

ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

Packet 2: “Reminiscences from the Life of Athanasius Karlin”: History of the Volga Germans and Why they Left Russia

Teacher	Sequence
<p>1. Note that the actual history as written in your folder differs slightly from the history of the movement as told by Mr. Karlin. Ask students to bring to mind an event which they all remember from several months or a year prior – a school related event is best.</p> <p>Are the individual accounts of the event identical?</p> <p>What does this tell you about personal accounts of a story?</p> <p>What does this tell you about primary resources?</p>	<p>Have each student write an account of his particular event and then compare the accounts. Be sure to give details such as who wore what, who said what, etc.</p> <p>They will likely be quite varied depending on who is telling what side of the story.</p> <p>Time has a way of coloring the way we remember people and events, as does point of view.</p> <p>Primary resources tend to give a more accurate picture of the way things were and do not depend on someone’s good memory to be correct.</p>
<p>2. Is keeping a diary a good thing do you think? Why or why not?</p>	<p>If you record important or interesting things in the diary regularly while you still have them clearly in mind, you have a better chance of remembering all the details.</p>
<p>3. Suggest that students keep a diary for one month or for as long as you are studying the Volga Germans. At the end of that time, compare the different things people thought were important to write down. Compare different accounts of the same event. What do you notice?</p>	<p>The same stories will have a different slant depending upon the writer’s point of view. The main point is that they are all participating in the same events which tomorrow are history. Their personal histories of everyday school children are just as important and follow the same time line as those “history makers” who are found in history books.</p>
<p>4. If a student or someone in a student’s family has kept a diary, perhaps he/she would share it with the rest of the class. Why might he/she not want to let anyone else see it?</p>	<p>A diary is frequently a place where personal thoughts are kept as well as recording events in one’s life. Sometimes individuals would prefer to keep these things private.</p>
<p>5. Where are Germany and Russia? How far did the Volga Germans have</p>	<p>On a large map, trace the migration of the Volga Germans from Germany to the Volga River in Russia and</p>

to travel in their migration from Germany to Russia to the United States?	on to the United States.
---	--------------------------