

Lesson Plan – Liberation

Introduction

Student age range: 14-16

Subject: History

Time required: 50 minutes

Overview:

Different places were liberated at different times, as the Allied offensive pushed the frontlines back towards Germany. Students should note that with liberation, the final phase of the Holocaust began: Liberation to Memorialisation. In this lesson, students learn about how camps were liberated, and how survivors experienced that moment. Students then consider Displaced Persons camps and how survivors lived in these camps as they tried to rebuild their lives.

Essential questions:

- How did Liberation occur?
- What did Holocaust survivors do after Liberation?

Learning Objectives

- Students will learn about the liberation of camps across Europe.
- Students will learn about Displaced Persons camps.

Key issues/concepts:

- Continuity and change
- Cause and effect

Materials:

Presentation – Liberation

Teacher Notes - Liberation

OR

Worksheet – Liberation. (This worksheet includes questions based on a video).

Worksheet Answers - Liberation

Optional extra reading: K Green, 'The Healing Act: Theatre in DP Camps', Musings, vol 3 no1, available at [this link](#).

Teaching notes:

Teachers should frame Liberation as a new phase in the Holocaust. It is not the end of the Holocaust; merely the start of a very long recovery process, which ultimately involves the memorialisation and commemoration of the Holocaust.

Glossary:

- Allies
- Messiah
- Displaced Persons Camp
- Emigration/immigration

Lesson Instructions

ONE – Presentation (50 minutes)

The **Presentation – Liberation** presents all the sources and activities for the lesson. Use the **Teacher Notes – Liberation**, which includes classroom instructions.

It includes:

- Map work to examine when and where camps were liberated
- Photographic source analysis to consider the emotions and needs of survivors upon liberation
- Video testimony from survivors, about their experience of liberation
- Video about Displaced Persons camps, with associated student activities
- Further reading

OR

ONE – Worksheet (50 minutes)

For a lesson where students work independently, distribute the **Worksheet – Liberation**, which provides questions about [this video](#). Students will need access to YouTube.

Teachers can access answers on the **Worksheet Answers – Liberation**.

Related lessons

After this lesson, we recommend you teach about the impact of the Holocaust on Jewish people. You can find this, and other Holocaust lesson plans, at [this link](#).

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