

LESSON PLAN

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A VISIT TO THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER IN BUDAPEST



English



Hungary



Education



16-19 years



45 min

LESSON PLAN

How to prepare for a Visit to the Holocaust Memorial Center in Budapest



OBJECTIVES:

Our goal is for students to arrive at our institution well-prepared, sensitive to the topic, and with prior knowledge of the Holocaust in Hungary.

Terminology:

Shoah, Holocaust, Genocide, National Socialism, Antisemitism, Jew, Anti-Jewish Laws in Hungary, Final Solution (Endlösung), Ghetto, Deportation, Concentration Camp, Work Camp, Extermination Camp or Death Camp, Special Treatment (Sonderbehandlung), Gas Chamber, Sonderkommando

1. Introduction:

 5 min

- Introducing SHOAH STORIES' website
 - Short overview of the Holocaust Memorial Center featured in the videos
 - Watch three short videos related to the Holocaust Memorial Center
 - Brief clarification: Some topics may also be addressed in more depth during a guided tour of the permanent exhibition
 - Tools: Computer, projector, speakers

2. Historical Sources & Visual Testimony

 10 min

- Visit the Yad Vashem website
- Introduction to the Auschwitz Album as a historical photo source
- Guided research: Students explore selected photographs from the Auschwitz Album
- Discussion of photographs as historical sources: What do they show? What do they not show?

3. Analytical Task: Creating a Timeline:

 15 min

- Group work:
 - Students create a timeline of one day in the life of a deportee who has just arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau
 - Timelines should be based on the photographs, additional historical information, and guided assumptions
- Focus on sequencing, perspective, and historical plausibility

4. Reflection & Critical Discussion:

 10 min

- Groups present and compare their timelines
- Joint discussion:
 - Similarities and differences between the timelines
 - Reflection on the limits of visual sources
 - Explicit discussion: The actual mass murder is not depicted in the photographs
 - Guiding question: Why is this the case? What does this tell us about Nazi documentation, perspective, and historical gaps?

5. Testimony & Creative Reflection

 Homework

- Watch the following three selected sections from the testimony of Lili Meier (1996)
- Individual or small-group task (homework):
 - Based on what you have learned from Lili Meier's testimony, create a short video related to the topic (e.g. memory, survival, visual evidence, personal perspective)
- Reflection question:
 - Why do you think the Auschwitz Album played such an important role in Lili Meier's life?

Timeframe	Lesson Plan	Educational Strategy			Notes
		Methods	Student Work Forms	Tools	
1-5. minutes	Introducing Shoah Stories's website			computer, projector	
6-15. minutes	<p>Watch 3 short videos about the Holocaust Memorial Center.</p> <p>You may hear some more information about these topics from your tour guide, if you decide to visit our permanent exhibiton with a guided tour.</p>	Individual work	Take notes.	computer or smartphone	<p>Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction video - Video about the Páva Street Synagogue - Video about the Auschwitz Album
16-30. minutes	<p>Visit the website of Yad Vashem.</p> <p>Research the photos of the Auschwitz Album.</p> <p>Create a timeline of one day of a deportee, who had just arrived to Auschwitz-Birkenau.</p>	Group work (3 groups)	Group work	Canva	<p>https://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/album_auschwitz/arrival.asp</p> <p>The Album was found by a Hungarian survivor, Lili (maiden name: Jacob) Meier. It depicts the Hungarian Jews arriving to Auschwitz-Birkenau and the selection process, therefore it is an important historic document of the Hungarian Holocaust and of our exhibition.</p>
31-40. minutes	<p>Discuss the timelines that the groups have created.</p> <p>Note that the actual mass murder is not depicted on the photographs. Discuss with your students why that is the case.</p>				<p>Arrival</p> <p>Selection</p> <p>Selected for slave labor</p> <p>Assignment to slave labor</p> <p>or</p> <p>Last moments before the gas chamber</p>

41-45. minutes	<p>Watch the following three sections from the testimony of Lili Meier (1996).</p> <p>Based on what you have learned from Lili's testimony, create a short video on the topic.</p> <p>What do you think, why did the Album play such an important role in Lili's life?</p>	Creative work	Homework	computer or smartphone	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QnEHHXyE_2Q</p> <p>1:21:51 – 1:24:42</p> <p>1:51:35 – 1:54:00</p> <p>2:02:13 – 2:05:57</p>