did the Mennonites like those two stores best? (Section 3)

**Chapter Four – Whose Land?**

41. Pages 31-33 talk about how the Mennonites were able to buy land in Mexico. Please read these pages carefully and then write a paragraph explaining how it all came

together. (Write at least 5 complete sentences.)

42. Page 34 talks about a man named Pancho Villa. Please write a paragraph explaining who he was and why he was famous.

43. Who are the *Agraristas* and why were there going to be problems between them and the Mennonites? (pg. 35)

44. Attached to this Worksheet is a copy of the original Chihuahua Colonies map you will find on page 37. On the attached copy, circle the following 5 places: Reinland,

Neuenburg, Blumenhof, Campo 30 and Rubio.

45. What was the first step Klass Heide did to solve the problem between the Mennonites and the *Agraristas*? (pg. 40)

46. List 5 things Mr. Schmiedehaus did to solve the problem. (Section 5)

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

47. What were some of the incorrect things that were being said about the Mennonites that had given the Mennonites a bad name? (pg. 41)

48. On page 42 the author lists three things that the Mennonites did that were good for Mexico. Please list the three things in the space provided.

1)

2)

3)

49. What did they do to finally solve the problem between the *Agraristas* and the Mennonites? Who was coming to Chihuahua to make sure all these things that were supposed to happen actually did happen? (pg. 42)

50. Please summarize the last paragraph on page 43. This needs to be at least two

sentences.