

JEWISH GHETTO WEBQUEST

A journey into the Holocaust

Your task:

It is 1941 in Sighet, Romania. You and your family are Jewish members of the community. The BBC radio network has started giving some unsettling reports that other Jewish communities throughout Nazi-occupied Europe are being rounded up in their cities and confined to ghettos. You have also heard the same thing from some friends in other parts of Europe through letters. As the German front starts to move closer to Sighet, you wonder if there might be some truth to the rumors, and if you need to take some precautions to leave, or if it will be OK.

During this webquest you will use a number of websites to find information on the Jewish ghettos, focusing on life in the ghettos, and what happened to the people living there. At the end of the webquest, you will write a letter to the Sighet Jewish Council recommending whether the Jewish people should stay in Sighet or leave. Your notes will be used in your letter.



Maps of the ghettos:

Using the following link: look through maps showing the ghettos in Nazi-occupied Europe.

http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/media_nm.php?MediaId=3543&ModuleId=10005213

For Your Notes:

When were the majority of Jewish Ghettos active?

How many ghettos were created?

How did the Jewish people try to resist the German soldiers?

What was the name of the largest Ghetto uprising? When did it take place? What happened?



Background on Ghettos:

Go to each of the links below to learn about the creation and structure of Jewish Ghettos.

http://www1.yadvashem.org/odot_pdf/microsoft%20word%20-%206286.pdf

<http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007706>

For Your Notes:

When did the Nazis first seclude Jewish people in the ghettos?

What happened to the Jews in the ghettos?

What is the Judenrat and what role did they play in the ghettos?

How did ghettos fit into the Nazi's Final Solution plan?



Jewish people moving into the Kovno ghettos.
(Courtesy USHMM.org)

Life in the Ghettos:

Go to each of the links below to learn about the living situations in the ghettos

<http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007708>

http://www1.yadvashem.org/yv/en/holocaust/about/03/daily_life.asp

For Your Notes:

What are some of the problems that the Jewish people faced in the ghettos?

How did the Nazis mark the Jewish people while they lived in the ghettos?

How were members of the council chosen?

What was their role in the ghettos?



The fence around the Riga ghetto. (Courtesy USHMM.org)

Artifacts from Kovno Ghetto

Explore the online exhibit: the Hidden History of Kovno Ghetto

<http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/kovno/intro/intro.htm>

For Your Notes:

What are some of the things we can learn about ghetto living by viewing these artifacts and learning about Kovno Ghetto.



German soldiers
approaching Kovno.
(Courtesy USHMM.org)

Resistance in the Ghettos

Explore the following link to learn about Jewish resistance efforts in the ghettos

<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005213>

<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005407>

<http://www1.yadvashem.org/yv/en/holocaust/about/03/warsaw.asp>

<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005188>

For Your Notes:

Who started most ghetto uprising efforts?

What is the most famous uprising?

Using the final USHMM link, create a

Timeline of the Warsaw uprising,
including key figures and events.

The Warsaw ghetto
following its revolt efforts.
(Courtesy USHMM.org)



Your final task:

Using your notes and what you have learned about the ghettos, it is time to make your report to the Sighet Judenrat. Write a persuasive letter to the members of the council convincing them whether or not the Jews of Sighet should leave the community before the Nazis make it here. Include specific details and examples from your webquest exploration to support your recommendation. Finally, make a recommendation for a safe place for the Sighet community to settle if you do recommend that they leave. Conventions count in this assignment.



Jewish people being deported from the Warsaw ghetto. (Courtesy USHMM.org)