Bridging the Gaps

International Center of Training and Professional Development

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Training session for teachers and educators

Subjects: Civic Education, History

**Summary**

**The lesson bases on family story of Otto and Kitty Suschny and focuses on bridging the gap between the different countries as well as generations. The educational session is mainly based on Centropa video material, includes discussions, reflection and creative group work. This class will help teachers to get to know new methodological material as well as techniques of working with primary sources.**

**Background Information**

**Context for Lesson**

The given session is designed as a training for trainers and fits into the course of regular methodological meetings with teachers and educators. This class will help the teachers to elaborate training sessions that will focus on Holocaust History, tolerance and remembrance dates.

**Enduring Understanding**

Holocaust survivors are a generation of people who went through terrifying events and still remained optimistic and even more built the future and the world we are living in now.

**Goals**

Bridging the gap between the generation of Holocaust survivors and contemporary generation.

**Objectives**

* The students know about the story of Holocaust of Viennese Jews and survivors.
* The students know about the pre-war lives of Jews in Vienna
* The students know about Kindertransport.
* The students can use the methodological material to create lessons and events on Holocaust History and Tolerance education.
* The students can include video interviews as methodical materials in their lessons.
* The students can develop their own creative assignments for their students.

**Sources Used**

**Centropa film -** [**Kitty und Otto Suschny -- Only A Couple Of Streets Away From Each Other**](http://www.centropa.org/centropa-cinema/only-a-couple-of-streets-away-from-each-other)

**Centropa film – “Jewish Soldiers in the Austro – Hungarian Empire”**

**Materials Required**

* Centropa film -[**Kitty und Otto Suschny -- Only A Couple Of Streets Away From Each Other**](http://www.centropa.org/centropa-cinema/only-a-couple-of-streets-away-from-each-other)
* Centropa film – “Jewish Soldiers in the Austro – Hungarian Empire”
* Paper and drawing materials
* Maps of Europe
* Sticky paper of different colors

**Pre-lesson basic knowledge**

* Basic knowledge of Holocaust History, WWII History
* Teaching skills and opportunity to adjust different methods to different lessons and classes

**The Lesson**

1. Motivating the students
* Discussion on the topic of importance of cross-generation and cross-border dialogue in the context of Jewish tradition. Understanding the importance of asking questions as a part of Jewish Educational tradition (e.g. during Passover Seder). Understanding the importance of creating links between people living in different times by creating liaisons and reflection.
1. The lesson

Watch the first part of Centropa film -[**Kitty und Otto Suschny -- Only A Couple Of Streets Away From Each Other**](http://www.centropa.org/centropa-cinema/only-a-couple-of-streets-away-from-each-other)**.** Stop after the words*: “… anti-Semitism did not play a major role – yet.”*

Conduct a discussion. Discuss the following questions:

* What was the life like for the Jews in Austria before the war?
* What role did the Jews play in the political, economical, social and cultural life of the country? Compare with the situation in your country.
* What do you think happens with Kitty and Otto next?

Watch the second part of the film. Stop after the words*: “… where I was when the war ended in Europe”.* Conduct a discussion. Discuss the following questions:

* How do the dramatic economic and political events change the families?
* Why do you think blonde 2-year old boys “were the most popular”?
* What do you think happens to Otto and Kitty next?

Watch the final part of the film. Discuss the following questions:

* What would you ask Otto and Kitty if you could meet them and ask only 4 questions?

Divide students in 5 groups. Each group has a different task.

Group 1

* Write a dialogue between Kitty and her friend Ilse on their way to England.

Group 2

* Write a letter from Kitty to her mother which she could have written from England.

Group 3

* Think about a book or a film which tells a similar story. Explain why.

Group 4

* Imagine children from Kindertransport had their own “chat” with their friends. “Chat” with others using the sticky notes.

Group 5

* Draw Otto’s and Kitty’s family stories on the map.

**Concluding Activity**

Discuss the methodological material with the students. What do you think can be used during your class and/or other educational activities? What did you like most and least about the methodology proposed during the training? Think about other opportunities of teaching with the use of these educational materials.