

## GEORGIA HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND LIBERATORS

### Grade 8 (Recommended) Lesson Plan: Georgia's Connection to the Holocaust

**SS8H9 Describe the role of Georgia in WWII.**

**SS8H10 Evaluate key post-World War II developments in Georgia.**

**How did the Holocaust affect Georgians?**

**OVERVIEW: This lesson helps students to define the Holocaust, through the stories of individuals whose lives were affected by the Holocaust. Students will learn about people throughout Europe whose lives were impacted by the Holocaust.**

### INTRODUCTION

#### WHAT WAS THE HOLOCAUST?

The Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany, its allies and collaborators, between 1933 and 1945. Jews were the primary victims - six million were murdered.

Roma (Gypsies), physically and mentally disabled people and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic, or national reasons. Millions more, including the LGBTQ community, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political opponents also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny.

By 1945, the Germans and their allies and collaborators killed nearly two out of every three European Jews as part of the "Final Solution." The "Final Solution" was the Nazi policy to murder the Jews of Europe.

#### VOCABULARY

Ask students to identify what they believe are important terms and/or ideas, in each of the 3 paragraphs. Then ask them what they think these words mean.

Systematic	Done or acting according to a fixed plan or system; methodical.
State sponsored	Actions organized by the civil government of a country
Persecution	To harass or punish in a manner designed to injure, hurt or remove rights; grieve, or afflict
Collaboration	To work with another person or group in order to achieve or do something. German authorities required the assistance of local people in the regions they occupied to implement the "Final Solution." These collaborators helped to commit some of the worst crimes of the Holocaust era.

## PARSING THE DEFINITION:

Questions for Paragraph 1:

- Who was responsible for the Holocaust?
- Who were the primary victims of the Holocaust? How many people were murdered?
- When did the Holocaust occur?

Questions for Paragraph 2:

- Who were the other victims who were targeted?

Questions for Paragraph 3

- By the time the Holocaust ended, how many European Jews had been murdered?
- What did the Nazis call their policy to murder the Jews of Europe?

## ANIMATED MAP: THE HOLOCAUST

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/gallery/introduction-to-the-holocaust-maps>



THE HOLOCAUST - ANIMATED MAP.mp4

**Add link here for bios of Georgia Holocaust Survivors and Liberators**

## INSTRUCTIONS

Make copies of Holocaust Survivor and Liberator biographies.

Have students read these bios individually or in pairs.

Ask students to answer the questions on the worksheet.

## Biographies

George Aigen

Hershel Greenblat

Tosia Schneider

Albert Baron

Benjamin Hirsch

William Alexander Scott III

Frank Benson

Eva Iteld

Ben Walker

Henry Birnbrey

Herbert Kohn

John Yates

Manuela Bornstein

Lola and Rubin Lansky

Henry Gallant

Murray Lynn

# Georgia Commission on the Holocaust

## CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

**If you have read the story of a Holocaust Survivor, answer the following questions:**

- What country was the Survivor from? Using the Holocaust chronology, list 5 important events from the Holocaust that happened in that country.
- When was the Survivor first affected by the Holocaust? What happened?
- Using the Holocaust Chronology, explain 5 important events that affected the Survivor you read about.
- Create 5 Timeline Cards about the Survivor to add to the Timeline.
- What the Survivor lose during the Holocaust?
- Were there any "helpers" in the Survivor story? What did these "helpers" do?
- How did the Holocaust experiences of the Survivor impact their life after they settled in Georgia?
- What are two lessons the Survivor might want you to learn from their story?

## CRITICAL THINKING QUESTIONS

**If you have read the story of a Holocaust Liberator, answer the following questions:**

- Where is the Liberator from?
- What was the Liberator's life like before serving in the war?
- When did the Liberator arrive in Europe during World War II?
- In which countries did the Liberator serve during World War II? Using the Holocaust chronology, list 5 important events that happened in those countries during World War II.
- Create 5 Timeline Cards about the Liberator to add to the Timeline
- How did the Holocaust experiences of the Liberator affect their life after they returned to Georgia?
- What are two lessons the Liberator might want you to learn from their story?

**Add link to Holocaust Chronology**

**Add Timeline Activity**