

The Holocaust – Primary Level

Our learning kits are designed to introduce the individual and their life in Europe, explain what happened to make them come to Scotland and then look at their life in Scotland after the war.

We follow the lead of the Holocaust Educational Trust (HET) to provide age-appropriate Holocaust education, which at primary level focusses on understanding pre-war Jewish life, persecution before the Second World War and individual stories of rescue and survival. The activities suggested below will be a good introduction for the themes and material in the Refugee Stories Learning Kits.

Pre-War Jewish Life & Culture

This exercise on pre-war Jewish life uses original family photographs (similar to material on which the kits are based), and looks at what life was like for Jewish families in Europe in the years just before the Second World War. The link includes guidance notes and classroom resources:

<https://www.het.org.uk/primary/pre-war-jewish-life>

Anti-Jewish Laws

The lesson plan on Anti-Jewish Laws designed by the Holocaust Education Trust is a good basis for understanding the persecution faced by the three individuals in the Learning Kits, the environment in which they would have been living, and the choices and challenges they would have faced. The link includes guidance notes and classroom resources:

<https://www.het.org.uk/primary/impossible-choices>

Scottish Stories of Survival and Rescue

Oral history testimony from refugees and survivors of the Holocaust who settled in Scotland, plus educational resources (mostly secondary level):

<https://gatheringthevoices.com/>

Short videos that feature the stories of Dorrit Sim & Hilda Goldwag, who are the subjects of the Learning Kits. We recommend that these are not shown until after a visit, so the group don't know the stories before using the kits:

<https://pointsofarrival.is.ed.ac.uk/films>

The Holocaust Education Trust have excellent material, including a downloadable guide for Primary School teachers. This looks at selecting appropriate material and themes, recommends Holocaust-related books and includes a historical background:

<https://www.het.org.uk/primary>