

TEACHING HOLOCAUST HISTORY WITH PHOTOS



ECHOES & REFLECTIONS

TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST. INSPIRING THE CLASSROOM.

1 ASK STUDENTS TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHS AND ANALYZE THEM CLOSELY. WHEN THEY DO THIS, THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE EVENT IS ENHANCED AND CURIOSITY IS PEAKED. QUESTIONS INCLUDE:

- When taking a photo, *"What do I want to include in this photo? What do I not want to include? What emotion do I want to include in the photo?"*
- When analyzing a photo, *"What emotions and interpretations does this photo evoke for me? What do I learn from the photograph? What do I still need to know to understand this event?"*

2 ECHOES & REFLECTIONS DISCOURAGES THE USE OF GRAPHIC PHOTOS - THEY CAN DEHUMANIZE THE VICTIM AND CAN TRAUMATIZE STUDENTS

- [Pedagogical Principles for Effective Holocaust Instruction](#)

3 ANALYZING PHOTOS AND TESTIMONY IN UNIT 1: STUDYING THE HOLOCAUST AND UNIT 3: NAZI GERMANY

- [Photo: Siegen, Germany, November 10, 1938](#)
- [Testimony of Esther Clifford](#)
- One primary source cannot tell the whole story. Use a Venn Diagram to analyze photographs and testimony as primary sources to understand the event of Kristallnacht.

4 QUADRANT ACTIVITY IN UNIT 4: THE GHETTOS

- [Photo: Jews Crossing the Bridge in the Lodz Ghetto](#)
- Divide the photograph into four parts and label each quadrant. Students analyze each quadrant individually and then look at the photo as a whole.

5 PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY MENDEL GROSSMAN IN UNIT 4: THE GHETTOS AND UNIT 10: THE CHILDREN AND LEGACIES BEYOND THE HOLOCAUST

- Mendel Grossman was a Jewish Photographer in the Lodz who was hired by the Ghetto Department of Statistics to take photos for administrative purposes, which allowed him to own a camera. He also took photos to record daily life in the ghetto.
- [Photo: Child leaving a soup kitchen with a pot of soup](#)
- [Photo: Children playing in the Lodz Ghetto \(1940\)](#)
- [Photo: Taken during the Aktion against the Jews in Lodz in September 1942](#)

6 ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES FOR USING PHOTOS

- Conduct a gallery walk
- Create an emotion-oriented title or caption for photographs
- Pair photographs with poems, diary entries, visual history testimony, and other primary sources