

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION
EXHIBIT BOOKLET

“Whoever listens to
a witness, becomes a
witness.”

- Elie Wiesel



ACHEF

Atlantic Canada Holocaust Education Foundation

This booklet serves as your companion to the Holocaust Education Exhibit.

As you explore this exhibit, you'll witness the Holocaust's horrors, a chapter marked by suffering. Yet, within these narratives, you'll find tales of courage, survival, and strength.

At the core of this booklet lies the account of an individual who either survived the Holocaust or, tragically, became a victim of this atrocity.

Each section of this booklet aligns with a segment of the exhibit. As you progress through the exhibit, you'll find questions to reflect upon within these pages.

Our hope is that, through this experience, you will not only gain insight into the Holocaust but also carry forward the memory of those who lived through it and those who perished.

Section 1 of this booklet begins at page 5.

Pages 3 and 4 contain a glossary of key words.

Glossary

Antisemitism: a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

Aryan: a term to refer to a 'racially superior' group, often associated with white Europeans, and to justify discrimination and racism.

Genocide: The intentional and systematic extermination of a racial, ethnic, religious, or national group.

Ghetto: Restricted areas in which Jews and other targeted groups were forcibly confined, isolated, and subjected to harsh living conditions.

Holocaust: The systematic, state-sponsored genocide during World War II in which six million Jews, along with millions of others, were murdered by Nazi Germany and its collaborators.

Nuremberg Laws: A set of antisemitic laws enacted by the Nazis in 1935, which stripped Jews of their citizenship and prohibited marriage and sexual relations between Jews and non-Jews.

Pogrom: An organized, state-sponsored attack on a group of people.

Righteous Among the Nations: Non-Jewish individuals who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust and are recognized and honored by Yad Vashem.

SS (Schutzstaffel): A paramilitary organization under Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party responsible for many aspects of the Holocaust, including the operation of concentration and extermination camps.

To begin Section 1, please continue to page 5.

Antisemitism

(Section 1)

Questions to reflect on:

What do you know about antisemitism, and have you ever heard about it before?

How has antisemitism evolved?

How has misinformation been used to justify antisemitic beliefs?

How do you recognize antisemitism today?

Can you describe what prejudice means?

Why do you think people sometimes have negative stereotypes or biases about others who are different from them?

Why is it essential to learn about and remember the history of antisemitism, including events like the Holocaust?

What are some ways we can promote tolerance and acceptance of all people, regardless of their religion or background?

At the end of this section, please turn to page 6.



Name: Jakob Frenkiel

Date of Birth: December 3, 1929

Place of Birth: Gabin, Poland

Jakob was one of seven boys in a religious Jewish family. They lived in a town 50 miles west of Warsaw called Gabin, where Jakob's father worked as a cap maker. Gabin had one of Poland's oldest synagogues, built of wood in 1710. Like most of Gabin's Jews, Jakob's family lived close to the synagogue. The family of nine occupied a one-room apartment on the top floor of a three-story building.

Continue to page 7.

1933-1939

(Section 2)

1933-39: On September 1, 1939, just a few months before I turned 10, the Germans started a war with Poland. After they reached our town, they doused the synagogue and surrounding homes with gasoline and set them on fire. All the Jewish men were rounded up in the marketplace and held there while our synagogue and homes burned to the ground. Our house had also been doused with gasoline, but the fire didn't reach it.

Questions to reflect on:

How would you define the Holocaust?

What conditions, ideologies and ideas made the Holocaust possible?

How and why did ordinary people across Germany contribute to Kristallnacht?

How did the international community respond, or fail to respond?

At the end of this section, please turn to page 8.

Propaganda

(Section 3)

Questions to reflect on:

What is propaganda, and why was it a powerful tool for the Nazis during the Holocaust?

How did the Nazis use propaganda to shape public opinion and support their ideologies?

Can you identify some common themes and messages in Nazi propaganda?

What form of government was in power?

Was there free speech?

How did the Nazis use symbols and slogans in their propaganda to create a sense of unity and loyalty among the German population?

Are there specific examples of propaganda posters or films from the Nazi era that particularly stood out to you? Why?

How did Nazi propaganda specifically target and influence young people in Germany during the Nazi era?

Can you think of examples of propaganda in society today?

At the end of this section, continue to page 9.

1940-1944

(Section 4)

1940-45: At age 12, I was put in a group of men to be sent to labor camps. More than a year later, we were shipped to Auschwitz.

The day after we arrived, my brother Chaim and I were lined up with kids and old people. I asked a prisoner what was going to happen to us. He pointed to the chimneys. 'Tomorrow the smoke will be from you.' He said if we could get a number tattooed on our arms, we'd be put to work instead of being killed. We sneaked to the latrine, then escaped through a back door and lined up with the men getting tattoos.

Please turn to page 10 for this section's reflection questions.

Questions to Reflect on

What is the 'Final Solution'? How did it change the course of the Holocaust?

In what ways did the Nazis deprive their victims of basic human dignity?

What is a Ghetto? How did the Ghetto's assist in segregating the Jews?

What forms of resistance took place within the ghettos during this time?

Were all concentration camps also death camps?

Why did the Nazis conduct medical experiments on the Jews?

At the end of this section, please continue to page 11.

1944-1945

(Section 5)

After 17 months in Auschwitz, Jakob was force-marched to camps in Germany. Liberated in April 1945 near Austria, he immigrated to the United States at the age of 16.

Questions to Reflect on:

Who was responsible for the crimes committed during the Holocaust? Who should be held accountable, and how?

How did these Nuremberg Trials contribute to the development of international law?

Reflect on the concept of "upstanders" as individuals who take action in the face of injustice. How can their examples be applied to promoting social justice and combating discrimination in today's world?

Why should the Holocaust never be forgotten?

Notes:

Jews	6 million
Soviet civilians	Around 7 million (including 1.3 Soviet Jewish civilians, who are included in the 6 million figure for Jews).
Soviet prisoners of war	Around 3 million (including about 50,000 Jewish soldiers)
Non-Jewish Polish Civilians	Around 1.8 million (including between 50,000 and 100,000 members of the Polish elites)
Serb civilians (on the territory of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina)	312,000
People with disabilities living in institutions	Up to 250,000
Homosexuals	Hundreds, possibly thousands
Roma	Between 250,000 and 500,000
Jehovah's Witnesses	Around 1,900
Repeat criminal offenders and so-called asocials	At least 70,000
German political opponents and activists	Undetermined

First they came for the socialists,
and I did not speak out—because I was
not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade
unionists, and I did not speak out—
because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did
not speak out—because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no
one left to speak for me.

- **Martin Niemöller**

This testimony was retrieved from the
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum



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