

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Vocabulary Activity

Part 2: Family First

MISSION 4: "City of Immigrants"

A NOTE TO THE EDUCATOR:

On the following pages, you will find "flashcards" with terms and definitions (both combined and separate) that your students may encounter while playing Part 2 of "City of Immigrants." These terms and definitions can be introduced and practiced before or during the time students see or hear them in the context of MISSION US or in their American history study. The discussion questions and writing prompts will provide further opportunities for students to have more practice with the words and terms.

Divide your students into small groups of four or five, and ask each group to review the terms and definitions.

After your students have had a chance to review and discuss the terms and definitions, distribute the excerpt from the reporter's interview with Lena. Review the directions with your students, and ask them to complete the text using the terms they studied.

Here are the terms which should be inserted into each paragraph of Lena's life story:

Paragraph 1- tenement, seams, kvetch

Paragraph 2- boarders, ledger

Paragraph 3- schlep, tenement, nudge

Paragraph 4- kosher, treyf

Paragraph 5- shtetl, gogol mogul, knishes

Photography Credits

Tenement: The Tenement Museum



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boarders

In order to make rent more affordable, people would take in boarders - other people who would pay for a bed, food, and laundry.



gogol mogol

A Russian Jewish home remedy made with egg yolks, warm milk, cinnamon and sometimes brandy.



Knish

An Eastern European food made of a filling such as baked potato or spinach covered with baked or fried dough.



kosher

Food that adheres to Jewish religious dietary rules.



ledger

A book in which financial accounts are recorded.



nudge

Yiddish word for a person who bothers or annoys others.









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<p><u>schlep</u> Yiddish word meaning to carry something heavy or to walk a long distance.</p> 	<p><u>seam</u> A line where two pieces of fabric are sewn together.</p> 
<p><u>shtetl</u> Yiddish word for town; usually referred to small towns in Eastern Europe with large Jewish populations.</p> 	<p><u>kvetch</u> Yiddish word meaning to complain.</p> 
<p><u>tenement</u> A small low-cost apartment built for working-class families. Also refers to the multi-storied building in which the apartment is located.</p> 	<p><u>treyf</u> Yiddish word meaning food that does not meet the requirements of Jewish religious dietary rules; not kosher.</p> 

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schlep



seam



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<p>In order to make rent more affordable, people would take in boarders - other people who would pay for a bed, food, and laundry.</p>	<p>A Russian Jewish home remedy made with egg yolks, warm milk, cinnamon and sometimes brandy.</p>
<p>An Eastern European food made of a filling such as baked potato or spinach covered with baked or fried dough.</p>	<p>Food that adheres to Jewish religious dietary rules.</p>
<p>A book in which financial accounts are recorded.</p>	<p>Yiddish word for a person who bothers or annoys others.</p>

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<p>Yiddish word meaning to carry something heavy or to walk a long distance.</p>	<p>A line where two pieces of fabric are sewn together.</p>
<p>Yiddish word for town; usually referred to small towns in Eastern Europe with large Jewish populations.</p>	<p>Yiddish word meaning to complain.</p>
<p>A small low-cost apartment built for working-class families. Also refers to the multi-storied building in which the apartment is located.</p>	<p>Yiddish word meaning food that does not meet the requirements of Jewish religious dietary rules; not kosher.</p>

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Name: _____

Date: _____

This activity imagines that Lena is making a speech to New York City students and community residents in 1982, seventy years after the events in "City of Immigrants." Lena is discussing what life was like on the Lower East Side in the early twentieth century.

Instructions: After reading and talking about the words and terms on the flash cards, read this excerpt from Lena's speech. Use the cards and your memory to help fill in the missing words and terms. Some words may be used more than once.

<i>boarders</i>	<i>kosher</i>	<i>nudge</i>	<i>shtetls</i>
<i>gogol mogul</i>	<i>kevetch</i>	<i>schlep</i>	<i>tenement</i>
<i>knishes</i>	<i>ledger</i>	<i>seams</i>	<i>treyf</i>

"Our family depended on each other in order to survive. Isaac sold items from his pushcart. I had a job sewing in the sweatshop in our _____. With so much practice sewing, my _____ were always straight! I don't want to _____, but they really should have paid me more money!

Sonya cooked, cleaned, and took care of the _____ that lived with us. She kept a _____ that showed how much money we made and how much money we spent each week. Some weeks we barely had any money left over to save.

We didn't have supermarkets like we do now. We would buy the items we needed from vendors or small shops. We had to _____ everything back to the _____. I didn't want to be a _____, so I helped out as much as I could.



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I remember having to buy _____ meat. We could have bought cheaper meat, but there was no way Isaac would let us eat _____ ! It was important to continue to practice our religion.

Many of our neighbors were also Jewish. Many people had fled the _____ after the pogroms. They continued to practice some customs, like making _____ when somebody was ill. Some of the food was different than what we had in Minsk. _____ were popular and were a very filling snack."