

The HOLOCAUST in The SOVIET UNION



Activity: Investigating the Past: Evidence from Primary Sources

GRADE LEVEL: Grades 10-12

SUBJECT: Multidisciplinary

SUGGESTED TIME: 60-90 minutes

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

How can you learn about a mass atrocity from primary sources?

RESOURCES: [Holocaust in the Soviet Union Educator Resources](#)

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Using the “Holocaust By Bullets” section of the online exhibition as a resource to explain what the Holocaust by Bullets was, what led up to it, how it was conducted, and the results.
2. Divide the class into small groups of about 3 or 4 students.
3. Each group should research the mass shootings at Babyn Yar through primary sources, including a testimony from at least one survivor
 - a. Survivor Stories:
 - i. Leonard Spektor
 - ii. David Chernyahovskiy
4. Research a testimony from at least one perpetrator/collaborator
 - a. Einsatzgruppen Reports
 - b. The Good Old Days
5. Research a testimony from at least one eyewitness [*link to Yahad In Unum*].
6. Once the group is finished with their research, they should compare how each testimony describes the event and discuss how the individual’s role influenced their perspective and understanding of what happened.

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INSTRUCTIONS:

7. Ask students to consider the reliability of the source and the intended audience.
8. The group should then discuss how primary sources inform historical knowledge and our current understanding of past events.