

## **The language of the Pennsylvania Dutch An example of cultural diversity in the Middle Colonies**

For each of the following sentences, try and determine the meaning of the “Dutch” word using context clues. Write your answer for what you believe each **bold** word means next to the sentence in which it’s found.

“Come here for a **bissel**; I want to talk to you.”

“I’m very **gabut**. I’m going to bed.”

“It feels so good when I **crotz** it.”

The dog gave a loud **goutz** when he saw the cat.”

“He is so **loblich**; he’s never serious.”

“She completed the puzzle so **shnell**. She must be very smart.”

“I never laughed so much in my life; it was **spossich**.”

“He was very **weetich** when he realized his cow had been stolen.”

“You get into so much trouble because you’re so **woonerfitchich**.”

- 1) Where do you think the people who spoke Pennsylvania Dutch were originally from? Explain your reasoning.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Explain how the people who spoke this language might have been treated by the English colonists they encountered? Provide at least one reason or example to support your opinion.

## **The more things change, the more they stay the same...**

Read the following *primary source* excerpt and answer the related questions “thoroughly and thoughtfully”:

I agree that these people are a matter of great concern to us. I fear that one day, through their mistakes or ours, great troubles may occur. The ones who come here are usually the most stupid of their nation. Few understand our language, so we cannot communicate with them through our newspapers. Their priests and religious leaders seem to have little influence over them. They are not used to freedom and do not know how to use it properly. It has been reported that young men do not believe they are true men until they have shown their manhood by beating their mothers. They do not believe they are truly free unless they also abuse and insult their teachers.

And now they are coming to our country in great numbers. Few of their children know English. They bring in much of their own reading from their homeland and print newspapers in their own language. In some parts of our state, ads, street signs, and even some legal documents are in their own language and allowed in courts.

Unless the stream of these people can be turned away from their country to other countries, they will soon outnumber us so that we will not be able to save our language or our government. However, I am not in favor of keeping them out entirely. All that seems necessary is to distribute them more evenly among us and set up more schools that teach English. In this way, we will preserve the true heritage of our country.

1. What group of people is the writer referring to? What clues helped you make that determination?

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2. Describe the writer’s attitude towards *immigration*. Explain why he might feel this way.

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3. Explain whether you agree or disagree with this writer’s arguments. Can you think of any other examples from our nation’s history or current events that supports (“it is right”) or refutes (“it is wrong”) the writer’s arguments and predictions? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Who do you think the writer is (take an educated guess)? It’s a famous colonial person who you probably know...