

Handout 1 – Remembering the Darkest Chapter

Group 1

Group Research Activity

Your group has been assigned one of the following topics viewed or discussed in Part 1 of “The German History Scavenger Hunt” to research: Memorials and Remembrance, Holocaust survivor Margot (Bendheim) Friedlander, or *Theresienstadt* ‘Model’ Ghetto.

Your group must prepare a presentation (format of the group’s choice) to share with the rest of the class. The presentation must help your classmates learn more about the topic and help them to address the Supporting Question: What can we learn from the darkest chapters of history?

Group 1: Memorials and Remembrance

Your group will research three memorials. For each, explain the history and significance of the memorial’s location, the design of the memorial, and its place in the history of the Holocaust.

1. **Places of Remembrance** - A series of images at the start of Part 1 show signs with images and text on lamp poles. The ‘Places of Remembrance’ memorial consists of 80 signs attached to lamp posts in the Bavarian Quarter of Berlin, and each one has one of the many Nazi laws that Jews had to follow during the occupation.

Suggested resources:

- Stih, Renata & Frieder Schnock. (2005). *Berlin Messages*. Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale. www.stih-schnock.de/cat_moaf1.pdf.
- Johnson, Ian. (2013, June 15). ‘Jews Aren’t Allowed to Use Phones’: Berlin’s Most Unsettling Memorial. *The New York Review of Books*. www.nybooks.com/daily/2013/06/15/jews-arent-allowed-use-telephones-berlin-memorial/.
- Seemann, Uwe. (n.d.). *Sites of Remembrance - Memorial in the Bavarian Quarter*. Information Portal to European Sites of Remembrance. www.memorialmuseums.org/eng/denkmaeler/view/336/Orte-des-Erinnerns---Denkmal-im-Bayerischen-Viertel.
- Yvonne. (2015, June 15). *Places of Remembrance - A Memorial in Berlin*. JUST TRAVELOUS. www.justtravelous.com/en/2011/11/orte-des-erinnerns-places-of-remembrance-mahnmal-memorial-bayerisches-viertel-berlin/.

2. **Gleis 17 Memorial** - Located at the Berlin-Grunewald S-Bahn station, the *Gleis 17* Memorial commemorates the deportations of Berlin Jews to ghettos and extermination camps in the east, conducted by the *Deutsche Reichsbahn* between the autumn of 1941 and spring of 1942.

Suggested resources:

- *The Track 17 Memorial at Grunewald Railway Station*. (n.d.). Deutsche Bahn AG, www.deutschebahn.com/en/group/history/topics/platform17_memorial-1210934.
- Seemann, Uwe. (n.d.). *Gleis 17 Memorial - Berlin Grunewald*. Information Portal to European Sites of Remembrance.

www.memorialmuseums.org/eng/staettens/view/338/Mahnmal-Gleis-17---Berlin-Grunewald.

- Tofani, Felipe. (n.d.). *Platform 17 Memorial - Exploring the Mahnmal Gleis 17 at Berlin Grunewald Station*. Fotostrasse. <https://fotostrasse.com/platform-17-memorial/#.X5rekC2ZM6U>.

3. ***Stolpersteine (Stumbling Stones)*** - A *Stolperstein* (*Stolpersteine* - pl) is a block-size, ten-centimeter (3.9 in) concrete cube bearing a brass plate inscribed with the name and life dates of victims of Nazi extermination or persecution.

Suggested resources:

- Apperly, Eliza. (2019, March 29). The Holocaust Memorial of 70,000 Stones. *BBC*. www.bbc.com/travel/story/20190328-the-holocaust-memorial-of-70000-stones.
- *Stolpersteine in Berlin*. (n.d.). www.stolpersteine-berlin.de/en/node/1.
- *Stolpersteine*. (n.d.). www.stolpersteine.eu/en/home/.

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Group 2

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Your group has been assigned one of the following topics viewed or discussed in Part 1 of "The German History Scavenger Hunt" to research: Memorials and Remembrance; Holocaust survivor Margot (Bendheim) Friedlander; or *Theresienstadt* 'Model' Ghetto.

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Group 2 - Holocaust Survivor Margot (Bendheim) Friedlander

In Part 1, Team Yellow Submarine interviewed Holocaust survivor Margot Friedlander. Mrs. Friedlander indicated she hid for 1½ years before being caught and deported to *Theresienstadt*. What questions would your group ask Mrs. Friedlander if you were able to talk with her? Using the links below, research the specifics of Mrs. Friedlander's experiences and share with your classmates.

Resources for research:

- Gilcher, William Harry, translator. (2014). *Try to Make Your Life: A Jewish Girl Hiding in Nazi Berlin*. By Margot Friedlander with Marlin Friedlander. Donald L. Koller and BEA Press.
- Obermayer, Joel. (2018, February 5.) *My life has become a mission: Survivor, 96, returns to Germany with warning to next Generation* [Video]. YouTube. www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzr8ZUg8WCs. (6:43)
- *Stolpersteine in Berlin*. (n.d.). <https://www.stolpersteine-berlin.de/en/node/1>.
 - (Click on Finding *Stolpersteine*. Search for Margot Bendheim. Who are Auguste Bendheim, Ralph Bendheim, and Rachela Meisner? Why are they listed with Margot?)
- *USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive*. (2020). VHA Online. <https://vhaonline.usc.edu/login>.
 - (You will need to create a free account. Search 'Margot Friedlander'. Use the first testimony listed. It is 4 hours long so you will need to use the segment descriptions to locate the information you want.)
- Yad Vashem. (2013, July 11). *Deportation from Berlin to Theresienstadt* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxhSOOheIMc>. (2:31)

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Group 3

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Group 3 - *Theresienstadt* ‘Model’ Ghetto

Both Margot Friedlander and Alfred Israel Berger were deported from Berlin to *Theresienstadt*. Research this ghetto, labor/transit camp. Who was sent there? What were the conditions for the camp inmates? What happened to them?

Extensive information about *Theresienstadt* can be found on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum site (www.ushmm.org).

- *The History of Terezin*. (n.d.). Terezin - Children of the Holocaust. www.terezin.org/the-history-of-terezin.
- *Theresienstadt*. (n.d.). Yad Vashem - The World Holocaust Remembrance Center. www.yadvashem.org/holocaust/about/ghettos/theresienstadt.html.
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. (n.d.). Theresienstadt. In *Holocaust Encyclopedia*. <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/theresienstadt>.