

Lesson Plan – Babyn Yar Site Study

Introduction

Student age range: 14-16

Subject: History

Time required: 50 minutes

Overview:

Babyn Yar, just outside of Kyiv, was the site of a massacre of Jews during the Holocaust. The study of this site allows students to engage in a depth study relating to the different ways the Holocaust developed in different locations. The Jews of Kyiv were not murdered in gas chambers; rather, they were murdered in what has become known as ‘The Holocaust by Bullets’.

This lesson is centred on a guided inquiry task, which allows for students to research the events at Babyn Yar safely, as they are directed to pre-vetted sites.

Essential questions:

- Where is Babyn Yar?
- What happened at Babyn Yar during the Holocaust?
- How do the events at Babyn Yar reflect the varied implementation of Nazi policy in different parts of the world?

Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about the site of Babyn Yar, and what happened there during the Holocaust.
- Students will understand that Nazi policy was implemented in different ways in different parts of the world.

Key issues/concepts:

- Perspectives

Materials:

Worksheet – Babyn Yar Guided Inquiry. Ideally, this will be distributed electronically, so students can click on the links. However, urls have been provided on the Handout if teachers distribute the Handout on paper.

Student access to the internet

Teaching notes:

The events at Babyn Yar are very distressing. Teachers must actively supervise student research to ensure students visit only the recommended sites. Students should not independently research the massacre at Babyn Yar, as they will come across disturbing material. Teachers should ensure students are emotionally supported through this study.

This lesson works best as a companion to the lesson called 'The development of the Holocaust including the varied implementation of Nazi policy in different parts of the world.' You can find that, as well as other lesson plans, at [this link](#).

Note that the spelling of locations in this region vary, due to the different languages utilised at different times. Babyn Yar is also known as Babi Yar. Kyiv is also known as Kiev.

Glossary:

- Ravine
- Massacre
- Holocaust by Bullets
- Einsatzgruppen

Lesson Instructions

ONE – Introduction (5 minutes)

Teacher reminds students: the Holocaust developed in different ways in different geographic locations. In Poland, Jews mostly experienced the Holocaust through ghettos, concentration camps and death camps. However, camps were not the only experience of the Holocaust. In territories captured from Soviet forces, the Nazis implemented the 'Holocaust by Bullets' – whereby Jews were rounded up in towns and villages, and shot in mass shootings.

TWO – Babyn Yar Site Study Guided Inquiry (40 minutes)

Students complete the tasks on the [Worksheet – Babyn Yar Guided Inquiry](#).

FINISHING UP

Teacher leads class discussion about how the Holocaust developed differently in different parts of Europe.

Teacher should also check in on the emotions of the students, and outline options for support if required.

Related lessons

This lesson should be preceded by the lesson called 'Development and Geographic Variations'. We recommend following with a lesson on the Impact of the Holocaust on Jewish People. Find these and other Holocaust lesson plans at [this link](#).

[Click here](#) to see a suggested plan for teaching a full unit about the Holocaust.