

South Australian Maritime Museum

German Migration to South Australia Resource for Schools



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

**SOUTH
AUSTRALIAN
MARITIME
MUSEUM**

Summary - German Migration to South Australia

German migrants made a significant contribution to the establishment of South Australia in the early years of British settlement. Since this time, Germans have migrated to South Australia for a variety of reasons, including religious, freedom and economic reasons. This page gives a brief history of German migration to South Australia in the mid-19th Century.

Up until 1870, Germany did not exist as a nation, and the country was made up of a number of independent German speaking states. The two most powerful were Austria and Prussia. The first Lutheran migrants that came to South Australia were from Prussia.

In the eighteenth century, Prussia was a military state and through high taxes, thrift, production, industry and an increased population, the Prussian kings grew their army. The kings established a state that expected discipline and obedience to authority; people were to work hard with precision and punctuality.

The main reason for immigration to South Australia from Prussia in the 1830s and 40s was for religious reasons. In 1817, King Friedrich Wilhelm III wanted to form a union and bring together the Lutheran and Reformed faiths. He developed a worship book and called for these religious congregations to put their differences aside. The king commanded that all ministers and congregations were to introduce this new book by 1830. A small minority of Lutheran congregations opposed this new book and the union. They wanted to remain separate from the Reformed. The decade between 1830 and 1840 was filled with religious tensions in Prussia. The Lutherans made hurtful statements about the union and were branded disturbers of the peace and disobedient subjects.

On the 28th February 1834, the king issued a proclamation stating that the Lutherans were only allowed to hold church services in line with the religious union. The Lutherans were watched closely by the police, but still they conducted services in secret. When found out, they were fined and had their possessions taken away, eventually resulting in poverty for many. Others were arrested and put into prison.

The only way for Lutheran congregations to express their religious beliefs without opposition was to emigrate. The minister of public worship, Von Altenstein tried to block emigration, imposing rules and regulations to make it hard for the Lutherans to leave Prussia. It was not until 2nd September 1837 that approval for emigration was given.

August Ludwig Christian Kavel, a Lutheran pastor played an important role in bringing the first German migrants to South Australia. He worked with a Scottish businessman, George Fife Angus who purchased land in South Australia's Barossa Valley region and sold it to the German migrants.

Whole congregations of Lutherans emigrated together, with the first group of 21 arriving in November, 1838 on the *Bengalee*, and two days later a larger group arrived on the *Prince George*. They settled in Klemzig. In December 1838, Captain Dirk Hahn of the *Zebra* arrived with another 187 Lutheran migrants. It had not been an easy trip for these immigrants, lack of space had made it impossible to take all their belongings and twenty-five chests of clothing had to be left behind. When they finally arrived they named their settlement Hahndorf.

After the death of the King of Prussia in June 1840, Germans moved to South Australia more for economic rather than religious reasons, (only five per cent of all German migrants came for religious reasons). The South Australian government soon realised the worth of these hard working Germans and encouraged further migration from Germany. In the early 1850s more than two thousand German miners migrated to work in South Australia's copper mines and smelters.

German migration and settlement is strongly evident in the Barossa Valley, where they established the towns of Bethany, Langmeil, Ebenezer, Hoffnungsthal and several others. They also settled in the Adelaide Hills naming their towns Blumberg, Lobethal, South Rhine and Grunthal.

Since the arrival of Europeans in 1836, South Australia has had a strong sense of German identity. 1870, ___% of South Australia's population were of German descent, and recently in the 2011 Census, 6% of South Australia's population identified as having German ancestry.

You will work with a museum education officer and learn about the conditions German migrants experienced on their journeys to South Australia in the 1840s, 1910s and 1950s. Use this information and the 1840s cabin to complete the information below.

1. Schau dir die Tafel mit dem Namen "The Long Haul" an

- a) Wie lange dauerte es mit dem Schiff nach Südaustrian zu reisen?
- b) 1840 _____ Tage 1910 _____ Tage 1950 _____ Tage
- c) Wie lange dauert es inzwischen mit dem Flugzeug? (_____ Tage _____ Stunden)

2. Die Kabine von 1840

- a) Wieviele Leute schliefen in einer Koje? _____
- b) Wieviele Leute schliefen in einer Kabine? _____
- c) Lege dich in eine Koje. Ist es **hart** oder **weich**? _____
- d) Was aßen die Leute auf der Schiffsreise?

- e) Zeichne etwas was du gerne essen würdest.

- f) Wieviele **Messer** _____ **Gabeln** _____
 Teller _____ **Flaschen** _____
 kannst du zählen?

- g) Ist der Korb **voll** oder **leer**? _____

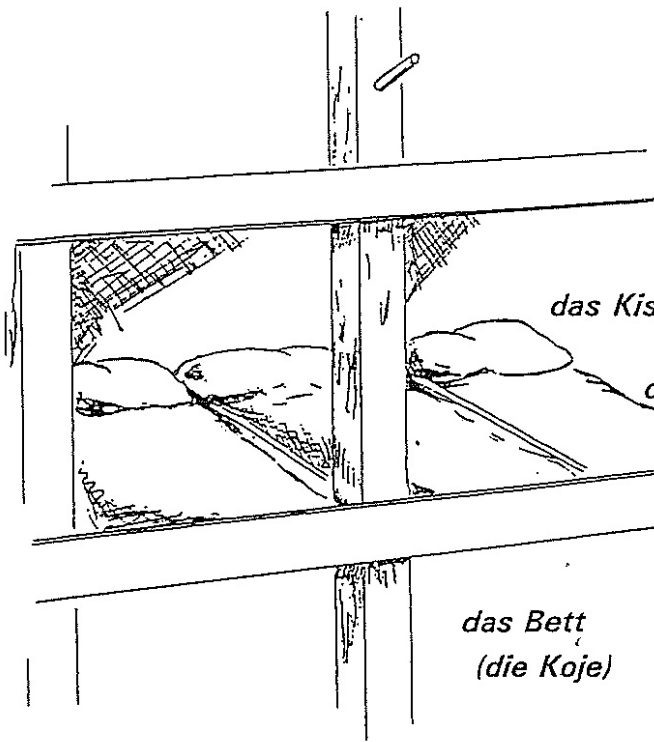
- h) Wer benutzte die Toilette? **Frauen / Männer / Kinder**

- i) Die Kabine (Kajüte) ist **hell / dunkel**

- Ist die Lampe an? **Ja / Nein**

- j) Die Kabine ist aus **Holz / Metall** gemacht.

EINE KABINE AUS DEM JAHRE 1840



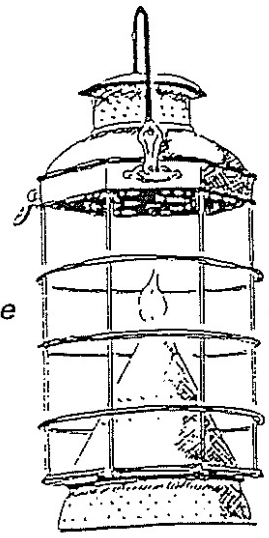
das Kissen

die Matratze

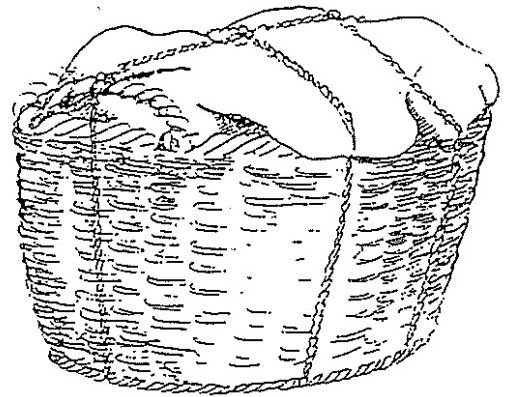
das Bett
(die Kojе)



der Krug

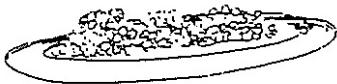


die Lanterne

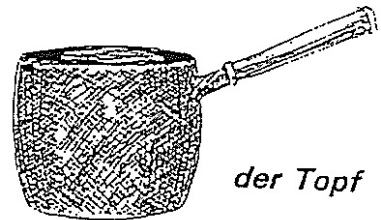


der Korb

das Brot

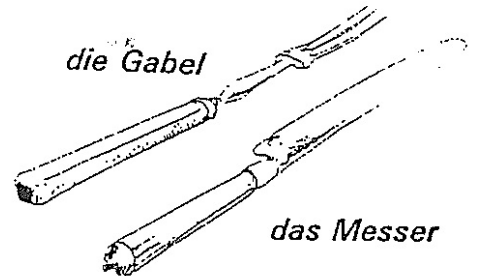


der Teller



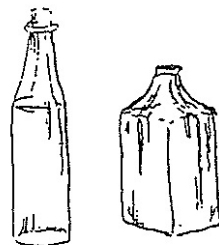
der Topf

die Gabel



das Messer

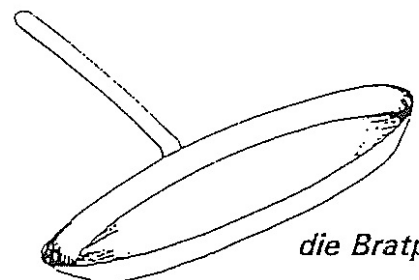
das Fass



die Flaschen



das Glas



die Bratpfanne

3. Die Kabine von 1950

a) Wieviele Leute schliefen in dieser Kabine? _____

b) Gab es eine Toilette in der Kabine? **Ja / Nein**

c) Konnte man sich in der Kabine waschen? **Ja / Nein**

d) Ist die Kabine **hell** oder **dunkel**? _____



e) Zeichne hier etwas Interessantes:



f) Wer benutzte die Kabine?

Frauen _____

Männer _____

Kinder _____

g) Wie viele

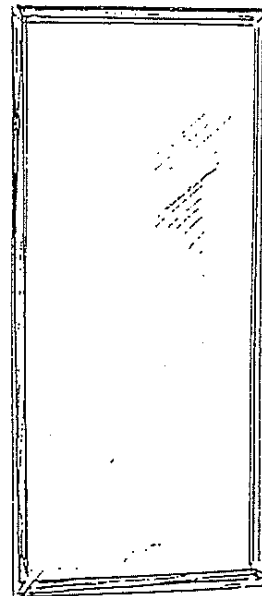
Spiegel _____

Wasserhähne _____

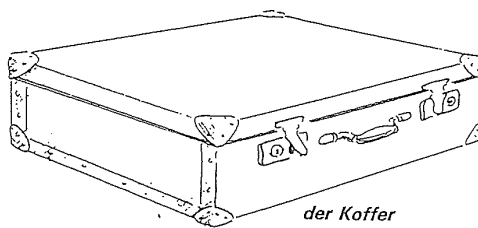
Handtücher _____

Koffer _____

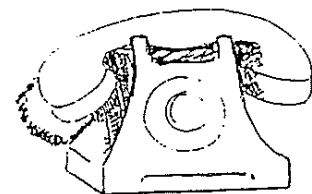
kannst du zählen?



der Spiegel!



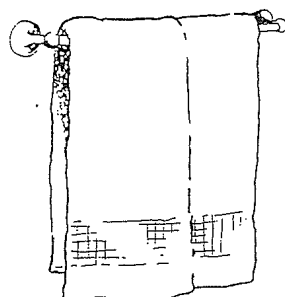
der Koffer



das Telefon



das Wasserglas



das Handtuch



der Wasserhahn

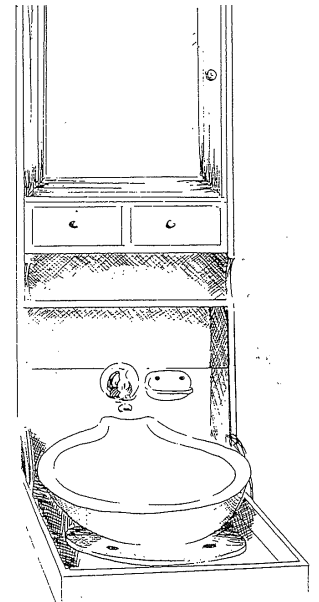
4. Die Kabine von 1910

- a) Wieviele Leute schliefen in der Kabine? _____
- b) Gab es eine Toilette? **Ja / Nein**
- c) Konnte man sich in der Kabine waschen? **Ja / Nein**
- d) Ist die Kabine **hell** oder **dunkel**? _____

e) Zeichne hier

etwas

Interessantes:



das Waschbecken

f) Wer benutzte die Kabine?

Frauen _____ **Männer** _____ **Kinder** _____

g) Wer spricht? (Wessen Stimme kannst du hören?) _____

5. In welcher Kabine würdest du lieber reisen? _____

Warum? _____

6. Benutze den Computer:

a) Welchen Namen hast du versucht zu finden? _____

War er dabei? **Ja / Nein**

In welchem Zeitraum? _____

b) Welche dieser Namen kannst du finden?

NAME	ANKUNFTSDATUM	ANZAHL DER LEUTE
Schrapel		
Müller		
Schmidt		
Lehmann		

c) Was war der häufigste Beruf? _____

d) In welchem Zeitraum kamen die meisten **Deutschen** an?

1836 – 1885

1925 - 1956