

Worksheet Answers – Liberation

Watch the YouTube video called ‘Liberators and Survivors: The First Moments’, [at this link](#). Answer the questions below. (Numbers after each question indicate the time where each answer can be found.)

Questions

1. What is the emotional response of US Army Veteran Harry Mogan when he recalls liberating a camp? What does this tell you about the experience? 2:30
He is very teary and emotional, even after all the intervening years. This indicated the serious emotional impact of the experience.
2. When and how did the War in Europe end? 1:05
May 8, 1945.
3. Look at the map at 1:16 and from watch from 1:30. Which armies were involved in liberating the camps?
American, British, Russian, French. Other allied forces were also involved.
4. How did those armies locate the camps? 1:24, 1:57
They came across them as they moved across Europe, driving the German forces back. Often they found camps by accident.
5. What did the liberating armies find in the camps? 1:57
Starving and maltreated prisoners, the victims of Nazi atrocities. Evidence of unprecedented genocide.
6. Why are the testimonies of the liberators important? 3:10
They are eye-witness accounts of genocide. They provide “an essential and intensely human perspective on genocide”.
7. Consider the people described by Leon Bass (3:55), Harry Mogan (4:45) and General Eisenhower (5:35), and the images of camp survivors. What have these people lost? What might be their challenges after liberation?
They have lost their families, friends, homes, health, dignity, clothing, belongings... Perhaps they might also have lost their faith – in religion and in human kindness. They must now face the challenge of rebuilding their lives from nothing.
8. How did General Eisenhower (5:35ff) attempt to guard against future Holocaust denial?
He wrote about what he saw. He made as many soldiers as possible visit the site. (He also encouraged soldiers to take as many photographs as possible.)
9. Based on the testimony of Helen Greenbaum what were the feelings among survivors when they were liberated? (9:47)
Tremendous gratitude – they kissed the boots of the liberators.

10. According to historian Sheryl Silber Ochayon, what was one important gift the liberators were able to give the survivors? (10.50)

The liberators restored their humanity by treating them with kindness.

11. Why was liberation “the saddest moment in their lives” for many survivors? (13.25)

They realised they were completely alone in the world.

12. Why does Leon Bass think it is important for the witnesses to speak about what they saw? (14.12)

They are a moral voice. They speak so it never happens again.

