

## Rogarshevsky Primary Source Activity Lesson Plan Appropriate for High School Students

**Objective:** To use primary sources to tell the story of the Rogarshevsky family. To build an understanding as to how primary sources/documents can be used to piece together stories from the past.

### Materials:

- Rogarshevsky Primary Source Packets. The documents are located at the bottom of this lesson plan.
- Pencils
- Paper

### Procedure:

- Distribute packet to each student or distribute packet to small groups and have each student take one or two documents
- Ask open ended questions:
  - What do you notice about your document?
  - What strikes you in reading this document?
  - What puzzles you?
  - What patterns do you see?
  - Do any of these items fit together to tell a story?
  - Does any of the information surprise you?
  - What is useful? Is anything not useful? How do you decide?
- You can always ask specific questions if you feel your students are not getting to the story. However, it's best to see what they can do on their own first as a model for how they might use this, or a similar, activity in their classroom to allow their students to construct knowledge. Examples of specific questions:
  - Does anyone have a document with the name Abraham Rogarshevsky? Or a similar name (spelled differently on most documents)?
  - Do you know what he did for a living?
  - Do you know how many family members he had?
  - Is there a place where you don't see his name but names of family members? Why might this be? Does that connect to another document?
  - Does anyone have a document with the name Rosenthal? What are the first names of the family? Could these be the same family?
- Have your students discuss what types of information they are finding and what they have learned from it.
- Ask the students to tell or write the Rogarshevsky story from the information they just gathered.
- If you are planning a trip to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum and plan to go on the Piecing It Together Tour, tell your students that they will soon learn how the story they told fits into the larger story at the Museum.
- If they are not going to the Museum you may wish to tell them the whole story, so they can see how they correctly told the story. When telling the

complete story let them know that the Museum had more resources to work with that allowed them to tell a larger story.

- Emphasize to your students that they have just done the work of real historians. Historians use primary sources in all of their work. They piece together information about a time, place, event, or person based on recorded information. Primary sources are essential to the work historians do.

**Assessment:** Assessment should be largely based on the process of learning how to decipher primary source documents. Ask your students questions that further their thinking about the sources they have. This will allow you to evaluate their ability to draw conclusions from the given information.

Primary Source Documents

16 76-1076

1 PLACE OF DEATH  
 Borough of Manhattan Department of Health of The City of New York  
 BUREAU OF RECORDS  
 STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

No. 97 Orchard St.

Character of premises, whether Government, private, hotel, hospital or other place, etc. Apartment

Registered No. 20986  
20986

FULL NAME Abraham Rogarshevsky

SEX male COLOR OR RACE white HAIR brown EYES blue  
(Specify word)

DATE OF BIRTH July 10, 1873  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

AGE 45 2 7  
(Years) (Months) (Days)

OCCUPATION  
 (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work Presser  
 (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer) Children clothes

BIRTHPLACE (State or country) Russia

(A) How long in U. S. (If foreign birth) 18 yr. (B) How long resident in City of New York 18 yr.

PARENTS OF DECEASED  
 17 NAME OF FATHER Morris Rogarshevsky  
 18 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country) Russia  
 19 MOTHER NAME OF MOTHER Ida Goldbey  
 20 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country) Russia

21 Official registration required in deaths in hospitals and institutions and in deaths of non-residents and recent arrivals.

22 Cause or usual residence

23 I hereby certify that the foregoing particulars (Nos. 1 to 19 inclusive) are correct as near as the same can be ascertained, and I further certify that I attended the deceased from June 1, 1917 to July 12, 1918, that I last saw him on the 12 day of July 1918, that death occurred on the 12 stated above at 11 P.M., and that the cause of death was as follows:  
Pulmonary tuberculosis

duration 7 yrs. 0 mos. 0 ds.  
 Contributory (Secondary):  
 duration 0 yrs. 0 mos. 0 ds.  
 Witness my hand this 13 day of July 1918  
 Signature P. Freedman M. D.  
 Address 150 Henry St.

FILED 1918

24 PLACE OF BURIAL Mt Zion Cem. DATE OF BURIAL July 14, 1918  
 25 URBERTAIN W. Guttmann ADDRESS 119 Orchard St.

Abraham Rogarshevsky's Death Certificate. It gives 97 Orchard Street as the location of his death. His occupation was "Presser of children's clothes" and he died of pulmonary tuberculosis.

United States Census  
1910

NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF BIRTH		
			SELF	MTHR	FTHR
Dubin, Simon	46	Tailor	-----	Russ Yiddish	----
Dubin, Ida	45	none		"	
Dubin, Pauline	21	Tailor		"	
Dubin, Marie	21	Operator		"	
Dubin, Paul	19	Army		"	
Dubin, Hyman	16	Newsagent		"	
Dubin, Annie	12	none		"	
Rogshiefsky, Abraham	39	presser		"	
Rogshiefsky, Fannie	17	none		"	
Rogshiefsky, Ida	17	Joiner		"	
Rogshiefsky, Bessie	16	Operator		"	
Rogshiefsky, Morris	15	Shopping Clerk		"	
Rogshiefsky, Samuel	12	none		"	
Rogshiefsky, Henry	7	none	New York	"	"
Rogshiefsky, Philip	3	none	New York	"	"
Baerd, Joseph	64	Peddler	Russ Yiddish	"	"
Baerd, Annie	64	none		"	
Baerd, Ida	9	none		"	
Bornstein, Hymie?	19	Painter		"	
Ferguson?, Harry	25	Buyer		"	
Ferguson?, ?ster	21	none		"	
Ferguson?, Hanna?	10months		New York	"	"
Grobtic(h)(k), Abraham	42	Driver	Russ Yiddish	"	"
Grobtic(h)(k), Hanna	46	none		"	
Grobtic(h)(k), Samuel	19	salesman	New York	"	"
Grobtic(h)(k), Rosie	15	none		"	
Grobtic(h)(k), Freddie	3	none		"	
Grobtic(h)(k), Isidor(1)	6	none		"	
Grobtic(h)(k), Morris	9	none		"	
Grobtic(h)(k), Benjamin	12	none		"	
Beaker, Jennie	53	none	Russ Yiddish	"	"
Beaker, Bertha	21	setter		"	
Beaker, Gris(ine)	18	setter		"	
Margolis?, Joseph	18	moulder?		"	
Perlitz, Berl	50	baker		"	
Perlitz, Minna	50	none		"	
Isenberg, Rachael	36	cook		"	

Copy of the 1910 United States Census, listing the Rogarshevsky family

### Translation of 1920 Census

Place of Abode	Name	Relation to head	Renting or Owning	Sex	Age	Citizenship	Education	Nativity and Mother, Tongue of Person or Father/Mother	Whether able to speak English	Occupation	Salary or wage annuar
79	151 Rakshewsky Fanni	Head	R	F	W 44 W	1901 AI.	No No	Russia Yiddish/Russia Yiddish / Russia Yiddish	No	Janitor Apt. House	W
80	Ida	Daughter		F	W 26 S	1901 AI.	Yes Yes	Russia Yiddish/Russia Yiddish / Russia Yiddish	Yes		
81	Bessie	Daughter		F	W 24 S	1901 AI.	Yes Yes	Russia Yiddish/Russia Yiddish / Russia Yiddish	Yes		
82	Beyer Joseph	Head	R	M	W 74 M	1900 AI.	No No	Russia Yiddish/Russia Yiddish / Russia Yiddish	No		
83	Anna	Wife		F	W 74 M	1900 AI.	No No	Russia Yiddish/Russia Yiddish / Russia Yiddish	No		
84	Stern Samuels	Border		M	W 62 S	1900 AI.	No No	Russia Yiddish/Russia Yiddish / Russia Yiddish	No		
85	Rakshewsky Morris	Son		M	W 25 W	1901 AI.	No No	Russia Yiddish/Russia Yiddish / Russia Yiddish	Yes	Salesman Fur	W
86	Henry	Son		M	W 17 S	1901 AI.	No No	New York / Russia Yiddish / Russia Yiddish	Yes	Clerk clothing shop	W
87	Philip	Son		M	W 12 S	1901 AI.	No No	New York / Russia Yiddish / Russia Yiddish	Yes	None	

An excerpt of the 1920 United States Census, listing Fanny Rogarshevsky as the Head of the household and her children.