

Immigration

Finding a New Homeland: Packing For the Future

Subject: History/ Geography/
Visual Arts/ English Language Arts
Grades: 1-5

Skills:

- Geography
- Brainstorming
- Interviewing/ recording History
- Reading Maps

Materials:

- Attached worksheet
- Pencil

Summary:

Imagine you need to leave your country of birth and find a new homeland. This might be because you seek a better school, a better job, or a safer life. This can be both exciting and scary for a child. Many who came to Maine in the 1860s to work in textile mills made this choice, leaving their homeland in pursuit of desperately needed work. These people often brought their families along, including young children who may have never traveled anywhere before the move.

Today, many people, like the Somalians who came to Lewiston beginning in 2001, seek entry to America in pursuit of refuge—which means safety from something that threatens them in their homeland. Along our Mexican border today, there are thousands of people attempting to enter America for this reason, although many are turned away by the US government.

Can you imagine what reasons people might be looking to come to America today? What do you think it would feel like to travel to a new home in a place you have never visited? What would you need to bring with you to get established, and what would you want to bring with you to remember your birthplace?

Discuss:

- How does understanding more about your family tree help you understand more about your ancestors?
- What if your ancestors have no records of entry to America, what might the reason for that be?
- Does understanding more about your family tree give you a better sense of the first immigrants' journey to America?

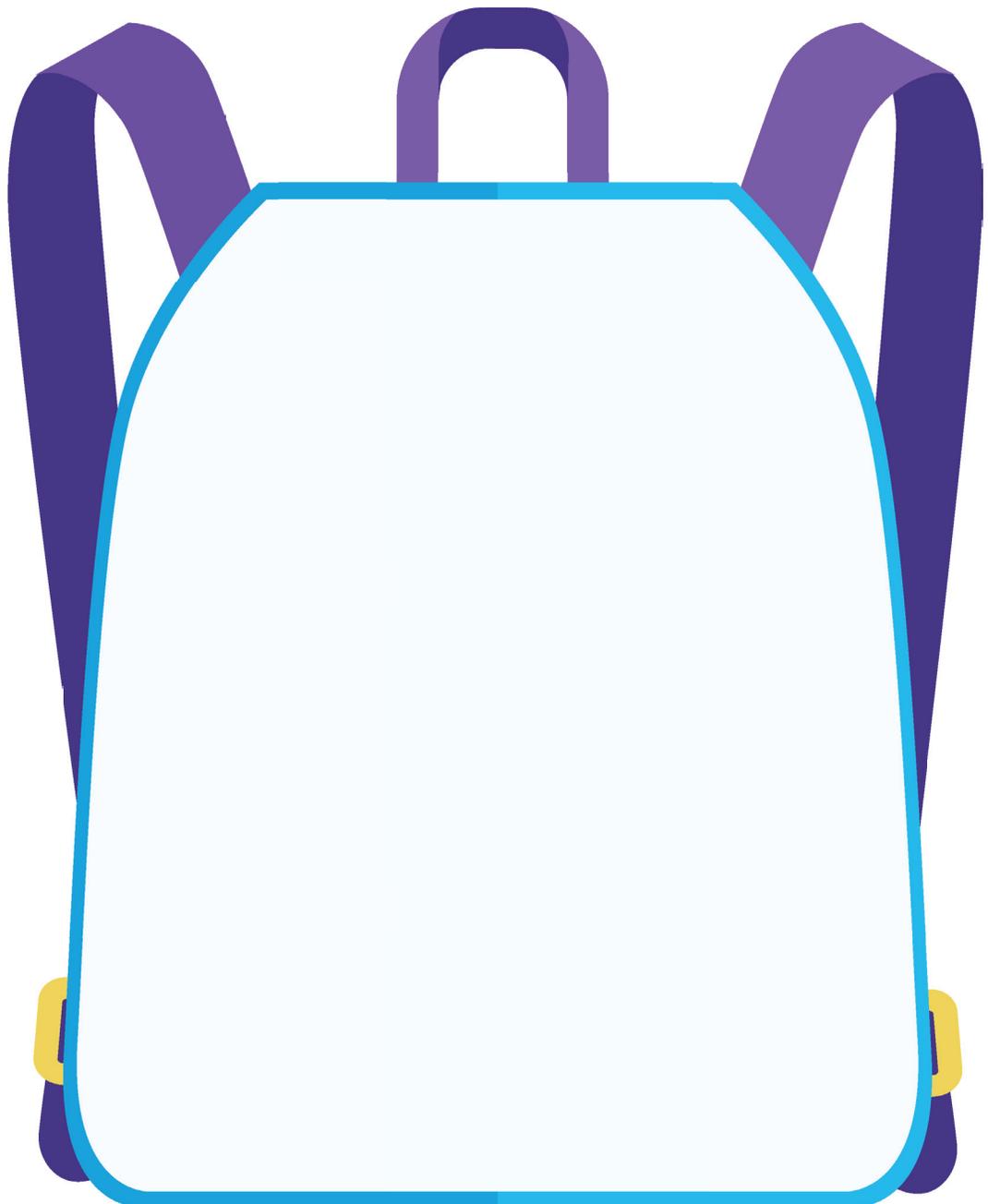
Instructions:

Using the Website Unit on Immigration, listen to an oral history of an immigrant who talks about an item brought from their homeland. What might you bring from your homeland if you had to move to a new country? Draw a picture of that object in your "backpack" on the worksheet enclosed, and write a short description of why this item is important to you and how it represents your homeland.

Finding a New Homeland: Packing for the Future

What might you bring from your homeland if you had to move to a new country? Draw a picture of that object in your "backpack" on the worksheet enclosed, and write a short description of why this item is important to you and how it represents your homeland.

Name: _____ Date: _____



Why is this item important to you?

How does it represent your homeland?
