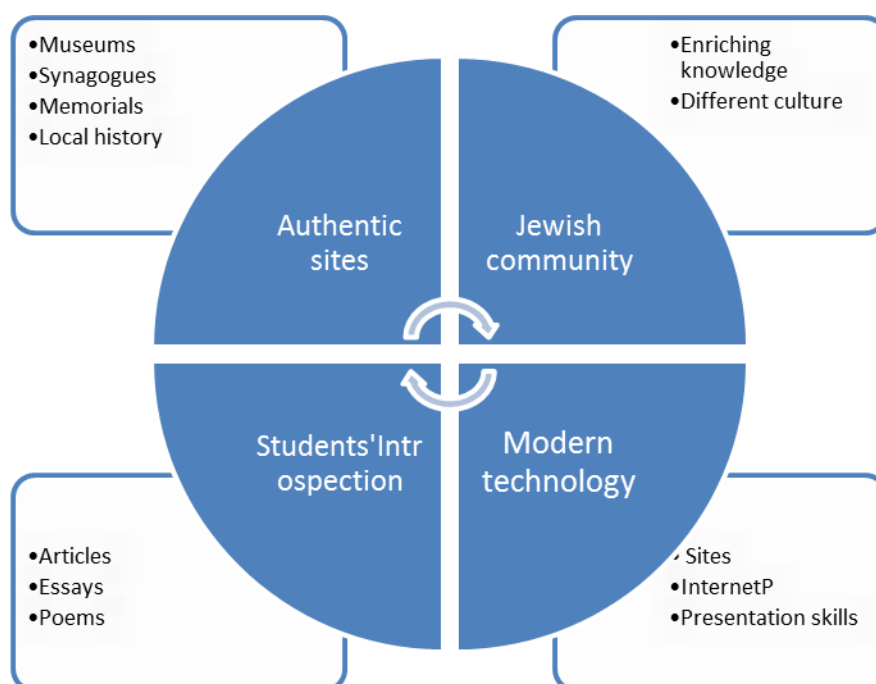


History Club “Memory” – Teacher – Sonya Krancheva

Project title: Let us Know and Remember Forever!

1. Detailed description of the project

The Project “Let us Know and Remember Forever!” will be held on a voluntary principle of participation of students Secondary School ‘Bratya Kanazirevi’, Razlog, Bulgaria. It will be organized by the History club “Memory” with a head teacher Sonya Krancheva. The duration of the project is 9 months – since September 2016 till end of May 2017. The target group is about 80 students from 9 to 11 grades. Directions of the project:



The aim of the project is to get acquainted the students with the Jewish authentic places, traditions and way of life before and during the Second World War as well as the idea of making a comparison between the life of Jewish people in Europe in the period of Holocaust and in Bulgaria during the war. The main goal is to present how Jewish people were saved during the Second World War in Bulgaria due to the policy of the Bulgarian intellectuals, political figures, Bulgarian Tsar Boris III and ordinary people. In project activities students will visit the Jewish places, make exhibitions on Holocaust topic and as a final result they will make a booklet about the Jewish life, sites and essays written as reflections by them.

What I mean by:

Visiting Authentic Sites, Memorials, Museums

Study trips to Holocaust-related authentic sites, such as buildings, synagogues and churches, connected with Bulgarian relation to the saving history places can be very effective in raising students' understanding of what happened in 1943. In addition, class visits to Holocaust-

related museums, memorials and educational centers can be easily followed up with activities and discussions with the students,

Contacts with Jewish Communities

In many places, Jewish communities no longer exist as a result of the Holocaust and postwar Anti-Semitism. However, a number of Jewish communities in Bulgaria - especially in Kyustendil, Sofia and Plovdiv, which had once flourished for centuries. During the trips students are encouraged to contact members of local Jewish communities for more information about various aspects of contemporary Jewish life and culture as well as about Jewish communal life before the Holocaust.

Student Introspection

Writing assignments in response to a classroom activity can encourage students' creativity and self-expression as well as stimulate their intellectual curiosity. Essay and reflections will be their tasks to write after each visit.

Remembrance via Modern Technology

Incorporating modern technology can be a very effective tool in fostering Holocaust remembrance. For example, searching via Internet, writing their documents and preparing an electronic book can successfully encourage students to work on the topic.

Local History Projects

Local history projects, such as tours of remembrance in home towns and cities, can encourage students to connect with the history of where they live. Through investigating local history students can learn about the importance of Jewish culture in many European cities before the Holocaust as well the ways in which restrictions were gradually imposed on Jewish inhabitants before they were deported to extermination camps or killed and they could make a comparison to what Bulgaria did during the war – to save its Jewish communities.

Activities

Deadline	Activities	Aims	Expected results
September Opening activities	Lectures in the History Club “Memory” The lecturers will be given by Sonya Krancheva in the History lab in school. Topics: <i>1. Anti-Semitism and Holocaust during the SWW – presentation</i> <i>2. Bulgaria and its role in saving the Bulgarian Jews during the SWW – presentation and presenting books on the topic</i>	To present the main ideas connected with the period; To get Students acquainted with the main terminology of the topic; To present the role of the Bulgarian society, personalities and the policy to the Bulgarian Jews.	To understand the main topic and terminology; To understand the position of Bulgaria during the SWW; To understand the essence of being a tolerant person; To respect personal rights and not to abuse people.

	<p><i>3. Do we need tolerance? How to be tolerant? Personal rights</i></p> <p>Students – 25 students / 9 grade/; 35 students /10 grade/</p>		
October Preparatory period	<p>Group tasks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finding materials 2. Poster preparation 3. Exhibition organization <p>Students – 25 students/9 grade/ 35 students/ 10 grade/ 30 students/ 11 grade/</p>	<p>To read and to search for more information on Holocaust; To find books and articles connected to Holocaust.</p>	<p>To work together and prepare materials and posters for their future tasks – exhibition and booklet</p>
November Activities	<p>9 November – International Day against Fascism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibition in the town hall • Activities with students <p>Working together with the Town Hall, The Cultural Hall in the Town, parents</p> <p>Students – 25 students/9 grade/ 35 students/ 10 grade/ 30 students/ 11 grade/</p>	<p>To remember the terrible crimes committed by the Fascists; To organize a campaign with students focusing on Holocaust</p>	<p>To enrich students' knowledge; To make them feel the freedom and let evil thoughts fly away.</p>
December Activities	<p>Trip to Kyustendil Visit to Dimitar Peshev's house museum</p> <p>50 students /organised by the History Club/</p>	<p>To understand more about the politician Dimitar Peshev whose idea spread in the National Assembly and the Bulgarian Jews were saved during the SWW</p>	<p>Students work on handouts prepared by the teacher in advance in order to present their articles and essays.</p>
January Activities	<p>27 January – International Day of Holocaust Concentration Camps</p> <p>Students conference in the Town Hall</p>	<p>Presenting a short video made by students. Comparing the situation in different</p>	<p>Students are expected to present their articles about the Holocaust and the way Bulgaria</p>

	Students – 25 / 9 grade/ 35 students /35 grade/	camp Reading articles Essays	saved Jews in 1943
February Activities	Trip to Sofia Synagogue Lecture by the Rabbi 50 students	To enrich the knowledge more about the Jewish life before, after the war and Jewish life nowadays	To compare different religious views, relations and become tolerant toward different people.
March Activities	10 March – Commemorating the victims of the Second World War and Holocaust for Bulgaria 30 students	A lesson with the collaboration of Philosophy teacher from another school in Razlog.	It is expected to have a greater impact as in the lesson two groups of students from different school will be working and presenting.
April Activities	Trip to Plovdiv 50 students	Visiting the famous Jewish places in Plovdiv, comparing the architecture, literature, way of life.	Students are expected to write their own essays inspired by the Jewish places in Plovdiv expressing themselves through poems, arts and paintings.
May Final activities	Writing articles, essays, gathering materials Final Conference All students Place –Town Hall	All essays, articles and writing will be gathered and compiled in an e-booklet. The book and the project activities will be presented at the final conference in front of students, teachers, NGOs in town, The Town Council, The Mayor and official representatives.	

3. Approximate number:

- **Students** – 25 / 9 grade/, 35 /10 grade/, 30 /11 grade/. Total number of actively involved with different activities – 80 students
- **Teachers** – 4 teachers / 2 History teacher, 1 Philosophy, 1 IT teacher, and 40 teachers in school who will attend various activities.

- **Community members** – Mayor of the town, Town Council, The Cultural Institution, The Regional Education Inspectorate, Regional History Museum, students, parents, community

4. Intended Outcomes:

- To encourage students to demonstrate personal initiative and responsibility in co-ordinating age-appropriate and interdisciplinary commemorative activities including music, drama, literature, history, theology, philosophy and other disciplines. The organization of plays, readings of victims' names and texts such as diaries, student-initiated visits to local authentic sites, exhibitions, and other programmes are highly encouraged.
- Holocaust memorial days can also create an opportunity for the entire school community to gather together for a meaningful educational experience.
- School administrators, teachers and students may also want to address and reflect on incidents of xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism in their learning environments over the past year on this specific day.
- Within the framework of a Holocaust memorial day, educational objectives for both teachers and students include:
 - Creating empathy with the victims and preserving their memory;
 - Strengthening the importance of remembering the survivors, victims, rescuers and liberators;
 - Recognizing that the Holocaust was a loss to civilization as a whole as well as the countries that were directly involved;
 - Gaining a better understanding about the past;
 - Increasing awareness of local, regional and national heritage;
 - Placing a spotlight on other genocides;
 - Promoting respect for human rights, especially for minority groups;
- Developing critical thinking and intellectual curiosity; and
- Fostering personal responsibility as democratic citizens

Prepared by Sonya Krancheva