

## **Historical Time Travel, Barkestorpsskolan, Smedby, Grade 9 Klückeberga manor 1903**

### **Facts**

#### **Sweden at the turn of the century 1900**

The beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was a period of great change and upheaval in Sweden. Many people left the countryside and the life as farmers, for an industrial job in the city. There were many new technical inventions in the community, such as railways, cars, telephones, electricity etc. Most people believed in the future and thought that almost anything was possible. But there were still big differences between rich and poor, new and old.

Everybody read the news about discoveries, thrilling stories of great explorers and for example life in America, in the local newspaper. Many people emigrated to America (1,2 million Swedes altogether) to build a better future for themselves and their families. They wrote letters back and sent money to their relatives in Sweden. Some even came back after a few years. Others went to Germany to work for a year or two.

#### **Scenario, Klückeberga manor 1903**

It is early autumn at Klückeberga manor in 1903. The inspector of the manor has told the employees to gather in order to clean up the park, the garden and the flowerbeds. As always the clothes of the house needs to be washed. And all the labourers have to have food and coffee. Maybe the owners will come today and check out the work.

A rumour says that the children of the old Captain Jegerhjelm want to sell the property. Two of his brothers and sisters have passed away recently so you'll never know what will happen now. People are concerned and worried about their jobs.

The girls start immediately with the cleaning, washing and cooking. Some of the boys have as their task to clean up the garden. A couple of the old people from the "poor house" that is close by, are curious and come up to the manor. They realize that if they work they can get food. The inspector gives them some duties.

At the same time as working everybody talks about the current issues. One has heard about a socialist agitator that is in the neighbourhood. The agitator mentions the many injustices and social differences there is in the society. He encourages people to do something about it, to change the society. Is he right?

There is also a lot of talking and discussing about democracy and that every man and woman should have equal voting. Some of the women are attracted to the new ideas but others like the old traditional community better.

Some have received letters from relatives and friends that have emigrated to America. Is life really better in America? Some of the labourers want to go and find a new life for themselves and their families on the other side of the Atlantic.

## **Key questions**

- Democracy and social injustice. How do we change society in a better and more equal way, what is our way of democracy? Voting for both men and women?
- How do we want the future to be? For ourselves? For the community? Should we stay or leave? Maybe even emigrate to America?
- How do we look upon strangers? From other regions? From other countries?

## **Roles**

The students are workers on Kläckeberga manor.

The museum staff are people connected to the manor.

The group from Turkey are temporary workers coming from Galicia in southern Poland. A lot of extra labour is needed in the harvest time and the people from Galicia are looking for job to earn some money. Ebbe from the museum is the employment agent.

## **Activities**

- Clean up the garden, fix the rakes, chop the wood, harvest
- Blacksmith work
- Make red paint
- Wash the clothes
- Dye the yarn
- Make food

## **Time plan**

07.30 Set up

08.45 Students arrive, introduction, dress up

09.30 Time travel

The activities start

10.30 Coffee

11.00 The work continues

12.30 Meal

13.00 Captain Jegerhjelm arrives

13.15 Dance, music

13.30 The photographer

13.35 Time travel

Reflection

14.00 Students leave

Clean up, wash up

2008-09-03

Peter Danielsson, Ebbe Westergren

Kalmar Läns Museum

**Role cards**

You are all farmers from Galicia in southern Poland. You need to earn some extra money to find a better way of living. A couple of your neighbours have been to Sweden, worked hard and come back with some money. Others have gone to America.

Now you have travelled all the way from southern Poland to Sweden to find a temporary job in the harvest. When you finally arrived in Kalmar you met the employment agent Bengt who have taken you to Kläckeberga manor.

You are not quite familiar with the language but you know some English and try to talk to the other workers.

Make up your characters; you could be families, married couples, relatives or just neighbours and friends. Think about the key questions.

Female names: Ela, Krystyna, Danuta, Agata, Ania

Male names: Matuszek, Janek, Alexander, Adamek, Stanislaw