Packing Up

Making the decision to immigrate is just the first part of the challenge. New immigrants need to consider how to travel to their new home, gather all the necessary paperwork, save enough money to purchase their fare and support themselves on arrival and decide what to take.

Packing as an immigrant is very different to going on vacation, you need to consider much more than clothes and personal items. How are going to earn money in your new home, do you need to bring any special tools? You will need to set up your new home entirely, should you bring bedding, kitchen utensils, plus religious items such as shabbat candlesticks? It is also likely you will want to bring something to help you remember your home and family, so perhaps photographs and other mementos.

In the activity below try packing your own suitcase, remember you only have a limited amount of space.

What You Need:
- Suitcase template
- Markers
- Tape
- Scissors

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**What to do:**

- Take two copies of the suitcase template and cut them out carefully.
- Using tape attach the two cases together along the bottom edge. This should give you a suitcase you can open.
- Now start to draw or write what you might choose to pack into your suitcase if you were planning to move to another country. Remember the questions above what items do you need to work and set up your new home, plus think about how you might want to stay connected with your loved ones and original home.
- Decorate the outside of your suitcase.
- Once you have finished review the list you created, how many of the things you included would have been available to nineteenth century immigrants. Think about some of the different challenges faced by early immigrants without easy ways to connect with friends and family.

**Bonus Activity:** One extra challenge nineteenth century immigrants had to consider was the length of their journey, for early immigrants it could take several weeks to travel from Europe to the U.S. The journey would have been uncomfortable with limited space, food rations and no entertainment. Knowing this would you have packed differently?