

Protecting the Jewish cemeteries of Europe: Continuation of the mapping process, stakeholders' involvement and awareness raising

A project by



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Guidelines and tips for writing your lesson on “Using local Jewish cemeteries in the classroom”

Use one of the following databases to find a Jewish cemetery near your town, and share with us how you created a lesson for your students.

International Jewish Cemetery Project

<http://iajgscemetery.org/eastern-europe>

<https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/tree/CemList.htm>

By countries:

Databases on Jewish cemeteries, Currently for Lithuania, Ukraine, Slovakia (including maps, historical overviews, descriptions, and photographs)

<https://www.esjf-surveys.org/surveys-esjf/>

As an additional resource, we recommend the Jewish Heritage Europe website, where you will find news and resources on Jewish heritage sites.

<https://jewish-heritage-europe.eu/croatia/heritage-heritage-sites/>

Want to connect your local Jewish cemetery with a personal story? Browse through Centropa's 1,200 biographies with Jewish Holocaust survivors, download photos for free from our archive of over 20,000 family photos, or use one of our 50 short films (Note for Georgian participants: unfortunately, we have no interviews available from Georgia).

<https://www.centropa.org>

Find maps, historical overviews, descriptions, and photos on ESJF's homepage

<https://www.esjf-surveys.org/surveys-esjf/>

or use the **ESJF Guide on Jewish Cemeteries in the classroom** (including an introduction to Jewish cemeteries, cemetery symbols and epitaphs, as well as practical exercises)

https://issuu.com/esjf/docs/jewish_cemeteries_in_the_classroom_-_an_esjf_guide

Here are some suggestions for your lesson:

- ask your students to research the history of your town's Jewish cemetery
- focus on a biography of someone buried at your local Jewish cemetery
- have your students take photos of the Jewish cemetery, so that they can develop an online presentation / brochure on its condition
- with the help of the ESJF handbook (see link above), have your students research the Hebrew epitaphs on the tombstones of the Jewish cemetery, to understand their meaning
- research with your students the history of the Jewish community of your town, and have your students tell the history through the local Jewish cemetery

Please note: It is mandatory to use the following format for your lesson.

-> Use this format to structure your lesson plan.

I Introduction

- Title of your lesson
- Your name, school/educational institution, teaching subject(s)
- Very short summary (1-2 sentences) of your lesson
- Subject (e.g. Ethics, History, English)
- Age and grade level of students
- Duration (e.g., “two forty minute lessons”)
- Lesson tested ? (Yes or no)

II Background Information

1. Context for Lesson / Problem statement – How does this lesson fit into the broader context of your classroom teaching? Is there a problem you are trying to address by conducting the lesson?

2. Enduring Understanding (EU) – An Enduring Understanding is the main idea that you want students to take away from your lesson. In ten years, when they’ve forgotten the specific information, what primary concept will they remember?

3. Goals/objectives: What are your goals/objectives for the lesson? Include some or all of the following: knowledge gained, skills acquired, behavior affected.

4. What sources were used? List all necessary materials, including primary sources, hyperlink web-based resources, and specific films and interviews. Please attach any readings that are part of this lesson or project.

5. Are there any specific background skills that your students need? If so, please list.

6. Challenges and solutions: Were there any challenges in implementing the lesson? How did you solve it? (For example, “*Due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, our students were not allowed to visit the cemetery as a group, which is why i took photos and shared them with my class.*”)

7. Implementation: Tell us in detail how you implemented the lesson (group work, activities, etc).

8. Transferability: How is the lesson / project transferable to other areas/ schools / students?

9. Impact: How would you describe the impact of your lesson on preserving local Jewish heritage?

10. Sustainability: How is the lesson going to help build a sustainable interest in Jewish cemeteries among the general public, and teenagers specifically?

Teaching the lesson

This is the road map for teachers wanting to use your lesson in their classes. Include the following:

1. Motivating the students. How will you motivate the students at the beginning of the lesson? What opening activity will you use to engage them in the topic?
2. The lesson.
 - a. Describe each part of the lesson in a way that others may follow.
 - b. Indicate at the top of each section how long it should take.
3. Concluding Activity. How will you assess student competence, understanding and/or mastery of the skills and knowledge taught in the lesson? Examples include a visual project, writing assignment, test, etc.

Reflection

Please write a reflection paragraph about your experience teaching this lesson, using these questions as guidelines:

- What was your experience of teaching this lesson?
- What recommendations do you have for other teachers using your lesson plan?
- What worked well?
- What might you do differently next time? What challenges did you face?

For further questions/support, please contact your country coordinators:

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