

## Peter Hastie: suggested questions and activities

The following activities will help you to explore the topic of emigration from Scotland in more depth using the sources provided.

### **Audio extract: letter written by Peter Hastie, 1827**

- What reasons does Peter Hastie give for wanting to emigrate from Scotland?
- Were his reasons primarily social, personal, or economic?

### **Extract from letter written by Peter Hastie, 1834**

- What reasons does Peter Hastie give for deciding to stay in New York during the summer of 1832?
- How was Peter able to find a position as a clerk in Pennsylvania, and then as an assistant engineer on the Chenango Canal project?
- Read page three of the letter. Why might Mr Archibald have wanted to help Peter, an emigrant from Scotland?
- Was Peter able to use any of his existing skills in his new profession? Refer to the source in your answers.

### **Extract from letter written by Peter Hastie, 1841**

- Do you think that Peter Hastie was generally content with his decision to emigrate to the USA?

### **General**

- In your opinion, what factors contributed to Peter's success as an emigrant in America? Make use of the sources to support your answer.