

Auschwitz

Not long ago. Not far away.

2Pre-Visit Lesson: Holocaust Victim Groups

Lesson developed by the Toronto Holocaust Museum

Class Discussion

Consider the question “What does the word “victim” mean to you?” Discuss as a class and record the key points of your discussion below.

Consider the question “What does the word “victim” mean in the context of the Holocaust and Auschwitz?” Discuss as a class and record the key points of your discussion below.

Object Study

Choose one of the objects you learned about and answer these questions with a partner.

What stands out to you about this object?

What does this object tell you about the person/people it was used by?

What questions do you have about this object? What are you curious about?

Reflection and Revision

Now that you have explored prewar Jewish life, think about the survivor profiles you looked at previously. How has your understanding of their lives been enhanced? Discuss with your class and record key points of the discussion below.

Other Persecuted Groups

In your groups, discuss the profile of the persecuted group and the associated survivor profile assigned to you by your teacher, and answer the following questions:

Persecuted Group

1. What group did you study? How did the Nazis describe this group?
2. What false information was shared by the Nazis about this group?
3. How did the way the Nazis talked about this group of people demonize them and create fear about them in the German population?

Survivor Profile

1. Where did this survivor come from?
2. What was their family background?
3. What do you notice about their background?
4. What stands out about this person's experiences?

Share what you learned with the class.

Reflection and Revision 2:

Return to your thoughts on the word “victim” from the first part of this lesson. What have you learned, and how would you respond to the questions now?

What questions do you still have that you hope will be answered by the exhibition?