

Lesson Plan 3 - Antisemitism

By Breindy Lazor and [Rivka Djavaheri](#)

Course: Jewish History - The Holocaust

Lesson 1: Introduction: Life before the war & Understanding Antisemitism

1) Students will watch the following silent video footage taken of a shtetl in Europe pre-WWII

<https://youtu.be/lcofKMRwRzw>

- Students will be given 2-3 minutes to write down their impressions/thoughts of what
- Students will share out and discuss.

Question for students: Why watch this before learning about the Holocaust? 88wS50.18Tm5Hv00912 0 61

were hated because of their race. Today they are hated because of their nation state, the state of Israel.”

Students will read the quote and discuss the meaning in class discussion or small groups.

2) Students will work on a class KWL chart to share what they know or have learned about the Holocaust, what they wonder about it and what questions they have and hope to get answers to. Review

Lesson 2: Introduction: Antisemitism

1) Students will be placed into 4 groups and each group given a different image to study with a short caption explaining it. They will discuss amongst themselves and then jot down what they notice, conclusions they come to and questions they have.

- The image of Jews being marched out of the Warsaw ghetto
- Kristalnacht photo
- 1942 deportation to Treblinka
- 1946 Polish pogrom

Source: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/a-timeline-of-the-holocaust/>

2) The website above will be reviewed and the pictures explained in the context of the chronology of the Holocaust.

3) Students will read the following quote:

Source 2: Rabbi Sacks: “I remember visiting Auschwitz, walking through the gates with their chilling inscription, ‘Work makes you free’, and feeling the chill winds of Hell. It was a numbing experience. There were no words you could say. It was not until I entered one of the blocks where there was nothing but an old recording of the Jewish memorial prayer for the dead that I broke down and cried. It was then that I realised that prayer makes grief articulate. It gives us the words when there are no words. It gives sacred space to the tears that otherwise would have nowhere to go.”

The Power of Ideas, p. 81

Question for students: What is Rabbi Sacks saying about words?

- The words above the gates of Auschwitz
-
- the words of Kaddish
-

Discuss the insufficiency of words to convey meaning about experiences when survivors tried to talk. Examples: Aharon Appelfeld writing in Hebrew (a concise

publish until 1955, Paul Celan - <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/11/23/how-paul-celan-reconceived-language-for-a-post-holocaust-world>

<https://www.britannica.com/video/175117/survivors-decisions-Holocaust-experiences-video-Why-They>

- awareness of how impossible it felt for survivors to share their stories.
- how some survivors were silent for many years
- some survivors expressed their experiences in art (<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/artists-responses-to-the-holocaust>)
- vocabulary of Holocaust being almost a separate language