

## ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

### Packet 9: Volga German Clothing

<b>Teacher</b>	<b>Sequence</b>
1. Look at the items of clothing in the trunk as well as those shown in the photographs in Packet 9 and in other packets. What can you tell about these people from the way they dressed? Discuss what functional means and how it applies to Volga German clothing.	Discuss how people who do different jobs dress differently, like doctors, fire fighters, farmers, etc., and how one can pretty much identify the person's work by the clothing he/she wears. Their warm clothing was a sort of "uniform" which they all wore (unlike today where people want clothing that is different from one another's) and which served to identify them as a group. These people were a very practical group; survival was their main interest, not clothing styles. This shows in their dress. It is very well suited for warmth and hard work. Wedding suits and wedding dresses, for instance, were worn frequently and for many years after that special event.
2. How does our clothing today differ from that of the Volga Germans?	There are many ways in which our clothing differs from that of the Volga Germans and the children can easily point this out. In terms of being functional, our clothing is perhaps not functional in the same way that theirs was – we change our apparel as the styles change more than they did, most of our clothes wouldn't stand up to the work they did in their clothing, etc., - but it is functional in the sense that it suits our present day lifestyles very well and hence is, to a degree, functional for us.