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:


WWW Sites:

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

Vocabulary:

- abandon
- keepsakes
- birth certificate
- sorrow
- charities
- stigma
- family
- orphan
- society
- orphanage
- opportunity
- poverty
- hopeless
- homeless
- starvation
- foster
- heritage
- 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?)