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Remember, each individual can make a difference. Speak up when you see injustice in the world. The Holocaust happened once, it could happen again if mankind does not learn a lesson from it.

Student Name: _____ **Date:** _____

- Please feel free to e-mail me and share your thoughts about this guide.

- # Never Again...Never Forget

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|--|---|
| Quotes From Distinguished Holocaust Historian and Scholar and Author, Dr. Michael Berenbaum, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum | 2 |
| Inside Story | 2 |
| Inside Story | 2 |
| Inside Story | 3 |
| Inside Story | 4 |
| Inside Story | 5 |
| Inside Story | 6 |

As you descend the large stairs, you have now returned to the Hall of Witness, the large bright area you entered when you arrived at the Museum. Look around you. Look above you as the sun pours in through the glass roof. Do you think the architects had a purpose in mind when they had the tour bring you to this brightly lit area at the end of the tour? Is there a message here? Does the building talk to you? If so, what does it say to you now? Is it the same thing the rest of the building said to you?

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*Excerpts from ‘The World Must Know’- Taken from the
Afterword of the NJ Holocaust Curriculum Guide
Michael Berenbaum, United States Holocaust Memorial
Museum
Washington, DC, June 16, 1992*

“The central theme of the story of the Holocaust is not regeneration and rebirth, goodness or resistance, liberation or justice, but death and destruction, dehumanization and devastation, and above all, loss.”

“Behind each loss was a person whose life was ended tragically and prematurely. And for those who survived, there were the burdens of memory, haunting memories, no heroic memories or worlds shattered and destroyed, of defeat, and of life in its aftermath.”

“The killers were civilized men and women of an advanced culture. They were both ordinary and extraordinary, a cross section of men and women of Germany, its allies, and their collaborators as well as the best and the brightest.”

“Our first task is comprehension, understanding what at first seems incomprehensible.

Our second task is to deal with the meaning of the Holocaust and the absence of meaning: to confront the fact that mass murder was a self-justifying goal of state policy.”

“Our third task is to live in the aftermath of the Holocaust:

“The Holocaust cannot be allowed to numb us to evil, but it must sensitize us and alarm us. It must sharpen our insights into the importance of human rights and human dignity everywhere.”

When you enter this large circular hall you will see a solemn memorial to all the victims. The candles that burn are memorial candles. Feel free to light one as your way of remembering them. Walk through the hall, read the inscriptions, study the candles, the eternal flames, and listen to the silence...yes listen to the silence. How does this silent room speak to you? What does it say in its own silent way? What impression does it leave you with? What are your feelings?

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anguish, as well as rescue, resistance, compassion, and hope.
Sit down, rest your feet and watch the movie for about 10
minutes. Record here what you learned from these survivors.

The Museum

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is a memorial to those who perished in the most horrific event ever know in the history of the world. It represents the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its many collaborators between the years 1933 and 1945. Although Jews were the primary victims, about six million men, women and children were murdered, Roma and Sinti (Gypsies), handicapped persons (physically and mentally), Slavic people, Jehovah's Witnesses, political opponents, homosexuals and Soviet prisoners of war suffered greatly at the hand of the Nazis.

The Museum spans three floors. The design of the building is such that it tells a narrative story. It uses over 900 artifacts which include photos, historical film footage, eyewitness testimony and documents and objects to tell the story of the Holocaust.

The three floors are divided as follows:

Nazi Assault 1933-1939

Final Solution 1940-1945

Last Chapter

Some places in the Museum show graphic scenes on video monitors. Walls have been placed around these monitors so that some of the most disturbing material is kept from immediate view.

Cameras

Photography is not allowed in any of the exhibition areas. Students may take flash photos of nonexhibition areas, including the Hall of Witness and Wall of Remembrance (Children's Tile Wall). Flash photography is not permitted in the Hall of Remembrance. Videotaping is not permitted anywhere in the Museum.

Time

The Museum should take about two to two and a half hours to walk through. Each floor of the Museum leads you along the path the Holocaust itself took. Give yourself plenty of time to spend at the various major exhibits.

Mood

Since the Museum is a memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, you are expected to conduct yourself in a quiet and respectful manner at all times. As you leave the Permanent Exhibition you will find yourself facing the Hall of Remembrance. This hall was designed to serve as the Museum's formal memorial space. Maintain a quiet mood at all times, but especially in the Hall of Remembrance.

Museum Architecture

The building is designed in an unusual manner. Unlike other museums, this one speaks to and about the history that the exhibition narrates. Architect James Ingo Freed traveled to the

Testimony Movie Theater

STUDENT ACTIVITY 8

You are at the end of the main exhibition. There is a small movie theater with a large movie screen showing a film entitled *Testimony*. Here you will see and hear actual survivors recount their experiences of loss, suffering, and

STUDENT ACTIVITY 7

Study the section of the exhibit “Children.” approximately 1.5 million children under the age of 15 died in the Holocaust. The exhibit features artwork by children in the Theresienstadt ghetto. Of the 15,000 children who passed through Theresienstadt, only a few hundred at most survived. Study the artwork and record your reactions and feelings to the artwork here.

ghettos, camps, and other places related to the Holocaust. The use of red brick walls, and dark gray steel structures create an atmosphere that draws the visitor into an examination of the events that they represent.

STUDENT ASSIGNMENT # 1

Examine the architecture and jot down in your journal what you see and how it makes you feel.

Write in your journal words that come to mind as you examine the building’s shapes and forms and what your impressions are about the Holocaust based on the building’s architectural design.

You may also use this page of the booklet for this task.

The Permanent Exhibition...Let's begin

Upon entry into the Museum you will immediately see the large Hall of Witness. I will lead you to an elevator which will take you to the top floor. This is where the story begins.

As you enter the elevator you will immediately enter a new world, the elevator itself will plunge you into a more serious mood. You will see a short video during the elevator ride. Upon leaving the elevator you will be confronted with a wall-sized photograph showing what American soldiers found when they entered Ohrdruf Concentration Camp. From there you will view a display of images of what Jewish life was like in Europe before the Holocaust.

Stage 1 of the Exhibit:

STUDENT ASSIGNMENT– Do this as you walk through the entire museum.

Is there a theme you see present in the exhibits in this section? What is that theme? Jot down any documents, images, objects, displays or videos that reflect the theme you have chosen. (Possible themes to look for are Dehumanization, Resistance, Collaboration and others.)

Questions to Guide Your Thinking

Dehumanization

- How were the victims stripped of human dignity?
- Which artifacts and pictures in the Museum are examples

- Nuremberg Trials
- Guilt and Bystanders
- Children
- Pogroms After The War
- Displaced Persons
- Exodus
- A New State– Israel
- A New World
- American Responses
- Testimony

STUDENT ACTIVITY 6

Study the exhibit Le Chambon: A Place of Refuge. What did this town do that made it so unique?

- The Collapse of Germany
- The Courage to Rescue
- Le Chambon: A Place of Refuge
- The War Refugee Board
- Wallenberg and Fellow Rescuers
- The Fate of Bulgarian Jews
- The Fate of Italian Jews
- Zegota (polish Council for Aid to Jews)
- The Saving of Danish Jews
- Resistance
- The White Rose
- Ghetto Revolts
- Death Camp Revolts
- Jewish Partisans
- Death Marches
- Liberation:Encounter
- Liberation:Aftermath

- In which ways did individuals collaborate?
- Was collaboration always a voluntary act? Why?
- Which artifacts and pictures in the Museum demonstrate collaboration?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

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PAGE 19

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This is the final floor of the main exhibit. It begins with maps

Record your feelings here:

STUDENT ACTIVITY 5

SHOE EXHIBIT– At the end of this floor you will see shoes taken from prisoners at Majdanek,; photos of former prisoners’ tattooed arms; a large photo mural of hair shorn from prisoners at Auschwitz; and castings from actual crematoria (ovens), as well as other items used to dispose of the bodies in the concentration camps and killing centers.

The Nazi Assault 1933-1939

As you walk down this hall you will see exhibits that show:

- Takeover of Power
- The Rise of the Nazis
- The Terror Begins
- Boycott of Jewish Businesses
- Burning of Books
- Nazi Propaganda
- The “Science” of Race
- The Nuremberg Laws
- Technology and Persecution
- Jewish Response to Terror
- Hitler’s Expansion into Austria and Czechoslovakia (Sudentanland)
- The Evian Conference (Discussion of the refugee crisis)
- Kristallnacht (November 9, 1938) Night of Broken Glass.
- Antisemitism
- Enemies of the Nazi State
- Nazi Society and Police State
- Search for Refuge– The Voyage of the SS St. Louis
- War Starts in Poland (September 1939 Hitler invades Poland)
- Murder of the Handicapped (T-4 Euthanasia program)
- The World At War
- American Responses
- A Shtetl– The Ejszyszki (Eishishok) Collection

Questions for Part One of the Exhibit

What were some examples of Nazi propaganda you saw?

How did the Nazis use scientific instruments to determine racial superiority?

Identify two of the Nuremberg Laws that were evident in the exhibit.

What happened at the Evian Conference? Why was it held?

STUDENT ACTIVITY 3

LISTEN TO SOME OF THE AUDIO TESTIMONY.

RECORD YOUR REACTION TO WHAT YOU HEAR.

As you leave the audio theater you will see a reconstructed barracks from Auschwitz-Birkenau. Auschwitz was one of six major killing centers, along with Chelmno, Belzec, Majdanek, Sobibor, and Treblinka. You will also see a large ceramic model depicting the killing factory that Auschwitz was.

STUDENT ACTIVITY 4

Examine the white ceramic model of the Auschwitz Death Camp in full operation. Notice the detail of the people and buildings. Study the model and think about what it represents.

- **The Concentration Camp Universe...**

Stop here as you approach the gate to the camp...this is a casting of an entrance gate from Auschwitz 1. The inscription is in German: *Arbeit Macht Frei*– Work Makes One Free.

STUDENT ACTIVITY 2

WHAT IS SO IRONIC ABOUT THIS PHRASE? WHAT IS THIS AN EXAMPLE OF?

On your right is an audio theater entitled *Voices from Auschwitz*. Here you will have a chance to sit down, put on a set of headphones and hear and read along in a book the actual testimony from former prisoners. They describe their experiences of terror, brutality and despair.

Write down your emotional reaction to the Kristallnacht display.

Look at the exhibit for the Voyage of the SS St. Louis. What happened to the refugees on that boat?

Observe the exhibit about the murder of the handicapped, code-named “Operation T-4. How was medical science used here in a destructive manner? What is your reaction to this

exhibit?

Stop in the last exhibit in this part of the museum...A Shtetl—The Ejszyszki Shtetl Collection— This is the first part of a 3 story tower of pictures you will pass through 2 times. It represents a small town in what is now Lithuania. The photos represent the vibrant Jewish life and culture before the Holocaust wiped this town out. Describe what you see here. What was life like for these people before the darkness of the Holocaust?

Part Two of the Exhibit

“The Final Solution”- 1940-1945

As you enter this next floor there will be a focus on the experiences of people in Eastern Europe. You will walk over a wooden bridge and see photo murals that show scenes from the Warsaw and Lodz ghettos in Poland. Video monitors show life in those ghettos as well as Theresienstadt ghetto in Czechoslovakia.

At the end of the bridge you enter the summer of 1941 when Germany invaded the Soviet Union. Here you will see exhibits that focus on:

- Einsatzgruppen— mobile killing squads
- Massacre at Bai Yar Ravine
- The Wannsee Conference of 1942
- The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising on Passover 1943
- Deportations— you will walk through a railroad cattle car, such as the ones used to transport victims to the death camps.
- Who Shall Live and Who Shall Die
- Prisoners of the Camps Photographs