

### **Understanding Attitudes towards Immigrants**

When new immigrants arrive in large numbers they affect the communities in which they settle. Sometimes the community is happy to see the new immigrants. Other times the community may be frightened that they immigrants will be a burden. By reading newspaper accounts, we can often detect the attitude of a community towards the new immigrants.

The following is an excerpt from the November 10, 1873 edition of the Topeka *Blade*. Read the article and then answer the questions.

#### **The Russian Mennonites**

The Mennonites are a class of citizens that will become more readily Americanized than many of our best classes of foreign citizens. They are liberal in sentiment, frugal and industrious in habits, peaceful from their principle, and can readily be brought to understand and adopt our American manners and customs. We may regard them as one of our very best classes of citizens. Added to this, through this is emphatically the home of the poor man, where all can get homes at a nominal cost, and by frugality, industry and perseverance, almost arrive at a competence; yet it is no disparagement to this class of citizens, nor to our young and growing State, that they settlers are nearly all well off in this world's goods. Few of them have less than \$2,000 or \$3,000 while many are reported to be worth \$10,000, \$20,000 and even more. They will make the beautiful valley of the Arkansas blossom as the rose.

#### **Questions:**

1. What is the general attitude in the article towards the Mennonites?
2. Why does the author think they will make good American citizens?
3. What does the writer mean when he says, "this is emphatically the home of the poor man?"
4. Why does this article point out the monetary worth of the new immigrants?
5. What does the writer mean by "They will make the beautiful valley of the Arkansas blossom as a rose?"