



"History of toys"

Polish-Ukrainian cross cultural project

Lesson Title: History of toys

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Course: Any course (including History, Literature, Holocaust Studies, etc.)

Lesson Category: History, Ethics, Holocaust

Grade Level: middle school (age12-14)

Required Time: 1-2 months

Lesson Summary:

Students will see a film about a Holocaust survivor and the family who helped her to survive. They will have a discussion about the childhood during the war and Holocaust, their parents and grandparents' old toys with students from another country. This is especially interesting because kids' own "toys" nowadays differ from those which children had during the Holocaust and I think this idea can have the effect of making "today's kids" more sensitive.

Background Information:

This lesson should be taught after students have a basic knowledge about the Holocaust.

Resources:

- Internet access
- Centropa film "Return to Rivne"
- Skype conference, Facebook group or another social network

Essential Questions:

- "I have never had toys. I have never had friends" - childhood during the war.
- International discussion and meeting

Lesson plan

Step 1. Internet meeting and introduction in Facebook group. Students can post:

- invitation
- story about school
- story about country and native city.

Step 2. Screening of Centropa film "Return to Rivne":

Pre-watching activity:

- "My childhood". Personal story about childhood of each students.
- Pfoto-collage " My childhood" (Students post in Facebook group)

After-watching activity:

Discussion in each group:

- Childhood during the war. Life story of Shelly Vainer. Felling of each student (post in FB group).
- Old toys. Students can ask parents and grandparents about their toys. Students post stories about toys and photos in Facebook group.

Step 3. Skype conference "Childhood in the different time of history":

The teacher can invite student's parents to this meeting.

The main questions:

- Childhood during the war.
- Childhood by parents and grandparents of students.

Each student presents a photo of a toy, a story of a toy (like a family story) or an old game, popular at that time when grandparents were children.

Step 4. (*Possible Extensions*) Real meeting in Poland and in Ukraine.