Jewish Movement Before The Holocaust: China

Note: Students should already know about Anti-Semitism in Europe and Russia prior to the Holocaust. Material is included to help cover this topic.

Intro Activity (5 Minutes) Use the PowerPoint “Jews in China” and display slide #1. Ask the students to come up with the type of building in the picture and possible location. Inform the students that this is a synagogue in Harbin, China. They will learn about the Jewish movement of people before the Holocaust.

Vocabulary Activity (10 minutes) Display slide #2 on the PowerPoint. Discuss the two words and have students copy the definition. (Emigration and Immigration). Have students come up with possible reasons for each (i.e. push/pull factors).

First Activity (15 minutes) Have the students discuss and write the ideal place to move to if they were leaving their homeland. Many will pick vacation like areas and western societies. Inform the students that Jews had a similar choice to make when leaving their countries. Jews did face a challenge because western countries like the US did not allow the Jews to migrate in large numbers. Display slide #3 which displays a few facts from the Immigration Act of 1924. Students may copy and discuss the details of the Act. Show students slide #4. Inform them that this is a map from a little latter on (1933- 1940) but it shows some of the areas Jews moved to in an attempt to avoid the Anti-Semitism they experienced in Germany. One place they might not have considered moving to was China. Point out that many Jews did move to China because they were welcomed there. Many did move to Shanghai, but well be looking at a northern city called Harbin. Display slides umber 5 and 6. Number five is from the Jewish museum in Harbin that demonstrates where Harbiner Jews came from. Slide 6 shows the students a map with Harbin. Ask students to predict how Jews were received in China. Once they have discussed or written it down, show them slide 7. This photo is also from the Jewish Museum in Harbin.

Second Activity (20 minutes) Depending on the level of students, pass out one of the two handouts provided (*Excerpt from* *In Manchuria* or *A Brief History of the Jews of Harbin*). The first one is much shorter and better for struggling readers. Both provide information on why Jews moved to Harbin and describes a little on their lives there. If reading *In Manchuria*, have students come up with reasons why Jews picked Harbin and how they impacted the city. For *A Brief History*, have students come up with reasons Jews moved to Harbin and what forced them out of Harbin/China.

Possible Prompt: How might the fact that Jews were welcomed in so few places affect the Holocaust?