

The Holocaust: A Webquest

WebQuest Description: A webquest to be used after studying Jewish culture and the Holocaust in conjunction with the book, "Number the Stars"

Grade Level: 3-5

Curriculum: Social Studies

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Introduction

During the Holocaust, more than six million Jewish people were killed by German Nazi soldiers led by Adolph Hitler. Denmark was the only country in Europe to come together as a nation to help her Jewish citizens. Through many acts of bravery and courage, the people of Denmark were able to save over 7,000 Jews. We have read about one of these acts of bravery in our book, Number The Stars, an example of historical fiction.

As you've read in the book, Nazis censored the newspapers in Denmark because they did not want the citizens to know what was really going on. Some reporters were courageous enough to create illegal newspapers so that everyone would know the truth. One of the resistance newspapers was called "De Frie Danske" which means "The Free Danes". Your mission, should you be courageous enough to accept it, is to create your own newspaper detailing the truths of the Holocaust while learning about both Nazi and Jewish culture. You will present your creation to your fellow classmates.

Tasks

Try to imagine...You have lived in Denmark your whole life. Suddenly, your quiet town is invaded by Nazi soldiers who believe that they should be ruling the world because all other races are inferior to their own. Many of your freedoms have been taken away from you by these Nazis. The Nazis have also censored all newspapers in Denmark because they do not want the citizens of your country to know what is happening. We've read that illegal newspapers were printed by resisters so that the people of Denmark could learn the truth. One of these papers we read about was called "De Frie Danske," which means "The Free Danes." Isn't it important that your friends and family are aware of what is truly happening around you? What will you do? If you wish to help spread the word to your country about what is really happening, you could create a newspaper of your own. The goal of your newspaper is to expose the Nazis plan to take over your country, and let everyone know the truth. Your newspaper should include the following sections: MAIN PAGE (Headline) - should include three articles that answer specific questions about the Holocaust. Section of REMEMBRANCE - details the lives of three or more children who were victims of the Holocaust. Section of HONOR - a section that honors three or more heroes of the Holocaust. TIMELINE - a section to highlight ten different events chronicling the Holocaust from beginning to end. There is no more time to waste, your country needs you! Advance to process to learn how you will accomplish your task immediately!

Process

You will be assigned a team of three reporters. You will work with your team to create your newspaper. Let's get started! 1. MAIN PAGE - HEADLINE ARTICLE. Each member of your group will compose an article that should focus on one of the following suggested topics. Include a photo or some type of illustration to enhance your article. You may download and print out the summarizing facts graphic organizer to help keep track of your ideas. After research, you come up with a topic of your own, please make sure you have it approved by your teacher before beginning. Below are some suggestions to get you started!

What was the Holocaust? Who was responsible for this? Who was Hitler? Who were the Nazis? What was Hitler's "Final Solution"? What is deportation? What is genocide? What was the "Resistance"? Who were they? What did they do? List and describe at least 3 things. Who were the Allies in WWII? What countries were involved? Who were the Axis powers? What countries were involved? What is "occupation" of a country? What is a swastika? Include a picture of one in your article. What did it symbolize during World War II? What is the "yellow star"? Draw a picture of it in your journal. What did it symbolize? Who had to wear it, and

why? Watch one of the Holocaust virtual reality movies. Create a story that details what you see inside one of the camps. Places to research and find answers for your articles: The Holocaust: A Learning Site For Students Holocaust Glossary Maps of the Holocaust The Holocaust in Denmark Rescue of the Jews in Denmark Holocaust Virtual Reality Movies Holocaust Photographs More Photographs Important Facts Holocaust Badges Books to check out from your local library Listen to a narrator describe The Final Solution Common Questions on The Holocaust Facts on Victims Holocaust Encyclopedia

2. SECTION OF REMEMBRANCE. You and your fellow reporters will research some of the victims of the Holocaust. Each reporter will pick a unique individual and describe at least 3 facts about their lives while also creating a poem to honor that person. Include a photograph if you can find one, or some illustration that means something to that person. The poem must be at least 8 lines long. Links for research: Children of the Holocaust Personal Histories View Historical Film Footage Victims of The Holocaust Books to check out from your local library! Listen to the Stories of Real Holocaust Witnesses More Recommended Books

3. SECTION OF HONOR. You will honor some of the heroes and rescuers of the Holocaust by researching them and creating an article about them. You may choose a prominent hero or a lesser known one. Whomever you choose, you must include three facts about them in your write-up as well as some sort of picture. A poem will also be written to honor this person at a minimum of 8 lines long. Each group will have at least 3 heroes (minimum of one per reporter). Links for research: Rescuers: What Made a Difference? Rescuers in Denmark Heroes of the Holocaust Book - check it out from your local library! Biographies - People of the Holocaust. A Great Place for extra information! Righteous Gentiles Witnesses, Survivors, & Liberators The Oskar Schindler Story Holocaust Liberators

4. TIME LINE. You will close out your paper with a time line detailing major events of the Holocaust. It is the responsibility of your group to pick the most important events that your country needs to be aware of! Be sure to come up with at least 10 events and be able to describe each one in 3 or 4 sentences, and why they are significant. Include a picture or illustration for each event. Detailed Time Line Timeline Organized by 3 Time Periods Rescue Time Line Another Very Detailed Time Line Day By Day, Year By Year Before turning in your newspapers and presenting them to the class, go over the following questions with your group. REMEMBER, you owe it to your country to make sure you have everything, and that it is THE TRUTH! Did we create at least three articles for our MAIN PAGE? Did we answer our questions thoughtfully and thoroughly? Did each group member trade their articles with another to be edited for grammatical errors? Does our section of REMEMBRANCE recognize at least 3 victims of the Holocaust? Did we include a minimum of 3 facts as well as a picture or illustration. Did we trade our story with another member of the group for editing? Is our poem thoughtful and at least 8 lines long? Does our section of HONOR recognize at least 3 victims of the Holocaust? Did we include a minimum of 3 facts as well as a picture or illustration. Have we traded our write up with another group member to be edited? Is our poem thoughtful and at least 8 lines long? Does our time line include at least important events of the Holocaust? Is the time line neat and accurate? Did we include a photo or illustration for each event?

Evaluation

You can assess your assignment by using the following rubric. The total amount of points possible for the assignment is 100. 50 points come from the newspaper itself, including proper grammar and overall quality. 25 points come from participation and 25 points come from the presentation you give to your classmates.

Category and Score	Beginning	Developing	Very Good	Exemplary	Score
Newspaper	Newspaper was not turned in.	Some of the information is accurate, but a lot of the information is not. The newspaper is not very interesting, informative, and is hard to read. Several sections of the newspaper have problems with grammar, punctuation, and spelling. The newspaper may or may not have a title.	The information is mostly accurate. The newspaper is interesting, informative and easily read. Proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling are evident. The newspaper has a title.	The information is accurate. The newspaper is interesting, informative and easily read. Proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling are evident. The newspaper has a title that gives an idea of what is inside it.	50

Category and Score	Beginning	Developing	Very Good	Exemplary	Score
Participation	Did not participate in project.	Did not participate and interact within the groups on most days. Did not contribute to all assignments. Did not put in adequate effort to make their group and projects run smoothly.	Willingly participated and interacted within the group on most days. Willingly contributed to all the assignments. Put in effort to make their group and projects run smoothly.	Willingly participated and interacted within the group on all days. Willingly contributed to all the assignments. Obviously put in effort to make their group and projects run smoothly.	25
Presentation	Did not participate in presentation.	At least half of the members in the group did not contribute to the presentation. Newspaper may or may not have been presented. Group lacks on communication of main ideas to the class.	Each group member contributes to the presentation. Newspaper is presented. Group lacks on communication of main ideas to the class.	Each group member contributes to the presentation. Newspaper is presented and main ideas are communicated to the class.	25
				Total Score	

Conclusion

Congratulations! You took on a daring mission to make your country aware of what was really going on. With this new found knowledge, many of your friends and family have escaped the concentration camps. The efforts of your group of reporters helped Denmark come together as a country to help its Jewish citizens. Throughout World War II, Denmark will save over 7,000 Jewish citizens because of people like you. As we conclude our study of the Holocaust, we recognize it as one of the most tragic events of human history. It is important to never forget the victims of the past to ensure we never have such a tragic event like this in the future.

Teacher Page

This webquest is designed for use within a 5th or 6th grade classroom, but can be adapted for all ages. It is recommended that you have your students read Lois Lowry's book, Number The Stars, but this webquest can be used without it. This should take each group of students approximately three or four hour long class periods to complete. You may wish to assign some of the research as homework outside the classroom as well.

Standards

Credits

Other