



Remembering the Holocaust

GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS

This is one of 20 educational resources about the Holocaust and Wales.

It focuses on Holocaust commemoration, prompting learners to think about how and why we should remember the Holocaust and its relevance for the future.

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. Explore and 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 (e.g., values, social norms, rituals, and faiths) 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. Understanding about the importance Holocaust commemoration and its relevance for the future.
2. Ability to find, critically evaluate, and use different sources (e.g., photographs and oral histories) to form and express their own views, opinions, knowledge, and understanding.
3. Ability to respond to and reflect on a historical event with creativity using inspiration and imagination.
4. Experience of participating in art as both a creator and an audience.
5. Understanding of ethical and moral concepts, e.g., discrimination, racism, antisemitism, and the importance of democratic values and human rights.
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

Many countries now have special days commemorating the Holocaust. In the UK, Holocaust Memorial Day is 27 January, which coincides with International Holocaust Remembrance Day. This was the date in 1945 that Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by the Red Army. In Israel, Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) was first observed in 1951; it falls on 27 Nisan in the Jewish calendar – in April or May.

7. IDEAS and QUESTIONS

1. This resource can be used to explore how past events are remembered and commemorated.

Questions:

- What is 'remembrance'?
- Why is remembrance important?
- Have learners ever taken part in a remembrance service, e.g., on Armistice Day, at a sporting event, in a school assembly, or at a funeral?
- What were they asked to do?
- How did it make them feel?

2. This resource can be used to encourage learners to think about why the Holocaust should be remembered and how.

Questions:

- Why should the Holocaust be remembered?
- Have learners ever attended a Holocaust Memorial Day event, e.g., at their school or in their local area?
- How could those who were persecuted and died in the Holocaust be remembered? (For example, through artworks, stories, and poetry.)

3. The resource can be used to encourage learners to consider how they could commemorate the Holocaust in their own area and to promote their creativity.

Learners should design a Holocaust memorial, which will stand in a local area (e.g., park, school grounds, or town square). They may work individually, in pairs, or smaller groups.

They should consider the following questions when designing the memorial:

- What form will the memorial take?
- What size will it be?
- Will it contain any symbols?
- What message do they wish to convey with their memorial?
- At the site, how will they explain the reason for its creation? If there is going to be a caption, what will it say?

They should create a sketch of the memorial and present it to the class, explaining why they have chosen this particular form of remembrance, and what it symbolises.

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:

Remembrance:

- The Royal British Legion: [What is Remembrance?](#)
- BBC: [Remembrance: What it is and why is it important?](#)

[Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.](#)

Cardiff Reform Synagogue Holocaust Memorial Tablet:

- JHASW/CHIDC: [The Holocaust Memorial Tablet.](#)
- PCW: [Records relating to the creation of the Cardiff Reform Synagogue Memorial Tablet, 1952-54.](#)

Czechoslovak State School:

- Refugees from National Socialism in Wales: [Czechoslovak State School.](#)

Kristallnacht:

- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: [Kristallnacht.](#)

Kindertransport:

- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: [Kindertransport, 1938-40.](#)

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.](#)