Chapter 11, "The Mennonite Commonwealth," 1850-1917

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13. Why does Harry Loewen describe the Mennonite colonies in Russia as a state within a state?

14. Read the section on Johann Cornies and the sidebar on "Trees planted upside-down." Why did some people criticize Cornies?

15. Name two developments in the 1870s that eased the problem of Mennonites without land.

16. Name the three concerns Klaas Reimer and the Kleine Gemeinde had towards the Mennonites in Russia.

17. In what year was the Mennonite Brethren denomination founded? Who appears to be the primary founder of the group?

18. Analyze the radical Apocalypticism of Claas Epp. What were at least three factors that led into Epp's fanaticism? What were some of the reasons why some 600 Mennonites left for Asia under Epp's leadership?

19. Name two internal "sicknesses" that the Mennonites in Russia faced by the end of the 1800s and at least two external threats to their way of life.

Chapter 12, "Migration and Loss," 1874-1945

20. Read the dialogue between the Russian officials and the Mennonites in 1871. What does the first comment by the Russians about language tell you about the involvement of the Mennonites with their neighbors?

21. Why do you think the Canadian and American governments did all they could to attract the Russian Mennonites to North America in the late 1800s?

22. Why did some 18,000 Russian Mennonites move to North America in the 1870s and 1880s?

23. Why did the Slavophiles view the Russian Mennonites with suspicion and hatred? Judging by the Russian Mennonite welcome to the German armies during WWI, do you think the Slavophiles were justified in their criticisms?

24. What appear to be some of the reasons why Nestor Makhno and his men were so eager to pillage and plunder the Russian Mennonite communities?

25. How do you evaluate the Self-Defense (Selbstschutz) units among the Russian Mennonites? Do you feel there was justification for young Russian Mennonites to take up arms during the Bolshevik Revolution? Do you feel Dietrich Neufeld's statement is too critical? Explain.

26. What organization was organized in 1920 by North American Mennonites to assist Mennonites in Russia?

27. How did Communist religious and economic goals for the Soviet Union threaten the Russian Mennonite way of life?

28. While the majority of the first wave of Russian Mennonites to North America (1870s-1880s) came to the United States, where did the second wave of Russian Mennonite emigrants end up? Why was this country receptive to the Mennonites? Identify these waves of migration on your unit map.

29. Read the section on the escape of 217 Russian Mennonites into China and to America. Think up a creative (and perhaps humorous) title to take the place of "Fleeing across a frozen river," and write it down here.

30. Why were many kulaks shot and exiled during the 1930s? The story of Nicholas and Anna Loewen is one of the most sensitive and touching stories in Through Fire and Water. Where do you think that Harry Loewen got this story (see "The Authors" on p. 349)?

31. Where did the third major wave of Russian Mennonite emigrants, (mid 1940s) end up?

32. What are the factors that Harry Loewen judges are the reasons for the failure of the Russian Mennonites to live up to their Anabaptist Heritage?

33. In spite of difficult circumstances under the Soviet Union (1917-1991) what are some positive outcomes for Mennonites during these years?

34. How did Mennonites help to make the American Mid-west the "Breadbasket of the world."