

Holocaust Remembrance Week

Suggested Daily Announcements

Introduction

In 2019, the Texas Legislature passed [SB 1828](#). This bill requires that students in public school hold a Holocaust Remembrance Week to “inspire ... a sense of responsibility to recognize and uphold human value and to prevent future atrocities.” At the suggestion of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission, the Governor’s Office chose the week of January 25, 2021 as the date for Remembrance Week. (International Holocaust Remembrance Day is January 27, the date Auschwitz was “liberated” by Allied troops.)

The Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum has been approved by the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission as a resource provider for Holocaust Remembrance Week. Our education team has created a set of grade appropriate lessons (separate packet), important tips, and daily announcements that can be used by schools and districts.

Important Teacher Tips

- 1. Read the Guidelines for Teaching About the Holocaust before Holocaust Remembrance Week.** These guidelines can be found in the beginning of our online [Teacher Guide](#) and [Holocaust Remembrance Week Lesson Packets](#).
- 2. Define the Holocaust and review key vocabulary related to the Holocaust.** The Museum defines the Holocaust as follows:

The Holocaust was the deliberate and calculated murder of approximately 6 million European Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945. It was part of the Nazi effort to destroy the world's Jews. The Jews were the only group the Nazis sought to destroy entirely. However, they also persecuted others, including political opponents, Roma, Germans with mental or physical disabilities, homosexuals, Freemasons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Poles and Soviet prisoners of war. Under the cover of war, Nazi Germany left countless lives shattered.

A key vocabulary lesson can be found in the Museum’s [Teacher Guide](#) under pre-visit lessons.
- 3. Don’t just discuss statistics. Introduce personal narratives.** The Holocaust teaches us about human behavior: Upstanders, bystanders, victims, and perpetrators. Use novels, testimonies, and short biographies to engage students.
 - Grade-appropriate reading lists are available at the end of each [Holocaust Remembrance Lesson Packet](#).
 - [The IWitness by the USC Shoah Foundation](#) testimony database provides testimonies and online lesson activities.

4. **Teach about awareness and prevention.** Introduce students to the 10 Stages of Genocide so they understand and can recognize the process of genocide. Use the Museum's [10 Stages of Genocide Posters](#) and the [10 Stages of Genocide Graphic Novels Set](#).
5. **Participate in a remembrance project or hold a remembrance ceremony.** These projects and ceremonies allow students to reflect on the importance of the Holocaust.
 - The Museum holds its annual [Every Child Has A Name Legacy Project](#) which remembers the 1.5 children murdered during the Holocaust through research and creative thought.
 - Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Memorial Remembrance Center, provides [interactive remembrance ceremonies](#) for student groups.

The Museum's Teacher Guide, Holocaust Remembrance Week Lesson Plans and other educator resources can be found at www.dhhrm.org under 'Educator Resources' by clicking 'Educators' on our homepage.

Suggested Daily Announcements

The Museum has developed suggested daily announcements for elementary and secondary levels. Each announcement provides a quote and level appropriate information on or related to the Holocaust AND an action item for students.

Elementary Announcements

(based on themes provided by the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission)

- **Monday, January 25: Introduction to Holocaust Remembrance Week**

This week is Holocaust Remembrance Week. We remember the 6 million Jews deliberately murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945. It is an event in history that must not be forgotten. During this Week, we will remember and honor these victims and use this time to think about what it means to be an Upstander in our community. The rest of this week during announcements, we will look at ways we can work together to become Upstanders and strengthen our community.
- **Tuesday, January 26: Tolerance**

"A person's a person, no matter how small." By Dr Seuss, famous children's book author, in *You are Kind: Featuring Horton the Elephant*

Tolerance is when you accept others who are different from you. This can be a difference in race, culture, habits, or beliefs. Our communities are full of people from all over the country and world- and many have special ways of life that may be different from yours. Differences are nothing to be afraid of. Every person is special and unique! When we welcome and get to know those who are different from ourselves, we can learn so much about each other's lives. When we respect those around us- even if they are different from us- our communities are stronger and more interesting. We can try different foods, learn new words and customs. It's fun to learn about other people and the way they live. Tolerance gives you a better understanding of the world and its many people.

Today's challenge: Think about what you can do to make people feel more welcome in your community. How can you be more tolerant of others? What actions will you take? In what ways will this make your community stronger?

- **Wednesday, January 27: Being an Upstander**

“The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it.” By Albert Einstein, famous physicist and Holocaust survivor.

An Upstander stands up for other people and their rights. An Upstander combats injustice, inequality, or unfairness. An Upstander sees something wrong and works to make it right. During the Holocaust, there were Upstanders who tried to stop the terrible things happening to the Jews. But many people were bystanders and just stood by and watched without doing anything to help. Being an Upstander is not easy but Upstanders can help change the world and make it a better place. How can you become an Upstander?

Today's challenge: Take steps towards becoming an Upstander. Speak up when someone says something mean or hurtful. Help those who are bullied. Talk to others about being an Upstander.

- **Thursday, January 28: Community**

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” By Anne Frank, Holocaust victim, in *Tales from the Annex*.

A community is a group of people who share something in common. It can be a place where you live or work. It can be the language you speak. Many different people can be part of a community and it is important that everyone is respectful of one another. When we all work together as a community, it helps make the world a better place. Here, in our school, we are a community. How can you improve your community? Have you helped someone here at school? *Today's challenge: help someone here in our school. After you meet that challenge, we hope you will make it a habit.*

- **Friday, January 29: Kindness**

“I was taught by my father that when someone is drowning you don't ask if they can swim, you just jump in and help.” By Irena Sendler, Holocaust rescuer in *Life in a Jar*.

Being kind is about being caring towards people, including ourselves and others, showing gentleness and being loving. Kindness is being friendly whether someone has been friendly to us. Kindness is a skill we should work on every day.

Today's Challenge: When was the last time you said something kind to you about you? Have you ever done it? When was the last time you said or did something kind for someone else? Look around, is someone sad today or seems lonely? Could you sit and spend time with them and listen to them? Is someone needing help? Could you give someone you know a compliment?

Today, we challenge you to say or do something kind for yourself AND be kind to another person. You can do it!

Secondary Announcements

- **Monday, January 25: Introduction to Holocaust Remembrance Week**

Wednesday is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. On this day in 1945, the Soviet Army liberated the infamous Auschwitz Death Camp. In Texas, it inspired Holocaust Remembrance Week for all schools. The Holocaust was the deliberate and calculated murder of approximately 6 million European Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945. It was part of the Nazi effort to destroy the world's Jews. The Jews were the only group the Nazis sought to destroy entirely. However, they also persecuted others, including political

opponents, Roma, Germans with mental or physical disabilities, homosexuals, Freemasons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Poles and Soviet prisoners of war. Under the cover of war, Nazi Germany left countless lives shattered. The purpose of observing this week is to learn more about the history of the Holocaust and to emphasize the importance of upholding human rights in order to combat prejudice, hatred, and indifference.

- **Tuesday, January 26: Surviving the Holocaust**

“Sometimes you must take chances to survive” by Max Glaubien, Holocaust Survivor and 2020 Texan of the Year in his testimony for the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum During the Holocaust, more than 43,500 camps and ghettos were created in Nazi-occupied Europe. Starting in 1939, the Nazis forced the Jews in Poland into ghettos that were sealed from the outside world. Ghettos were overcrowded and starvation and disease were rampant. From the ghettos, the Jews were deported to the concentration or death camps. If they were not selected for murder, Jews were forced into slave labor and required to work and live in horrendous conditions. Those who survived persevered through immense dehumanization, persecution, and witnessed the extermination of their people. Many survivors gave their testimony after the Holocaust so ensure that we never forget what happened.

Today's challenge: Find a Holocaust survivor's testimony online and listen to it. Think about what you learned.

- **Wednesday, January 27: Children during the Holocaust**

“In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart.” By Anne Frank, Holocaust child victim, in her diary published as the *Diary of a Young Girl*.

1.5 million children were murdered during the Holocaust. The Nazis saw Jewish children as useless eaters because most could not be used for slave labor. Since the Nazis dehumanized Jews, they did not view Jewish children as innocent. They spread antisemitic propaganda blaming all Jews regardless of age for the problems of Germany. Therefore, Jewish children were often the first targeted for extermination. Still, children found ways to survive in the camps and in hiding. They created art at the Theresienstadt Camp. They wrote diaries in hiding. And went to underground schools in the ghettos.

Today's challenge: The Nazis tried to erase all Jewish children from memory and existence.

Remember the children murdered during the Holocaust. Write a poem, song or short story to honor these children.

- **Thursday, January 28: Bystanders**

“We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.” By Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and author of *Night*.

The Nazis depended on collaborators to implement the murder of the Jews. Some actively participated in the killing process. Others silently stood by and did nothing. They watched strangers, but also neighbors and friends, be persecuted and deported. These people are known as bystanders, they supported the Nazis with their silence. When the news of the Holocaust spread across the world, most countries did nothing to save the Jews. Most did not see it as their problem. This bystander behavior on local and international levels allowed the Nazis to commit genocide.

Today's challenge: Reflect on a time that you might have been a bystander and did nothing. Who did your inaction and silence help? How should you have behaved differently?

- **Friday, January 29: Upstanders**

“Heroes do extraordinary things. What I did was not an extraordinary thing it was normal.” By Irena Sendler, Righteous among the Nations and social worker who rescued thousands from the Warsaw Ghetto during the Holocaust.

An Upstander stands up for other people and their rights. An Upstander combats injustice, inequality, or unfairness. An Upstander sees something wrong and works to make it right. During the Holocaust, some people did stand up to protect the Jews. They hid Jews in their homes, found them food, spread news of what was happening and much more. They risked their careers, safety and sometimes their lives to help. Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Israel, officially recognizes those who rescued Jews during the Holocaust. Yad Vashem gives them the title Righteous Among the Nations.

Today's Challenge: Upstander behavior starts with you. Start with little steps. What random act of kindness can you provide to someone in need today?