

## Loading an Immigrant Car

**Objectives:**

- Participants will explain what an immigrant railroad boxcar is and its function.
- Participants will choose items to pack into an immigrant boxcar.
- Participants will create a packed immigrant boxcar art project.

**South Dakota Social Studies Standards**

K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
K.E.1.1		2.H.1.2	3.H.1.1 3.E.5.1	4.H.2.2 4.H.3.1 4.H.4.2 4.E.1.1		

**South Dakota English Language Arts Standards**

K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
K.SL.1a-b	1.SL.1a-c	2.SL.1a-c	3.SL.1b-d	4.SL.1b-d	5.SL.1b-d	6.SL.1b-d
K.SL.2	1.SL.2	2.SL.2	3.SL.6	4.SL.6	5.SL.6	6.SL.6
K.SL.3	1.SL.3	2.SL.3	3.L.3	4.L.3	5.L.3	6.L.3
K.SL.6	1.SL.6	2.SL.6				

**Timeframe: 60-90 minutes**

**Materials:**

Included in kit	Provided by instructor or participants
6 Loading an Immigrant Car coloring sheets	Crayons 8.5x14 or larger sheet of construction paper Glue Scissors

**Background Information:**

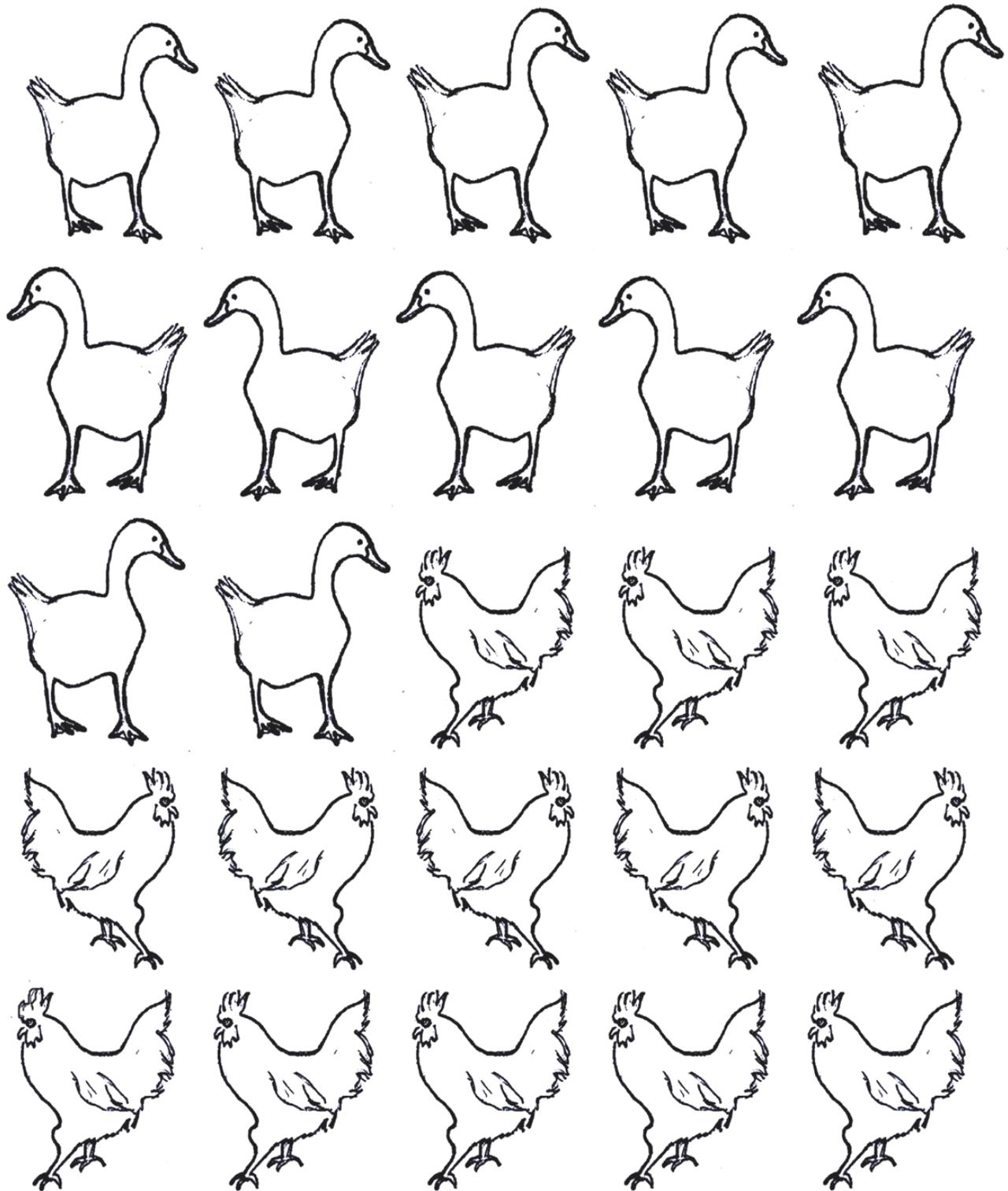
Thousands of settlers moved to Dakota in the late 1800s. Many of them came in by train. Railroads hauled in peoples’ goods and livestock – and sometimes the people, too – in boxcars called immigrant cars. Each family would pack their belongings from the dishes in the cupboard to the barn cat into the car for the trip. One car carried lumber and nails for a claim shanty, china dishes, tools, a wagon, a walking plow, a team of horses, a flock of ducks, 7 cows, 25 chickens, and 2 cats. The teenage son riding in the packed car for the 10-day trip considered it “crowded and stuffy.”

The immigrant cars could not always hold everything a family owned and they had to make hard choices about what to leave behind. Some things could be purchased once they reached Dakota. In this activity, participants will decide which items they will pack into their immigrant car from the goods on the coloring sheets. They will create their own immigrant car art project.

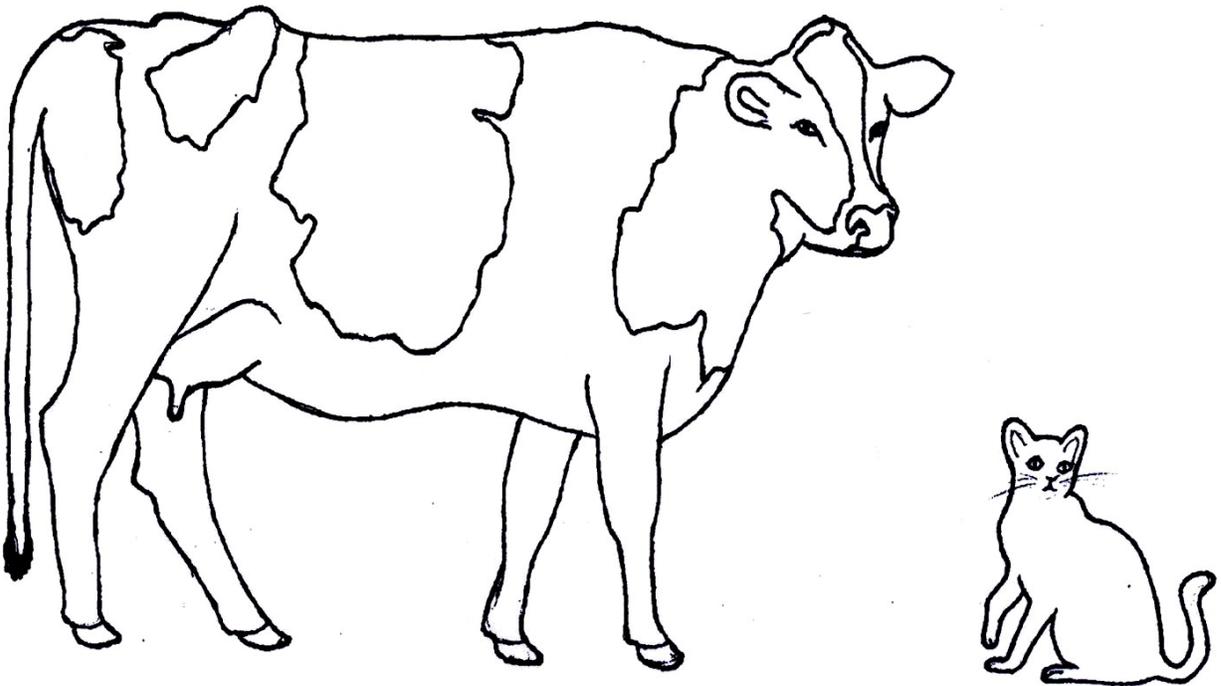
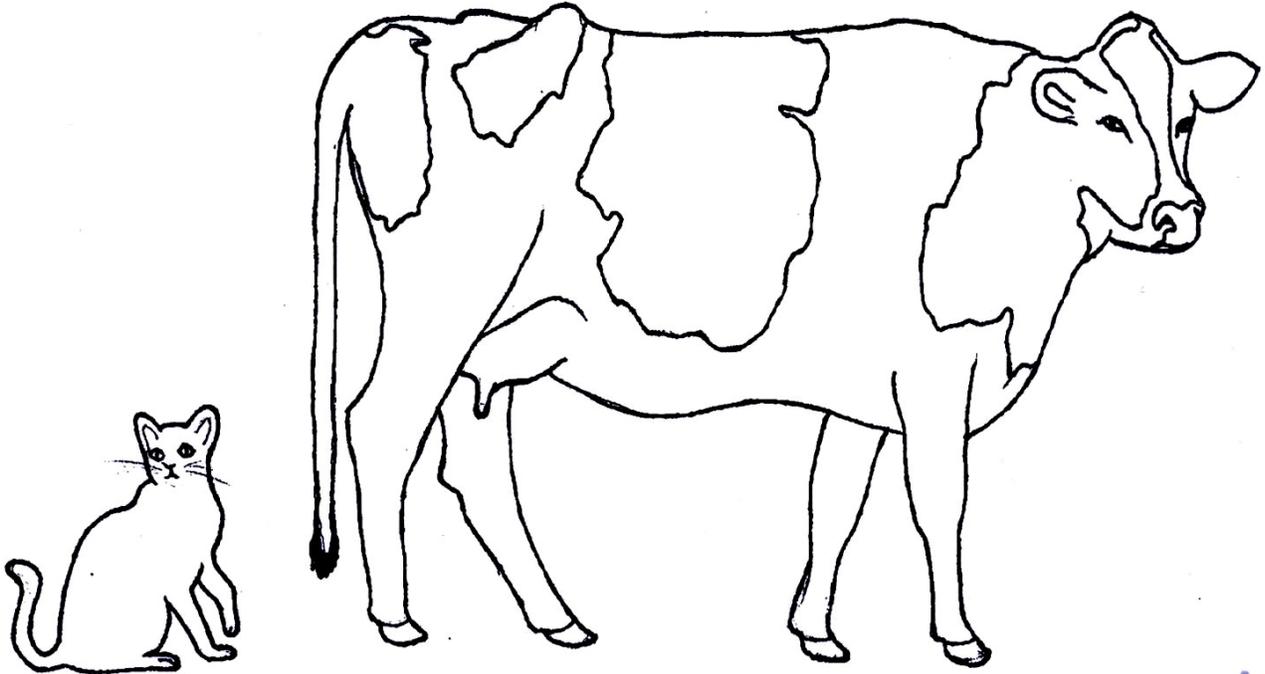
**Activity Steps:**

1. Share the background information with the group.
2. The activity can be done individually or working in small groups. Give each participant or group a copy of the six coloring sheets and a large sheet of construction paper. The construction paper will be their immigrant car.
3. Have participants color and cut out the items on the coloring sheets. Once the items are colored and cut out, participants need to choose which items they will pack into their car. Consider:
  - Which items are necessary?
  - Are there items that can be replaced easily in Dakota?
4. Have participants use the 8.5 x 14 construction paper as their boxcar. They can glue the goods they have chosen to take into their car.
5. Create your own immigrant train by hanging the immigrant cars in a line.

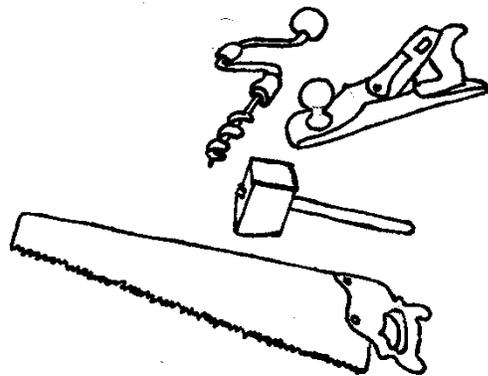
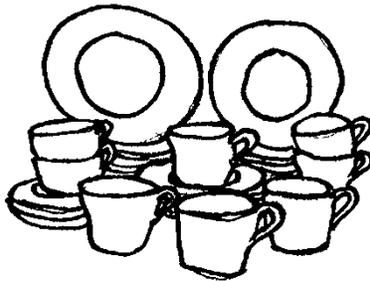
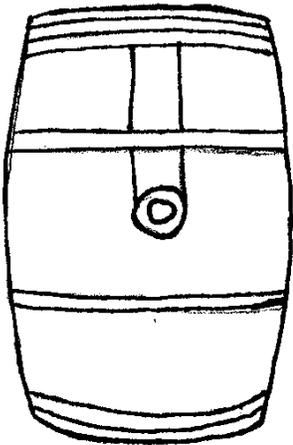
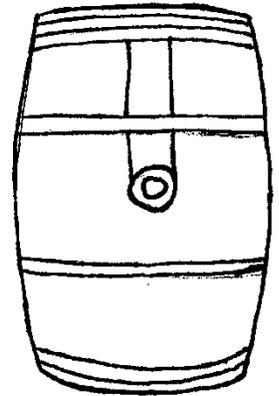
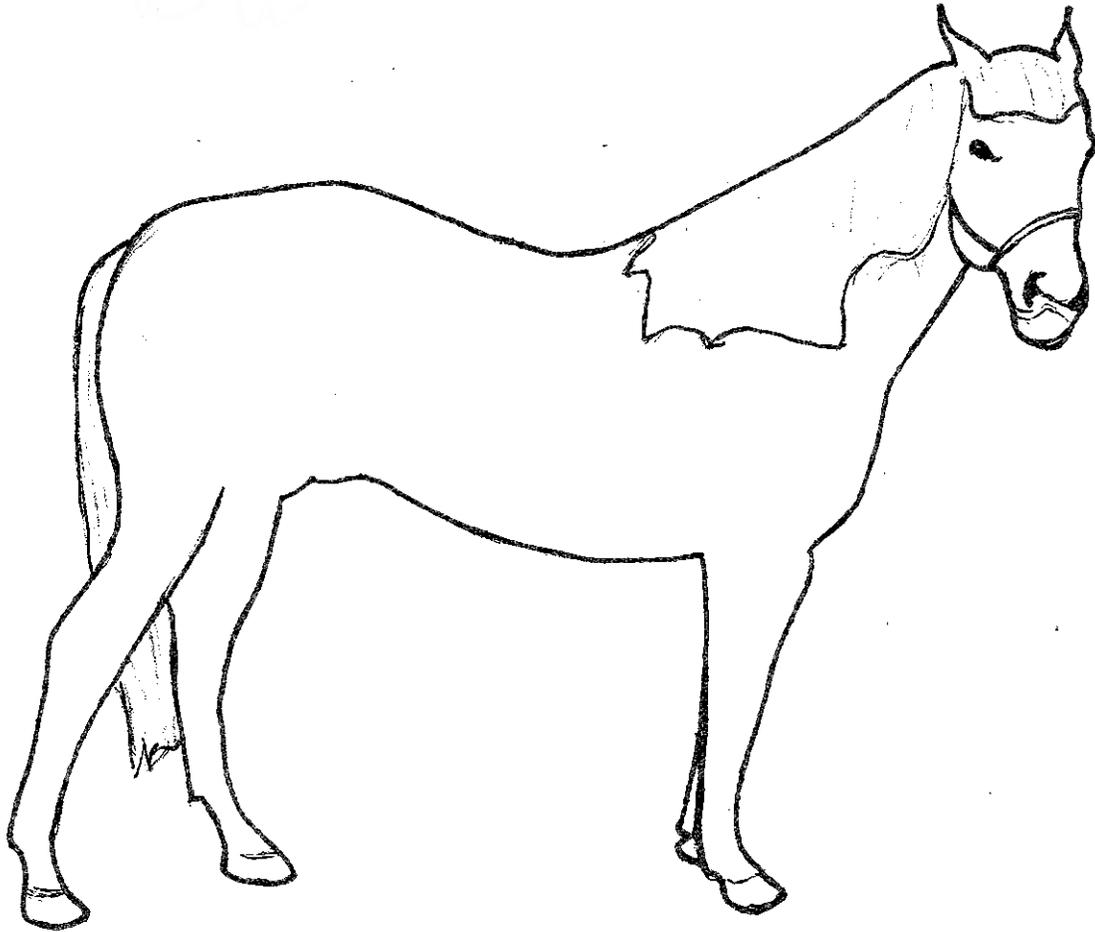
**Loading an Immigrant Car**  
Coloring Sheet 1



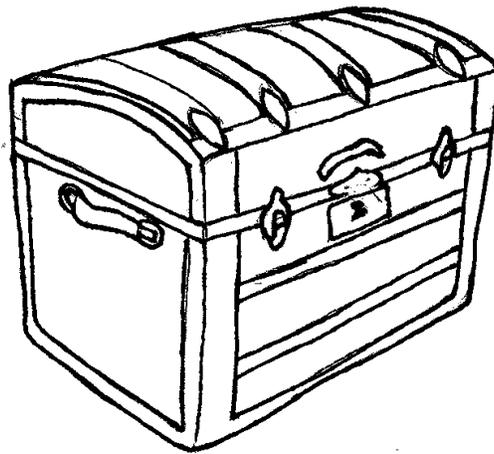
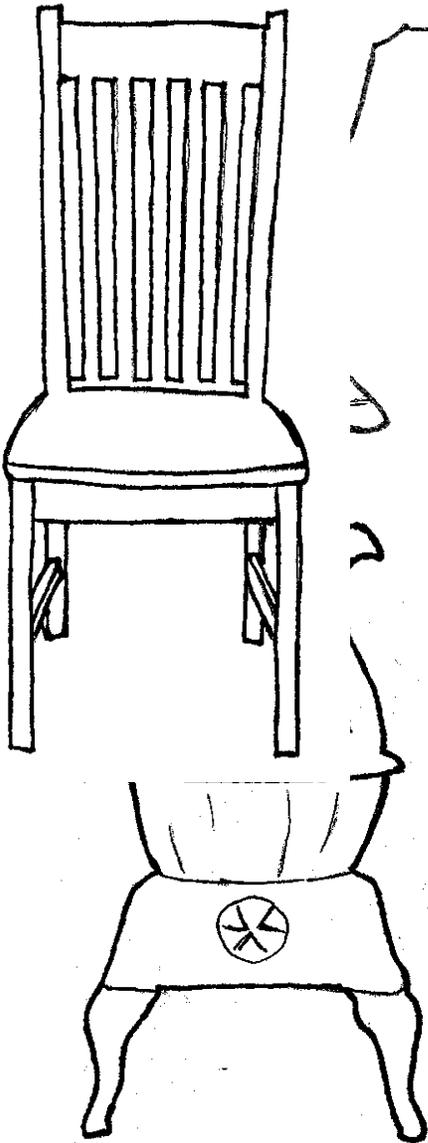
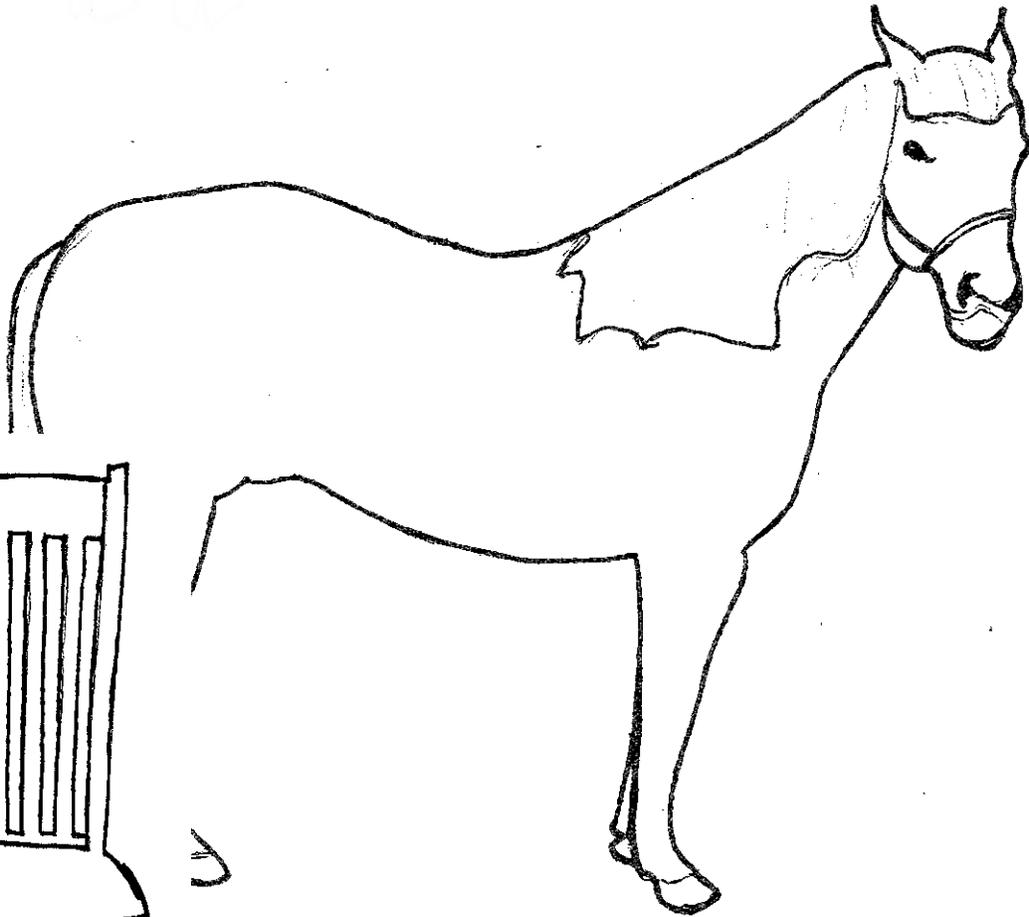
**Loading an Immigrant Car**  
Coloring Sheet 2



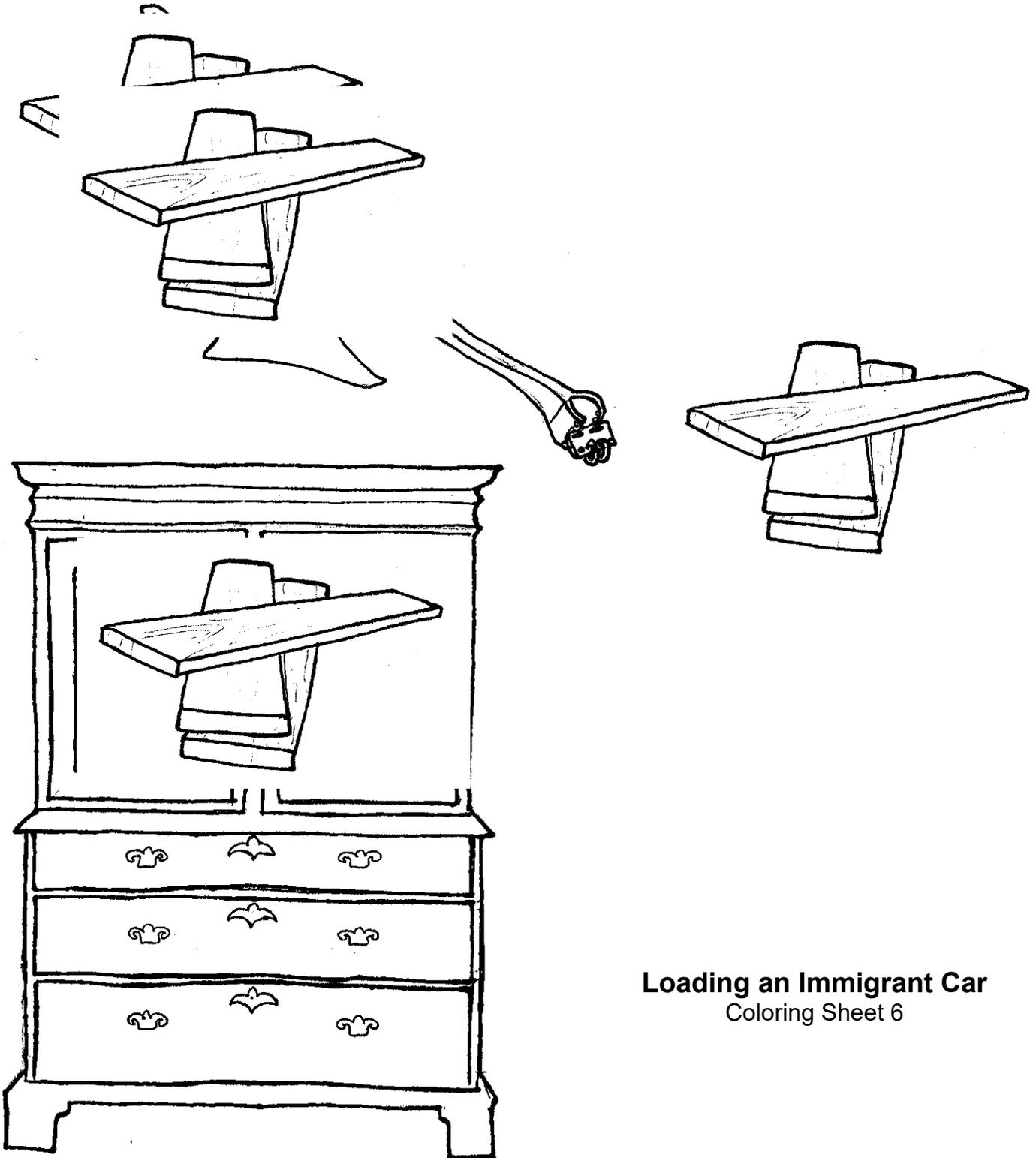
### Loading an Immigrant Car Coloring Sheet 3



**Loading an Immigrant Car**  
Coloring Sheet 4



**Loading an  
Immigrant  
Car**  
Coloring Sheet 5



**Loading an Immigrant Car**  
Coloring Sheet 6

