Teaching about the Holocaust
“FOLLOW UP”

Marija Gabelica, History teacher
Koprivnica High School
GOALS:

- Attempt to answer what happened to the majority of European Jews using photographs, testimonies and historical sources, and how it was humanly possible?

- Develop interest and improve knowledge of the Holocaust, genocide and the suffering of people in World War II

Outcomes:

- Students will find out what happened to European Jews and their families during WWII by analysing pictures and testimonies

- Establish the differences between camps and name the most significant

- Using material sources and photographs try to explain what happened in those death camps and what the Holocaust was

- Attempt to answer about the photographers’ motivation to take these photographs (purpose and method)

- Compare the positions of victims and perpetrators, i.e. explain who was who and why?
What we do and how

• History Lessons in the classroom, (2nd and 3rd grade)
  - They analyse photos, maps, testimonies (material and audio)
  - Classroom Themes: The Nazis’ rise to power (Nazi rule, ideology, life of minorities under Nazi regime, The Final Solution (Deportations, final solution, death camps), NDH...

• Cooperation with the English teacher
  • In English class, students translate testimonies from the book The Auschwitz Album (Yad Vashem) and several poems
Exhibition

- Travelling Anne Frank exhibition (A.F. House from Amsterdam) organised by Hermes
  - In our school from 18.-25.1.

- Students are “curators” and take all classes from our schools through the exhibition, along with students from other schools in Koprivnica
History lessons

1. Nazi rule
   - The Nazi rise to power
   - Gathering of Jews through reading the sources and questions

2. Audio Testimony

3. Team work – Anne Frank exhibition (20)
   - (in the school’s main hall)
   - (Hermes organisation in cooperation with the Anna Frank House from Amsterdam)
Individual tasks:

- **Essay**
  - Students write an essay on how they felt (after hearing the lecture on deportations and the Final Solution)

- **Righteous Among the Nations –**
  - Each student has to choose one Righteous, read about their life and the life of those they had saved
  - On a big poster (in all final year classes) we write down their names and the names of people saved
2. Gathering of Jews *

- "All Yids of the city of Kiev and its vicinity must appear on Monday, September 29, by 8 o'clock in the morning at the corner of Mel'nikova and Dorofiozhyska streets (near the Viis'kove cemetery). Bring documents, money and valuables, and also warm clothing, linen, etc. Any Yids who do not follow this order and are found elsewhere will be shot. Any civilians who enter the dwellings left by Yids and appropriate the things in them will be shot.”

Handout September 28, 1941.
In Russian, Ukrainian with German translation

- "The difficulties resulting from such a large scale action—in particular concerning the seizure—were overcome in Kiev by requesting the Jewish population through wall posters to move. Although only a participation of approximately 5,000 to 6,000 Jews had been expected at first, more than 30,000 Jews arrived who, until the very moment of their execution, still believed in their resettlement, thanks to an extremely clever organization.”

Report of the commander of the Einsatzkommando, 2 days after

- With what are the difficulties encountered Nazis?
- Why the Jews did not flee?
- Where they thought they were going

- Multiperspectival
- Newspaper articles
- Photos
- Documents
- Testimonies
- Maps
Audio testimonies

- Testimony of Bjanka Auslander, Sarajevo
- Clip 3 and clip 4
- [https://sfi.usc.edu/lessons/deportacion-stanovnic5A1tva-ndh-u-usta5A1ke-logore0_jg7411w4](https://sfi.usc.edu/lessons/deportacion-stanovnic5A1tva-ndh-u-usta5A1ke-logore0_jg7411w4)

After hearing a testimony answer questions:

- Who was Bjanka and where was she from?
- Who came for them and why?
- Who was she with? What did they carry with them?
- Where did they take them?
- Describe the conditions in which she travelled.
- What did she travel by?
- Did they know where they were going?
1. ARRIVAL

- Photo Analysis
  - I ask them to try to describe photos
  - Questions about photos (who is on the photos, what the yellow star represents, how many people there were, did they have any luggage...)
- Map analysis
- Reading Testimonies (Primary source)
- Questions
Photo Analysis

- Describe the photos!
- Who are these people? Where are they going? Have they got any luggage?
- How are they treated?
- Why have they got a yellow star?
- Do you think they know where they are going?
- How did they described the scenes, pace, sounds and smells upon arrival?
- What do you think happened to those people?

MOTIVATION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHER
- Who took these photos? For what purpose?
- Can you see SS officers?
- Why can’t we see any dogs and rifles?

- Can you explain the difference between the photos and Helena Cytron’s descriptions?
1. ARRIVAL TO AUSCHWITZ

Testimonies

- "And we arrived at Auschwitz. As soon as they opened the doors, prisoners in striped uniforms came on to the train and they yelled that we should all leave everything and go down — we all must go out, leave everything in the train. My brother-in-law by some miracle had still a watch. So he — you know, he asked them first, 'Tell me what's going on here.' And downstairs we just heard a lot of screaming and yelling in German. [...] My sister — as soon as they opened the door, she ran down with her little boy, because Danny was crying and it was suffocating in that train. It was terrible, terrible journey. People were fainting. We were pulling you know, smoking, you know, to revive people. It was unbelievable to describe just the journey itself, so we were already very glad when we arrived. We thought, 'This is, at least can't be worse than what we experienced.'

- Cecile Klein-Pollack*

- Just as we arrived at Auschwitz, the terrible shouting started: "Alles Raus!" "Everyone out!" "Hurry up!" Everything happened very fast, accompanied by shouting, and by the time we gathered ourselves up, and we could once again stand on our feet (for our feet had become paralyzed from sitting), the beatings began. From the minute we got to the door, anyone who could not jump quickly was whipped, and there were SS personnel and dogs. As soon as we got off the trains, they asked us to throw [the rest of] our jewelry onto the side of the road — whatever people still had: small earrings, a watch — for they had taken away our jewelry long before

- Helena Cytron

Team 1 *
Survivors’ testimonies :

- Cecile Klein-Pollack, Helen Cytron

Students translated them in English class

Survivals

Helena Cytron was born in 1922 in Czechoslovakia. In Spring 1942, when she was twenty years old, she was deported to Auschwitz in one of the first transports from Slovakia. While in the camp, she worked in different labor groups, among them "Kommando Kohnau." Because of this work she managed to save her sister, Shoshana, from death. In 1945, she participated in the death marches, and with the liberation she and her sister immigrated to Israel. She had two children, and lived in Tel-Aviv until her death in 2008.

Batya Druckmacher
Born in Lodz in 1914. Before the war, she was a housewife, and in the Lodz ghetto she worked as a nanny. She arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau in August 1944, and by the end of the war had survived Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen, Dachau and forced labor camps in Germany.

Cecile Klein-Pollack
Born in 1925 in Jasina, Czechoslovakia (a region under Hungarian rule at the time), she was on the train with Lili Jacob. From Auschwitz she was taken to Holleischern camp in the Sudeten region and was liberated there by the British Army. She married in August 1945, moved to the United States and had three children.

Feige Sauberman
Born in Klementow in 1922. She was sent from forced labor in a BMW factory for car production in Munich to Auschwitz-Birkenau. From Auschwitz she was sent to Bergen-Belsen, and three other camps until she was liberated.
Teams:
• assigned topics
• They had professional help by volunteer curators (also our school’s students)
Witnesses

We talk about witnesses and their experiences. Who were they?

**LOCALS - Witnesses of time**

- Various witnesses: observers, participants, helpers
- Ordinary people, peasants, away from ideological debates
- They would pass by and see things
- Sometimes they were forced to watch executions (as a public display)
- Sometimes they were forced to help Nazis (digging graves to bury the bodies, collecting possessions of Jews, even had to prepare food for the Nazi army)
- Sometimes sympathetic, sometimes not
- Reward - forced to dig, and then to get clothes
Holocaust by the bullets – mass graves
Perpetrators

Who were they? Where were they from? Why were they capable of such crimes? How was it humanly possible?

READ THE SOURCES THEN ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

- “The difficulties resulting from such a large scale action—in particular concerning the seizure—were overcome in Kiev by requesting the Jewish population through wall posters to move. Although only a participation of approximately 5,000 to 6,000 Jews had been expected at first, more than 30,000 Jews arrived who, until the very moment of their execution, still believed in their resettlement, thanks to an extremely clever organization.”
  
  Report of the commander of the Einsatzkommando

- With what are the difficulties encountered Nazis?
- Why the Jews did not flee?
- Where they thought they were going

• Pr. Leni Reifenstahl, Hitler’s favourite, director of Nazi propaganda film
• "Triumph of the Will"
• Leni’s reaction to the shooting of 22 civilians by German soldiers. September 1939 Poland
POEM
"To the little Polish boy,
Peter Fishl
I would like to be an artist
So I could make a Painting of you
Little Polish Boy

Standing with your Little hat on your head
The Star of David on your coat
Standing in the ghetto with your arms up as
many Nazi machine guns pointing at you

I would make a monument of you
and the world who said nothing

I would like to be a composer so I could write
a concerto of you
Little Polish Boy

I am not an artist
But my mind has painted a painting of you

Ten Million Miles High is the painting
So the whole universe can see you now
Little Polish Boy

Standing with your little hat on your head
The Star of David on your coat
Standing in the ghetto with your arms up
As many Nazi machine guns pointed at you

And the world
Who said nothing

I'll make this painting so bright
That it will blind the eyes of the world
Who saw nothing

Ten Billion Miles High will be the monument
So the whole universe can remember you
Little Polish Boy

Standing with your little hat on your head
The Star of David on your coat
III.
Standing in the ghetto with your arms up
As many Nazi machine guns pointed at you

And the monument will tremble so the blind world
Now will know

What fear is in the darkness

The world
Who said nothing

I am not a composer
But I will write a composition
For five trillion trumpets
So it will blast the ear drums
Of this world

The worlds
Who heard nothing

I
am
Sorry
that
it was you
and
not me

Author: Peter Fischl