

# “Ratgeber” – Lesson Ideas

## Topic – GEOGRAPHY and TRAVEL

**SUBJECT Area:** German – Developing/Transitioning Level

**DURATION:** varies

**STANDARDS:** all five C’s

### OBJECTIVES:

Students will

- Learn Vocabulary and phrases as they relate to geography and travel.
- Be able to give locations and directions, using maps.
- Experience working with historic materials.
- Learn about the early settlement history of their state.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- *Rathgeber für Auswanderungslustige*: map of Wisconsin, map of United States, “Wisconsin,” p. 118-121
- *Amerikanischer Dolmetscher*: “Auf der Reise,” “Auf dem Schiffe,” “Mit der Eisenbahn” and other parts of the section “Gespräche”

### INTRODUCTION

Students will brainstorm geography and travel vocabulary, verbs of motion, terms of direction

### WORKING WITH MAPS

1) With partners, students will study the map of Wisconsin/Michigan and

- find cities and rivers that are spelled differently from today..
- find where they live today and describe the location of their hometown in relation to other places on the map.

2) A very common immigration route from Germany to Wisconsin in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was across the Atlantic to New York (by ship), to Buffalo (by train), to Milwaukee (by boat), to the final destination in Wisconsin (by various means).

- Students will use the US and Wisconsin maps to describe a typical immigration trip in the 19<sup>th</sup> century “auf Deutsch.”

### WORKING WITH TEXT

Depending on language skills, students will read different sections of the article on Wisconsin in the *Rathgeber für Auswanderungslustige* (p. 118-121). Reading approaches could include the following:

- In a specific passage, students will identify (e.g.) a) names of locations, b) English words, c) rivers, cities, mountains, county names, etc.
- Mystery city (or river): Students read a passage with the name of the described city left out. What is the city?

Students will discuss in German or English, depending on skill level:

- What was different/the same in Wisconsin in 1847 compared with today?
- Where in Wisconsin would they have settled, had they been new immigrants, and why?
- Where did their ancestors settle in the United States? Where did they come from and by what means?

**COMMUNICATION**

Preparation: Students will read phrases from the travel and sections in the *Amerikanische Dolmetscher*

With a partner or in a group, they will act out dialogues in the various travel situations an immigrant might have found himself in, using the phrase book (in German).