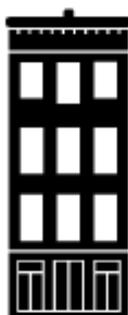


JUGEND
ERINNERT
YOUNG PEOPLE
REMEMBER



PAST2PRESENT4FUTURE

Past2Present4Future Memory Walk Video Clips Discussion Questions for Classroom Use

Background (about the project)

Memory Walk is an interactive program developed by the Anne Frank House that serves to engage young people and others in educational reflection and discussion about how we remember past events, through an examination of monuments and memorials in the living environment. Under the guidance of professional editors, young participants learn how to make film clips and present biographies of monuments through their own voices.

Several new Memory Walk video clips were created in the summer of 2021 within the project "Past2Present4Future" (P2P4F), a youth remembrance activism initiative of partner organizations from Serbia, Germany, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. The project's goal was to engage young people in remembrance and exploration of historical-contemporary dilemmas, focusing in specific on World War II and the lingering legacy of National Socialist crimes in Europe.

Memory Walk classroom activities manual offers concrete educational materials on how to discuss monuments and how to encourage young people to interrogate (contested) histories. The manual is intended to be used in formal and non-formal education with young people between 14 and 18 years old. The manual contains multiple exercises, adapted for use within a classroom period (45 or 90 minutes). Instructors can choose between introduction exercises (such as "What is a monument to you?"), core content exercises (such as "Biography of a Monument") and homework exercises (such as "Local Monument Tour").

The manual can be found online, in English (and other languages) at:

<https://historijaistorijapovijest.org/wp-content/themes/hip/memory-walk-teachers-manual/MW%20Manual%20EN.pdf>

On the following pages, you can find short explanations of each P2P4F Memory Walk video clip, discussion questions (which you can use with the debate exercise that can be found in the Memory Walk manual - page 20) and additional readings/homework.



CONCENTRATION CAMP 'BLACK HOUSE'

Bosnia-Herzegovina

MW video clip link: <https://youtu.be/i5XdJbkmTO4>

What is the monument about?

The concentration camp in the village of Kruščica near Vitez, colloquially called the "Black House", was originally built during the Austro-Hungarian administration for the purpose of accommodating workers. For the first time the house took on the role of a camp during the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, where political dissidents of the system were imprisoned. During the Second World War, under the administration of the Independent States of Croatia (ISC) the function of the facility took on the role of a concentration camp, where Jewish Serbs and other anti-fascists were brought from the area of Sarajevo Pale and the Lašva Valley. According to estimates, about 5,000 people passed through the concentration camp, of which an estimated 2,000 were exterminated. It is important to mention that the camp was in operation from July to October 1941. The surviving prisoners were sent to other camps throughout the ISC, such as the Jasenovac camp. During the conflict in the 1990s in Bosnia and Herzegovina, for the third time, the Black House took on the function of a camp intended for the torture and inhuman treatment of prisoners of war. For this act in 2019, final verdicts were passed for members of the military police of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The historical memorial complex "Black House" consists of buildings of the Black House (barracks), sculptures, tombs and memorial plaques. All of the mentioned monuments were erected in honor of the victims of the Second World War, while for the lost lives of the victims of the war of the 1990s, there are no monuments.

What are the dilemmas or controversies surrounding the monument?

The Black House is protected by law as a national asset of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which would mean that the state is in charge of maintaining and taking care of the monuments. However, the neglected monuments and the area where they are located testify that the state does not take care of them. In addition, the monuments located in the memorial complex were erected in the honor of victims of the Second World War, while for the lost lives of the victims of the 1990s conflict, there are no monuments. The controversy that could arise due to the mentioned situation includes the question as to why the victims of one regime are more valuable than the victims of another regime, as some are honored and others are not? There are many factors that contribute to opposing views, and the common answer offered in the short Memory Walk film is that politics is the biggest culprit.

CONCENTRATION CAMP 'BLACK HOUSE'

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Suggested discussion questions after watching the clip

1. Are you familiar with any other facility/place in BiH that served three times as a camp in different time periods?
2. Why do you think this place has become a crime scene again in the 90s?
3. Why do you think the history of what happened there during the 1990s is not commemorated by a monument today?
4. Do you think that it is necessary to raise awareness about these kinds of histories and suffering?
5. Why/does history repeat itself?
6. Why do you think the history of this place is not recognized or taught about in schools, in modern times, given its dark past?

Additional readings and/or Homework ideas

1. About the camp

https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koncentracijski_logor_u_Kru%C5%A1%C4%8Dici

2. The book „Holokaust u Bosni i Hercegovini“, Eli Tauber, 407. strana (4.1. Kruščica kod Travnika)

<http://institut-genocid.unsa.ba/userfiles/file/Holokaust%20u%20BiH.pdf>

3. An article about the suffering during the war of the 90s

<https://onms.nenasilje.org/2019/crna-kuca-vitez/>

4. Decision of designating the Black House complex as a national historical monument:

http://old.kons.gov.ba/main.php?id_struct=6&lang=1&action=view&id=3830

MEMORIAL PARK 'JAJINCI'

Serbia

MW video clip link: <https://youtu.be/HULcBrBKmsE>

What is the monument about?

The Memorial Park Jajinci is located on the territory of Belgrade municipality Voždovac. It was built in the place where the mass shootings occurred during Second World War, while Serbia was occupied. German Army invaded the city of Belgrade in April 1941. Citizens of the city were not satisfied with this development, so they started to rise up and rebel against the German forces and for that, they were thrown into one of Belgrade's detention facilities (concentration camps) such as Sajmište and Banjica. On July 15, 1941 the members of the German 64th police battalion began to regularly take groups of these prisoners from Sajmište and Banjica, to a rifle range just south of the camp in forests of Jajinci. From here, the soldiers would then force the prisoners to dig holes in the open field, after which point the prisoners would be executed and deposited into the holes they had just dug. These executions happened daily until November 1943, when the German forces started to doubt whether they will succeed in the war or not. They feared that their actions at Jajinci would be declared war crimes, so the German Gestapo commanders in Belgrade ordered that all executed victims at Jajinci be exhumed and incinerated in order to conceal all evidence of the executions. This burning of corpses, along with further executions, went on until April of 1944. It is estimated that the number of people who were executed there ranges from 60.000 to 80.000. The majority of those were Serbs and Jews, but also Roma, Partisan fighters, anti-fascists, and any person who was deemed "undesirable" by the German occupiers. Often, local Serbian Nazi collaborators from the Serbian State Guard were ordered to carry out the executions.

What are the dilemmas or controversies surrounding the monument?

The Memorial Park „Jajinci“ was declared a cultural asset by the decision of the Assembly of the City of Belgrade in 1986. In the past, there have been instances of fascist and political graffiti made on the original monument at the front entrance to the memorial, but the graffiti has been removed. Even though the park is huge and has great historical significance, a lot of people in Belgrade don't know it exists or what it commemorates. People in Serbia tend to twist the stories about local collaborators from Second World War, who played a significant role in the mass shooting that occurred in this place. There has been some controversy, as an Orthodox church was in the process of being constructed along the park's north entrance access road at the beginning of the 2000s. Many feel that as the complex is a site of crimes against various ethnicities and religions, it should be kept as a place of nonclerical peace and mourning, rather than one marked by religious symbols and structures.

MEMORIAL PARK 'JAJINCI'

Serbia

Suggested discussion questions after watching the clip

1. Why do you think many people do not know about this Memorial Park and its history?
2. Why do you think we do not talk enough about the local collaborators from Second World War?
3. Do you think that it is necessary to raise awareness about the history and suffering in World War II in Serbia?
4. What lessons from Second World War are still relevant today?

Additional readings and/or Homework ideas

1. About the camp: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Park_Jajinci
2. An article about Holocaust in Serbia
<http://www.open.ac.uk/socialsciences/semlin/en/holocaust-in-serbia.php>
3. Map about camp locations and killing sites in Serbia and more about them
<https://holocaust.rs/en/home/>
4. An article about architecture of the park and the monument
<http://fmkjournals.fmk.edu.rs/index.php/AM/article/viewFile/169/pdf>

"UNFINISHED CHILD'S PLAY" MONUMENT

Croatia

MW video clip link: <https://youtu.be/kc7shwYYOCI>

What is the monument about?

The "Unfinished child's play" monument is a fountain and statue installation erected in 1965 in Sisak. The statue depicts seven children playing around a stone and commemorates the estimated 1160 to 1600 children who perished in a concentration camp for children which operated in the Sisak area from August 1942 until January 1943. Officially called the "Reception center for children of refugees", it was run by the Independent State of Croatia and received Serbian, Roma and Jewish children. Living conditions at the children's camp were poor, leading to a high mortality rate. According to survivors, some children were killed by being given poisoned milk or gruel laced with caustic soda. According to some sources, some children were administered lethal injections. Thousands of children were saved from the camp as a result of rescue efforts spearheaded by the humanitarian Diana Budisavljević who, from October 1941, together with co-workers, organized and provided assistance to women and children detained in the Ustaše camps in the Independent State of Croatia. The operation known as "Action Diana Budisavljević" succeeded in saving around 10,000 children. The monument stands near the former concentration camp's main building, which has since been turned into a theater. Each child's sculpture is named after a child from the camp whom the sculptress Gabrijela Kolar knew personally.

What are the dilemmas or controversies surrounding the monument?

As can be seen in the interview clips from the Memory Walk video, the monument and the history of children victims that it was created to commemorate is not widely known by Sisak locals. This is indicative of even more widespread ignorance of the history of the Holocaust in the "Independent State of Croatia" by the population of Croatia. Victims of the Ustaše regime and World War 2 are overshadowed in Croatian public discourse by narratives surrounding the more recent "Homeland War", and deprioritized in the Croatian education system in favor of other, more easily "digested" and taught periods of history. Furthermore, the systematicity of conflict between ethnic and religious groups in the Western Balkans region, evidenced by the narrative and historical links between the two wars, is suppressed. Of the monuments commemorating WW2 and Holocaust victims, erected all over Croatia while it was part of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, some have been demolished or removed, while most have fallen into disrepair and are rarely used as educational tools in the Croatian education system.

"UNFINISHED CHILD'S PLAY" MONUMENT

Croatia

Suggested discussion questions after watching the clip

1. How well or poorly is the history of the Holocaust in the "Independent State of Croatia" known by the citizens of Croatia?
2. What role, if any, can monuments play in history education?
3. Is it important to teach the youth about the Holocaust? Why?
4. Do you think teaching about the Holocaust and Ustaše crimes takes away from teaching about other victims or parts of history?
5. Do young people care about history (international, national, local)?

Additional readings

1. An article (in Croatian) about the monument, with photographs:
<https://express.24sata.hr/top-news/mesar-luburic-pobit-cu-sve-koji-spasavate-djecu-iz-logora -23223>
2. About the concentration camp in Sisak
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sisak_concentration_camp
3. An article about a recent commemoration event (2014)
<https://balkaninsight.com/2014/10/06/ww2-children-s-concentration-camp-commemorated-in -sisak/>
4. A historiographical article about Diana Budisavljević:
https://www.academia.edu/40924426/Action_Diana_Budisavljevi%C4%87_The_largest_operation_to_rescue_children_in_the_Independent_State_of_Croatia_during_World_War_II

Homework idea

The "Unfinished Child's Play" monument is both literal (it depicts the victims it commemorates) and symbolic (the scene of children playing highlights their innocence, and therefore the tragedy of their fate). Other monuments might be more or less literal or symbolic. Which ones do you prefer, more literal or more symbolic monuments? Draw a monument of something you would like to commemorate (it may be anything) by exploring both literal and symbolic representation.

MEMORY BEHIND FENCES – THE FORGOTTEN FEMALE FORCED LABOR WORKERS IN SPANDAU

Germany

MW video clip link: <https://youtu.be/x7DvsfJz01o>

What is the monument about?

During the Second World War more than a thousand women and girls from Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary, and the Soviet Union were exploited in an area of Spandau, Berlin which is now a shopping area. The monument commemorates these victims of forced labor. They were detainees of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. According to the anti-Semitic and racist ideology of the Nazis, they were considered 'inferior' and forced to work under inhumane circumstances. Many of them did not survive.

What are the dilemmas or controversies surrounding the monument?

The Memory Walk movie deals with the question of whether this history is adequately commemorated and remembered by the citizens of Berlin. Namely, the monument is relatively small and located on private property behind a fence. Furthermore, it poses the question of what the role of this history is for people today and what lessons we can draw from it.

Suggested discussion questions after watching the clip

1. Do you think that the victims of forced labor in Spandau have an appropriate monument?
2. Why is it important to remember the events of the past?
3. Who were the people that the Nazis used as forced laborers?
4. Why did the Nazis think that it is justified to exploit people in this way?
5. Do forced laborers still exist today? Who are they?

Additional readings and/or Homework ideas

1. Forced labor in Nazi Germany
<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/forced-labor-an-overview>
2. Forced Labor in Berlin and Brandenburg
<http://www.tempelhofer-unfreiheit.de/en/forced-labor-berlin-brandenburg/>
3. Forced labor in the world today
<https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/policy-areas/statistics/lang--en/index.htm>
4. Are there any places in your hometown that have a history that few people know about? Research this historical topic and create a short presentation for your class.
5. Are there people and organizations in the world helping the victims of forced labor? Find one example of such a person or organization.

UNTOLD STORIES OF TEMPELHOF AIRPORT

Germany

MW video clip link: https://youtu.be/nhQuj0_2ExU

What is the monument about?

Tempelhof Airport, nowadays a public park, used to be a munitions factory during the Second World War where prisoners from nearby concentration camps were used as forced laborers.

What are the dilemmas or controversies surrounding the monument?

The Memory Walk video clip deals with the question of whether this history is adequately commemorated and remembered by the citizens of Berlin. Furthermore, it poses the question of what the role of this history is for people today and what lessons we can draw from it.

Suggested discussion questions after watching the clip

1. Why is it important to remember the events of the past?
2. Who were the people that the Nazis used as forced laborers?
3. Why did the Nazis think that it is justified to exploit people in this way?
4. Do forced laborers still exist today? Who are they?

Additional readings and/or Homework ideas

1. Forced labor in Nazi Germany
<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/forced-labor-an-overview>
2. Forced labor at Tempelhof Airport
<https://www.thf-berlin.de/en/location-information/history-of-location/national-socialism/forced-labourers/>
3. Forced labor in the world today
<https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/policy-areas/statistics/lang--en/index.htm>
4. Are there any places in your hometown that have a history that few people know about? Research this historical topic and create a short presentation for your class.
5. Are there people and organizations in the world helping victims of forced labor? Find one example of such a person or organization.