

The Orphan Train Heritage Society of America, Inc. (OTHSA)

Suggested topics for discussion:

What is a family? What are the responsibilities of a family?

What happens when a family is not able to care for the children?

Suggested topics for learning about the Orphan Trains:

The Orphan Trains in America, 1854-1930

The Largest Children's Migration in History

The Orphan Trains: An American Resettlement Movement, 1854-1930

What is the Children's Aid Society?

Orphanages in America

Social Problems and Social Programs

What is Adoption?

The Role of Charitable Organizations in American History

Immigration: Causes and Consequences

What Were the Consequences of Industrialization?

Vocational Education

Homeless Children Then and Now

Are Homeless People a New Phenomena in the USA?

Can One Person Make a Difference?

Charles Loring Brace, 1853, minister

Orphans vs. Slaves

Self-Worth vs. Value to a Society

PBS Video:

PBS Home Video (1995). The Orphan Trains. The American Experience. Amex 904. Color. 60 minutes.

WWW Sites:

Search Orphan Trains or the Orphan Train Heritage Society of America, Inc. (OTHSA) on the Internet

Learning Activities

Vocabulary:

abandon
birth certificate
charities
family
society
opportunity
hopeless
starvation
heritage

keepsakes
sorrow
stigma
orphan
orphanage
poverty
homeless
foster
sibling

A. Can you identify...

1. Who
2. What
3. When
4. Why
5. Where
6. How

B. Brainstorm other solutions...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

KWL Chart

K (What do you know?)

W (What do you want to know?)

L (What did you learn?)