



Auschwitz Untold **Education Guide**

Auschwitz Untold depicts the chilling story of the Nazi persecution and extermination of European Jews by combining newly colorized footage from the Holocaust and rare, first person interviews with survivors. Seventy-five years after the liberation, these survivors, who were young children at the time of the Holocaust, reflect on the tragic circumstances that lead to their internment and reveal the ways in which they survived the brutal Nazi campaign. Ultimately, a story of incredible courage, faith, and resilience emerges from the darkness of this horrific chapter in history. Students can explore and discuss the role of oral history and visual sources in preserving the memory of this horrendous chapter in world history.



Auschwitz survivor Arek Hersh

Curriculum Links:

Auschwitz Untold would be useful for History, Global Studies, Political Science and World War II courses and lectures. It is recommended for 8th grade students and above. Learn more about this special at <https://play.history.com/specials/auschwitz-untold>

To the Teacher:

The Holocaust is an emotional topic for many students. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has developed very helpful guidelines and resources to help with teaching the history of the Holocaust. Visit www.ushmm.org/education/foreducators to view these resources and additional suggested activities for the classroom.

Terms to Define:

Ask students to define the terms below before or after watching this program. They can also write down a list of their own words to define while watching this documentary.

Degradation
Expropriation
Confiscation
Genocide
Ghetto
Holocaust
Propaganda
Resilience
SS (Schutzstaffel)
Systematic

Discussion Questions:

1. *Auschwitz Untold* includes colorized images from the Holocaust. Why do you think the colorization of photos and videos can be important to illuminating the history of what happened to Jews during the Holocaust?
2. When did the Nazi Party rise to power? When did Hitler assume power in Germany?
3. What was the Final Solution?
4. Why are individual stories and memories an important way to learn about history?
5. What story from *Auschwitz Untold* did you find most powerful or memorable?
6. What impact do you think the Holocaust had on people who survived?
7. In addition to oral histories, what are some of the other sources we can use to learn about the Holocaust?
8. What do you think people today can learn from studying the Holocaust?



Auschwitz survivor Mindu Hornick

Further Reading and Explorations:

1. **Horrors of Auschwitz: The Numbers Behind WWII's Deadliest Concentration Camp.** Students can find additional information about the Holocaust and the horrors of Auschwitz by reading this article: <https://www.history.com/news/auschwitz-concentration-camp-numbers>

2. **Auschwitz Survivor Stories.** Students can read the stories of several Auschwitz survivors at <https://history.com/news/auschwitz-holocaust-survivors-stories>. Based on the documentary and this article, along with other sources, students can write short essays or research papers about the history of the Auschwitz concentration camp.
3. **Creating Context.** This program discusses key events in the evolution of the Holocaust. Working in small groups, ask students to create a timeline of the Holocaust from its inception through the liberation of concentration camps. Students should also include other key WWII dates on their timelines.
4. **In Their Own Words.** Many survivors of the Holocaust have given powerful testimonies of what they experienced. Ask students to read one or more of these testimonies and write a short description of what they learned. Who was interviewed? Where did they live before the Holocaust? What happened to them as the Holocaust transpired? How did they manage to survive? Students can answer these questions in their descriptions.



Auschwitz survivor Irving Roth

Web Links:

Background about the Holocaust on History.com:

www.history.com/topics/the-holocaust

Auschwitz at 75: Teaching Resources from the ADL:

www.adl.org/blog/liberation-at-75-teaching-strategies-and-resources

Museum of Tolerance:

www.museumoftolerance.com/

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum:

www.ushmm.org

USC Shoah Foundation Institute:

www.dornsife.usc.edu/vhi