

From Generation to Generation, History through Sources

DESCRIPTION OF UNITS

Foodways

This unit explores the connection between food and family, while teaching students about the effects of neighborhood businesses, including grocery stores and restaurants. Objectives ask students to consider shopping, cooking, and how these activities affect family life. The learning activities allow students opportunities to learn about recipes and cooking and about shopping and kosher food.

Jews in Public Life

Jews have played a prominent role in local politics since the late nineteenth century. Alfred Benesch was a lawyer, city council member, public safety director, and President of the Cleveland Board of Education. He also played a prominent role in the Jewish community, successfully lobbying Harvard University to eliminate its quota system restricting admission of Jewish students. By examining his career in public life, students will learn about the importance of correspondence, identify the role of elected officials and community leaders, and examine how an individual's values can affect the larger community. The learning activities offer students the opportunity to learn about different kinds of documents, including obituaries, transcripts, and letters to the editor.

Reaction to Nazism

The Jews of Cleveland responded to the rise of Nazism in 1930s Germany by defending human rights here and abroad. A 1937 German-American student exchange trip in sponsored by the German government offered a flashpoint for this protest. Students focusing on this unit will learn about how political ideas spread from one country to another and about how organized protest can make a difference in the community. The learning activities encourage students to think about human rights, the role of education, the importance of international exchange, and the significance of community leadership.

Move to the Suburbs

Like Cleveland's other ethnic groups, Jews moved from the center of the city to the suburbs over the course of the twentieth century. In this unit students will explore the notions of immigration and migration and examine why people decide to live in one place rather than another. Students will use population surveys and maps to understand why people moved and the technological innovations that made such migration possible. The learning activities focus on exploring Jewish Cleveland, both its landmarks and its population.

Keeping Kosher

The dietary laws of Judaism (*kashrut*) are to be observed by all Jews who wish to be ritually fit (*kosher*). Many Jews in the mid twentieth century did not keep kosher. Producers of meat and storeowners nonetheless recognized the marketing value of the term "kosher" and often marked meat that was not kosher as "kosher style". This unit examines how the Jewish community regulated the supply of kosher meat in the mid twentieth century. Students will learn about the meaning of "kosher", examine the necessity for supervision of the production of our food, study marketing techniques in stores and restaurants, and consider the role of community and government involvement in private life. The learning activities ask students to learn more about the meaning of kosher, examine the connection between local communities and state government, and to meet local butchers and community leaders concerned with dietary laws.

Soviet Jewry

The Cleveland Council on Soviet Anti-Semitism was the first organization of its kind. In the mid to late twentieth century the group worked actively to aid Jews trying to leave the USSR and was instrumental in tying human rights violations to an improved trade relationship with the United States. Using the resources for this topic, students will learn about anti-Semitism and the response of Jews in the United States. This response included a greeting card campaign, demonstrations, and other direct action tying the work of the Cleveland Jewish community to the Jews in the Soviet Union. The learning activities ask students to consider how direct action can affect those living in another country, to examine prejudice as depicted in anti-Semitic cartoons, and to learn more about the experience of emigrating.