

## Centropa lesson plan

### Centropa film:

#### *My Spanish Bosnian Life*

#### *The Montiljo Family of Sarajevo*



### **Overview information**

Teachers: Pecoler Lorieta, Eskenazi Milutinovic Marsela, Isailovic Vera, Sterjova Daniela, Saric Melika, Cirino Katiusca

Type of school: Primary public schools, Public High Schools

Subjects taught: History, Civic Education, Social Studies

Primary category: Sephardic Jewry in the Balkans

Grade level of students: Primary school - grade 9 (aged 14). High school – first to fourth year of studies (aged 15 to 18)

Total duration: One 45 minute lesson

## Summary

The themes of this lesson plan are related to the Sephardic Jewish history in the Balkans, the Sarajevo Haggadah and righteous gentile presented through the personal story of the Montiljo family of Sarajevo. It's intended for teaching history, social studies and civic education so that the students acquire knowledge in regards to Balkan Jewish history before, during and after World War II, the Holocaust, the important role of civil society in times of war, as well as the necessity for inter-cultural and inter-religious tolerance. The Centropa material used for this lesson plan is the Centropa film: My Spanish Bosnian Life- the Montiljo Family of Sarajevo.

## Background information

This lesson plan was created at the Centropa seminar for Balkan Educators – ***Teaching Balkan Jewish History, the Holocaust, Civil Society and Inter-Religious Tolerance in the Western Balkans***, which took place 12-13 October 2015 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was designed by a mixed-national group of teachers who come from Bosnia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Serbia and the USA during one of the workshop sessions on the Centropa film- **My Spanish Bosnian Life - The Montiljo Family of Sarajevo**. Since the group members are both primary and high school teachers this lesson plan was designed for students aged 14-18 for teaching history, social studies and civic education.

**Enduring Understanding:** Life of Sephardic Jews in the Balkans before, during and after World War II.

## Goals/Objectives:

- Learn about the concept of movement/migration of people through history
- Learn about World War II in Europe
- Learn about World War II in the Balkans
- Learn about the Holocaust of the Balkan Sephardic Jews
- Learn about life of the Balkan Sephardic Jews after World War II
- Get an awareness of the necessity for helping people in times of crisis
- Get an awareness of the important role of the civil society in times of crisis
- Strengthen students' awareness about the importance of inter-cultural and inter-religious tolerance in the past and today.
- Combat Anti-Semitism, racism and nationalism.

## **Resources:**

- Centropa film : My Spanish Bosnian Life - The Montiljo Family of Sarajevo
- Computer, LCD projector, screen, speakers

## **The lesson**

### **Introduction**

**Activity 1** (5 minutes): Discussion (brainstorming) on the phenomenon of movement/migration through history and today. The teacher asks the students the following questions:

- 1) Why do people move/migrate?
- 2) Do they always move/migrate because they want to?
- 3) Can you give an example of big migrations of people/nations in the past?
- 4) Do you know of anyone from your surrounding that has moved/migrated recently?

**Activity 2** (5 minutes): The teacher introduces the film

### **Main part**

**Activity 1** (2-3 minutes): The teacher divides the class in 4 groups and gives each group a task: Collect information/ make notes on the following topics while watching the film:

Group 1: The movement/migration of people in the Balkans before, during and after World War II

Group 2: The movement of the Sarajevo Haggadah

Group 3: The story of the Montiljo family of Sarajevo

Group 4: People who saved human lives and the Sarajevo Haggadah in times of crisis

**Activity 2** (20 minutes): Students watch the film and make notes on their group work task

**Activity 3** (10 minutes): Students discuss the topic based information they collected within their groups. A representative of each group gives an account of the group work discussion.

**Concluding activity** (5 minutes): The teacher assesses students' understanding of the knowledge taught in class by assigning them homework:

**Write an essay, or make a visual project on one of the following topics:**

1. A timeline of the movement/migration of people through history based on the film
2. A timeline of the movement of the Sarajevo Haggadah
3. The Montiljo family tree
4. Righteous gentile from my country
5. Me in the role of a character from the film