Mennonite History for Young People

Worksheet 4

Volume 2 Discovering Mexico – A Strange New Land *and*

Volume 3 A New Home – Living in Mexico

**Part I – Questions for Volume 2 Discovering Mexico – A Strange New Land**

Begin reading at the Section with the title “Trouble Comes to the Colonies” and answer the following questions from your reading.

1. From the information on page 53, write an example of one of the things the author tells us about that have made life more comfortable for the Mennonites in Mexico.

1. What year did things start to go wrong? (pg 54) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Please explain the problems caused by the weather. (Your answer needs to include at least 3 things.)

1. Mexico was in an **economic depression.** Based on the reading on page 54, what is an **economic depression** and what are some problems caused by this?

1. Why did the Mennonite leaders ask for help from the Mexican government? (pg. 55)

1. What is ironic about having soldiers in a Mennonite village?
2. What else happens on page 55 that has the Mennonites upset - except for some children who are happy about it?

1. Why were the Mennonite colony schools closed? (pg. 56)

1. What do you think the Ministers meant when they said “people plan, but God leads”?
2. What were the names of the 3 ministers that went to Mexico City to talk to the President about why their schools were closed? (pgs. 56 and 57)

1) 2) 3)

1. What reason did the President give for closing the schools in the message he sent to the 3 ministers? (pg. 57)

1. What did Johan Wall ask the President for permission to **break off**?

1. What miraculously happened at the last minute? (pg. 57)

1. When were the children going to be allowed to go to school again? How did the children feel about getting to go back to school? (pg. 58)

1. During the pandemic, how did you (or do you) feel about not being able to be in school? What has been the hardest part about not being able to come to school? What has been the best part about not having to go to school?

1. What are the three main subjects taught in Mennonite colony schools? (pg. 58)

1)

2)

3)

1. Please list the four books they used for learning? (pg. 58)

1)

2)

3)

4)

1. If your parents have done schooling in Mexico, ask them about how important it was to have neat writing? Ask them if they can write letters like the ones on page 59.
2. Read the Section on page 59 called “Still Afraid.” What were the Mennonites still afraid about?

1. What did the Mexican government do to the Catholic Churches? (pg. 60)

1. What seemed strange to the Mexican people and Mexican government officials about the Mennonites? (pg. 60)
2. What new law did the government write about graveyards? (pg. 60)

1. After some meetings, how many graveyards did the government finally agree to? (pg. 61)

1. Why were the Mennonite people left feeling frightened by this experience? (pg. 61)
2. Please write at least 3 sentences about Abuela Julia’s funeral, then write 3 sentences about Grandma Klassen’s funeral. Now write two things that were the same for each funeral and two things that were different.

**Part II - Questions for Volume 3 A New Home – Living in Mexico**

Begin Reading in Chapter two, Section 5 “No End of Work”

1. List 8 jobs the colonists had to do. (pg. 15)

1) 5)

2) 6)

3) 7)

4) 8)

1. What jobs are you required to do in your family?

1. What is *Faspa*? (pg. 16) Does your family have *Faspa* and if so when do you have it?

1. Read the vignette called “Eva cooks a meal.” Why did she try to tackle Abram?

1. Why did most of the colonies not hook up electricity? (pgs. 17/18) Please answer using at least 3 complete sentences.

1. Please explain how Tina and her mother did laundry? (pg. 18) Please explain the process using 4 steps.

1)

2)

3)

4)

1. Ask your parents if they have ever done laundry without using a washing machine? If you can ask your grandparents, also ask them.

1. What jobs do you do to help your mom with laundry?

1. How did Martha help her father harvest beans? (pg. 22)

1. How did the children get money to buy Christmas presents? (pg. 22)

1. What do you think the word **frugal** means? It is in bold on the bottom of page 22.

1. Please explain what you think the following sentence means: “Martha’s family was very poor, too poor.”

1. There is a box titled “Butchering” on page 22. Please read the box and explain what butchering is.

1. Do any of your families still butcher pigs or cows? If so, please explain what a day of butchering is like for your family. If not, ask your parents or grandparents what it was like for them?