



TEACHING TOLERANCE

A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
TOLERANCE.ORG

Pre-WWII European Jewish Life Photo Project

In order to better understand what Jewish cultural and communal life was like in Europe prior to WWII, you will be finding photographs from that time period and analyzing them, as well as researching the town(s) where the photos were taken. Follow the assignments below in order, working at your own pace. All work is due on _____.

ASSIGNMENT 1

Photo Collection

Research and print two photos that reflect Jewish life prior to the Nazi invasion of that country using The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's website, www.ushmm.org (go to education/students/collections and archives/photographs); search the collection of thousands of photos using key words (check the list brainstormed in class). Once you have found a photo you would like to use, right click on it, copy it and paste it onto a new word document. Then return to the photo on the website, and copy and paste the date and locale to the word document with the photo (do NOT include ANY other information like captions). Print it.

Guidelines for choosing photos:

- People must be in the photo.
- The photo cannot be what's classified as a portrait.
- The photo must include the date and place that it was taken and must be prior to German occupation of that particular area.

ASSIGNMENT 2

Photo Analysis

Write captions for both photos using the worksheets given.

ASSIGNMENT 3

Photo Parallel (for homework)

Find a family photo at home that relates in some way to one of those you researched to bring to

class. Now write an organized, well-thought out and complete response to the following questions concerning the photos:

- In examining your researched photos, identify evidence that suggests that life was normal for Jews prior to the Nazis.
- What did you discover as you looked through your own family's photos in comparison to those that you had researched? Which photo of your family did you choose that relates and why?
- How do the photos show the similarities between you, your family, or your community to those in European Jewish life prior to WWII?

ASSIGNMENT 4

Photo Research

Research the town/city that is the setting of your photo and determine the following:

- How large was the town's/city's Jewish population and how long had Jews been living there?
- What was Jewish life/culture in the town/city like prior to the Nazi invasion?
- Where is or was that town/city located?
- When and how did the town/city come under Nazi rule (timeline)?
- What was the fate of this particular town's/city's Jews during the Holocaust?



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Photo Analysis

I. Subject of the Photograph

Are there people in the photograph? _____

Number of people: _____

Estimated ages: _____

Number of men or boys: _____

Number of women or girls: _____

Describe clothing: _____

Describe facial expressions: _____

Describe what the people are doing: _____

Are there objects in the photograph? _____

List the objects in the photograph: _____

Describe in detail the objects in the photograph: _____

II. Setting of the Photograph

Can you tell when or where the photograph was taken? _____

Estimated time of day: _____

Estimated time of year: _____

Outside or indoors: _____

Describe as many details as you can identify about the place where the picture was taken (*example: in a yard, on a street, etc.*): _____

III. Writing a Caption

A caption is a short description or explanation of a photograph or picture. It often includes information about what is happening in the picture, where and when the picture was taken, and who is in the picture. Using the information you have gathered above, write a caption for your photo:

Courtesy USHMM Teacher Guide for Daniel's Story, "How To Read a Photograph", page 5