Notes to Teachers

Mennonite History for Young People

# Worksheet 1

**Part I – You and Your Ancestors**

* For the second set of questions, numbers 8-19, if the student has access to Vol. 3, *A New Home,* it may be helpful to check Appendix Two for figuring out the names of colonies in Mexico. If the student has access to Vol. 2, *Discovering Mexico*, they can check out the map of the earliest Mennonite villages in Manitoba Colony and Swift Colony in Mexico.
* The names of colonies and villages are often brought along to other parts of the country and other countries. This may even help those who do not come from this part of Mexico to figure out or spell the names of their ancestor’s home communities.
* By carrying on the names of their former villages and colonies, settling people can “carry” their homeland with them. It allows for a sense of familiarity in an unfamiliar place and safety in an environment that may be perceived as hostile.

**Part II – Family History**

* In Vol. 3, *A New Home*, the first chapter looks at what a colony *is*, and the next two what life was like for children in the early years. You may want your students to read these chapters and have them talk to their parents and/or grandparents about how what the book says and if what they experienced is the same or different.

**Part IV - Reading Comprehension Activity**

* Vol 4, *Leaving Russia* – Appendices I, II, III, pgs. 65-71 (Begins with *Baptized Again: Mennonite Beginnings*)
* Permission is granted to photocopy the pages for this activity. Alternatively, you could use transparencies and washable markers and ask the students to write their summaries on a separate sheet of paper.

# Worksheet 2

Vol. 4, *Leaving Russia: The Journey to Canada*

**Part I – Leaving Russia (Chapter 3)**

* Photocopy pages 26-31. Alternatively, you could use transparencies and washable markers and ask the students to write their summaries on a separate sheet of paper

**The Journey Continues**

These same Mennonites who settled in Manitoba went on to journey to Mexico. To stir your student’s curiosity and to continue on the theme of Mennonite migration, your students could watch the following video which is available on YouTube. Benita Peters reads a true story about a child named Judith Bergen who faces every child’s worst fear – getting left behind. The book is written in both English and High German and is titled: *Train to Mexico: The Story of Judith Bergen / Zug nach Mexiko: Die Geschicht von Judith Bergen.* It is written and illustrated by Ella Nolt and can be purchased through Die Mennonitische Post Book Store (contact 204-326-6790).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsQqQt_Ly3I&feature=youtu.be>

After watching the video or reading the book, you could have the students write a paragraph about:

1. a time that they were afraid while travelling, or
2. talk to their parents or grandparents about a scare they had while travelling and write their story.

# Worksheet 3

Vol. 1, *Leaving Canada: The Journey to Mexico*

Vol. 2, *Discovering Mexico: A Strange New Land*

**Part II – Questions for Vol 2*, Discovering Mexico: A Strange New Land***

* For question number 44: To the worksheet, attach a photocopy of the original Chihuahua Colonies map which you will find on page 37.