



General Paper and Box Manufacturing Company at Treforest Trading Estate

GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS

This is one of two resources on the topic of Jewish refugee businesses set up at Treforest Trading Estate and one of 20 about the Holocaust and Wales.

It explores the experiences of the Schoenmann family, who ran a cigarette paper and box factory at Treforest.

Ages: 9-14.

1. PURPOSE OF THE RESOURCE

Learning about the Holocaust through local examples allows learners to **discover their heritage** and **develop a sense of place and cynefin**. It also removes the idea of 'otherness' – that this happened to other people in another place and time – and instead, **creates feelings of connection and empathy**.

2. LEARNING AIMS

The aim of the resource is to enable learners to:

1. Explore past and contemporary ethical and moral issues and engage with concepts of prejudice, discrimination, antisemitism, extremism, equality, tolerance, humanity, responsibility, good, and evil, make a connection between past and present issues and consider what is happening locally and globally today.
2. Develop critical and reflective thinking.
3. Develop creative and artistic skills.
4. Develop confidence, resilience, and empathy: to become more aware of their own experiences and feelings when engaging in activities with others, and to recognise that other people have experiences and feelings.
5. Become responsible citizens in Wales and the wider world.

3. FOCUS OF THE RESOURCE

1. Critically reviewing how past and contemporary events are perceived, interpreted, and represented; forming their own viewpoint and developing self-awareness.
2. Critically analysing and evaluating evidence; interpreting and synthesising information; drawing informed conclusions about the world, its past, present, and future.
3. Expressing ideas and emotions through art.

4. Learning about the complexity and diversity of human societies and the impact of actions and beliefs.

5. Developing an understanding of challenges and opportunities in their personal lives and wider society and considering how to respond ethically.

4. WHAT SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE, AND EXPERIENCE THE RESOURCE HELPS DEVELOP

Indicators of learning:

1. Knowledge about the Jewish refugees' businesses set up at Treforest Trading Estate and the contribution they made to the Welsh and British society and economy.

2. Ability to critically evaluate and use primary historical sources (i.e., oral history testimonies) to form and express their own views, opinions, knowledge, and understanding.

3. Understanding of ethical and moral concepts, e.g., discrimination, racism, antisemitism, and the importance of democratic values and human rights.

4. Ability to respond to and reflect on a historical event with creativity using inspiration and imagination.

5. Experience of participating in art as both a creator and an audience.

6. Ability to make a connection between past and contemporary discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and religion and consider what is happening today in Wales, the UK, and the world, e.g., refugees coming to the UK/Wales.

7. Understanding that people have different beliefs, values, and experiences and respecting the needs and rights of others.

8. Ability to work as part of a team.

9. Experience of participating in group discussions and tasks.

10. Becoming more aware of their own experiences and feelings, values, and beliefs and being able to communicate them.

11. Developing empathy for other people and their circumstances/challenges they face(d), e.g., children who came to the UK on Kindertransport, or modern-day refugees.

5. HOW THE RESOURCE SUPPORTS LEARNING IN LOCAL (CYNEFIN), NATIONAL, AND REGIONAL CONTEXTS

This resource allows learners to hear the stories of people who were directly affected by the Holocaust, and who lived in Wales. These are the stories of people who contributed to and were part of their local Welsh communities. They settled and had families here and their history is part of the story of Wales.

These local examples can help learners understand the connection between Welsh history and global events like World War Two and the Holocaust.

6. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Treforest Trading Estate, near Pontypridd, was set up as part of the Special Areas Act of 1934. The act was created to help parts of Britain with high unemployment, and it offered support to businesses to set up in these areas. When the Nazis began seizing Jewish businesses in Germany in the years after 1933, many Jewish refugees fled here to establish their businesses with help from this scheme.

By May 1940, 55 businesses started by Jewish refugees were operating out of Treforest. They provided jobs for around 1,800 local people.

7. IDEAS and QUESTIONS

1. This resource can be used to learn about the Jewish refugee businesses in Wales, their impact on the Welsh economy, and their contribution to the war effort.

Questions:

- How did Jewish businesses at Treforest Trading Estate support the local economy?
- Why was the production of cigarette paper classified as 'essential' to the war effort?

2. The resource can be used to encourage learners' empathy with young refugees forced to flee their homes.

- What did George Schoenmann experience at school? How did this affect him/make him feel?
- What arrangements can schools put in place to make young refugees feel more welcome?
- What can learners do to make young refugees feel more included?

3. This resource can be used to help learners develop an understanding of challenges and opportunities in their own lives and the wider society.

Questions:

- What items and memories are most precious to the learners and why?
- If unable to take everything with them when leaving their home country, how would they decide what belongings to take?

4. The resource can be used to enable learners to respond creatively to historical events and themes by encouraging them to experiment with different drawing and painting tools and materials.

Each learner creates a 'precious items' box and decorates it by drawing or painting the items and/or memories they would take with them in the box on leaving their home country.

The material needed:

- Printed box template.
- Scissors.
- Glue or sticky tape.
- Drawing and/or painting tools and materials, e.g., graphite and coloured pencils, pens, oil paints, charcoal, watercolours, erasers, and paintbrushes.

Question:

- How does the size of the box template impact learners' decisions about what they would wish to take with them in the box?

8. RESEARCH AND FURTHER INFORMATION

1. Introduction to teaching and learning about the Holocaust:

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) [Recommendations for Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust](#) provide information on why, what, and how to teach about the Holocaust.

The Holocaust Educational Trust's worksheet '[Defining the Holocaust](#)' may be used to introduce learners to the topic of the Holocaust; it helps learners to think about how the Holocaust is defined and why the issue of definition is important.

2. Further reading:

Treforest Trading Estate:

- Refugees from National Socialism in Wales: [Treforest Trading Estate](#).
- Rhondda Cynon Taf Library Service: [Treforest Industrial Estate](#).
- George Schoenmann, *Memoirs... The Long Road to Retirement* (Self-published, March 2011).

General Paper and Box Manufacturing Company:

- WalesOnline: [End of an era for Rizla factory](#).

3. A list of 20 resources about [the Holocaust and Wales](#):

- [Kindertransport 1: Jewish Life in Central Europe before the Second World War.](#)
- [Kindertransport 2: The Journey to Britain.](#)
- [Kindertransport 3: Arrival in Wales.](#)
- [Kindertransport 4: Life in Wales.](#)
- [Memories of Kristallnacht: Destruction and Flight.](#)
- [Memories of Kristallnacht: The Last Bar Mitzvah.](#)
- [Jewish Artists in Wales: Josef Herman.](#)
- [Jewish Artists in Wales: Heinz Koppel.](#)
- [Aero Zipp Fasteners at Treforest Trading Estate.](#)
- [General Paper and Box Manufacturing Company at Treforest Trading Estate.](#)
- ['Enemy Aliens' and Internment Camps.](#)
- ['Enemy Aliens' and Human Rights.](#)
- [Jewish Refugees as Domestic Servants.](#)
- [Jewish Refugee Doctors, Dentists, and Nurses in Wales.](#)
- [Jewish Refugees in the British Army during the Second World War.](#)
- [Religious Life of Jewish Refugees in Wales.](#)



- [The Welsh Language.](#)
- [Liberation.](#)
- [Identity.](#)
- [Remembering the Holocaust.](#)