

TEACHER'S GUIDE
Primary Source Document Collection
MISSION 5: "Up from the Dust"

"Family Who Traveled by Freight Train"

Young adults who were single men and women were not the only people who rode freight trains looking for work during the Great Depression. Whole families left home and rode the rails together in search of a better life. In this photo by Dorothea Lange, a father, mother, and two young boys are resting on the side of the railroad tracks. Note how the mother covers her face in the photo, possibly embarrassed by her family's situation.



Source: Dorothea Lange "Family who traveled by freight train. Washington, Toppenish, Yakima Valley," 1939, U.S. Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information Black & White Photographs, <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/fsa2000003842/PP/>
