Exploring the Evidence

The Holocaust, Cambodian Genocide, and Canadian Intervention





Musée Holocauste Montréal Montreal Holocaust Museum



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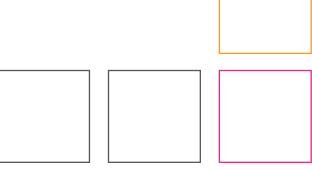
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General Explanation of Program

This education program on Canada's intervention during the Holocaust (1933-1945) and the Cambodian genocide (1975-1979) reflects on genocide, human rights, and the issues relating to intervention. Students study the history of the Holocaust and of the Cambodian genocide in order to reflect on the possibilities of intervention, as well as the principles that guide individuals and nations to act to protect human life. Particular attention is given to the role of Canadians and their government.

Upon completion of the program, students will have mastered the notions of rights and fundamental freedoms, genocide, and issues relating to the intervention and the protection of human rights.

Learning Objectives

To acquire the notional content pertaining to:

- The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945)
- The history of the Cambodian genocide (1975-1979)
- Canadian immigration policies
- Canadian intervention during the world conflict
- Canadian humanitarian intervention
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
- The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (CPPC)
- Canada's role within the United Nations Organization (UN)

To master the central concepts of:

- Genocide
- Intervention
- Rights

To develop the competencies of:

- Analyzing primary and secondary written and visual sources
- Practising historical and political interpretation
- Reflecting in a critical and complex way on international social issues

Pedagogical Approach

The activities contained herein reflect the historical method of interpreting facts by analysing primary and secondary sources.

It is a non-linear method with the following steps: Reading documents, picking out facts and information, establishing connections between the facts, and interpreting the facts in order to answer a question (giving meaning to the documents).

Links to the Ontario Curriculum

Note: Teachers based in Ontario should strongly consider booking a visit to the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre for Part 3 of this educational tool, and then use the questions in Part 3 of the lesson plan to prepare for their visit.

CHG38, Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity, Grade 11

Strand: Historical Inquiry and Skill Development

Overall Expectation(s):

 Historical Inquiry: use the historical inquiry process and the concepts of historical thinking when investigating aspects of modern genocides and crimes against humanity.

Strand: Social, Economic, and Political Context

Overall Expectations:

- Analyse the ways in which social context can pave the way for the protection or erosion of rights within societies that have experienced genocide and crimes against humanity.
- 2. Analyse the economic circumstances in societies that have experienced genocide and crimes against humanity.
- 3. Analyse the role of political contexts in societies that have experienced genocide and crimes against humanity.

Strand: Communities, Conflict, and Cooperation

Overall Expectation(s):

- 1. Analyse the relationships between groups within societies that have experienced genocide.
- 2. Analyse the social practices and trends of societies more or less prone to human rights violations, crimes against humanity, and genocide.
- 3. Evaluate the effectiveness of the international community in responding to genocide and crimes against humanity.
- 4. Develop an understanding of the experience of individuals and groups who have lived through genocide.

Strand: Identities, Citizenship, and Heritage

Overall Expectations:

- 1. Analyse the nature of authority in societies that have experienced genocide.
- 2. Analyse how the attributes of local and global citizenship (e.g., rights, privileges, and obligations) are manifested during genocide.
- 3. Analyse the short and long term impacts of genocide and crimes against humanity.

CHY4U, World History Since the Fifteenth Century, Grade 12, University Preparation; CHY4C – World History Since the Fifteenth Century, Grade 12, College Preparation

Strand: Historical Inquiry and Skill Development

Overall Expectation(s):

 Historical Inquiry: use the historical inquiry process and the concepts of historical thinking when investigating aspects of world history since the fifteenth century.

Specific Expectations:

- Formulate different types of questions to guide investigations into issues, events, and/or developments in world history since the fifteenth century;
- Select and organize relevant evidence and information on aspects of world history since the fifteenth century from a variety of primary and secondary sources, ensuring that their sources reflect a range of perspectives;
- Assess the credibility of sources and information relevant to their investigations;
- Interpret and analyse evidence and information relevant to their investigations, using various tools, strategies, and approaches appropriate for historical inquiry;

- Use the concepts of historical thinking (i.e. historical significance, cause and consequence, continuity and change, and historical perspective) when analysing, evaluating evidence about, and formulating conclusions and/or judgements regarding historical issues, events, and/ or developments in world history since the fifteenth century;
- Evaluate and synthesize their findings to formulate conclusions and/ or make informed judgements or predictions about the issues, events, and/or developments they are investigating; and
- Use appropriate terminology when com¬municating the results of their investigations.

Strand: The World Since 1900

Overall Expectation(s):

- 1.Social, Economic, and Political Context: analyse the significance of various social, economic, and political policies, developments, and ideas in various regions of the world since 1900 (FOCUS ON: Historical Significance; Cause and Consequence).
- 2. Communities, Conflict, and Cooperation: analyse or describe interactions between various groups since 1900 and how key individuals and social, economic, and political forces have affected those interactions (FOCUS ON: Cause and Consequence; Historical Perspective).
- 3. Identity, Citizenship, and Heritage: analyse or describe the development of the rights, identity, and heritage of different groups around the world since 1900 (FOCUS ON: Continuity and Change; Historical Perspective).

Specific Expectations:

- Describe forms of government in various countries during this period, and explain the political beliefs and/or ideologies that underpinned them;
- Explain the main causes and consequences of some major global and regional conflicts during this period;
- Describe significant developments relating to warfare during this period, and assess their consequences or describe key causes and

consequences of some major global and regional conflicts during this period;

- Explain how the actions of some significant individuals and groups contributed to conflicts within and between various countries during this period;
- Analyse some significant interactions between diverse groups during this period, including those characterized by violence and/or deprivation of rights as well as those characterized by cooperation; and
- Analyse the goals, methods, and accomplish¬ments of various significant individuals and groups who have contributed to the evolution of human rights in different regions during this period.

CLN4U, Canadian and International Law, Grade 12, University Preparation

Strand: The Inquiry Process and Skill Development in Legal Studies

Overall Expectation(s):

1. The Inquiry Process in Legal Studies: use the legal studies inquiry process and the concepts of legal thinking when investigating legal issues in Canada and around the world, and issues relating to international law.

Specific Expectations:

- Formulate different types of questions to guide investigations into legal issues in Canada and around the world, and issues relating to international law;
- Select and organize relevant evidence and information from primary and secondary sources;
- Assess the credibility of sources relevant to their investigations;
- Interpret and analyse legal issues using evidence and information relevant to their investigations and a variety of tools and strategies and taking into account relevant legal theories and ethical and equity concerns;
- Use the concepts of legal thinking (i.e. legal significance, continuity and change, interrela-tionships, and legal perspective) when

- analysing, evaluating evidence about, and formulating conclusions and/or judgements regarding legal issues in Canada and around the world, and issues relating to international law; and
- Evaluate and synthesize their findings to formulate conclusions and/ or make informed judgements or predictions about the issues they are investigating.

CLN4U, Canadian and International Law, Grade 12, University Preparation

Strand: Rights and Freedoms

Overall Expectation(s):

- 1.Legal Principles of Human Rights Law: explain the principles underpinning human rights law and the legal significance of those laws, in Canada and internationally (FOCUS ON: Legal Significance).
- 2. Development of Human Rights Law: analyse issues associated with the development of human rights law, in Canada and internationally (FOCUS ON: Continuity and Change).

Specific Expectations:

- Explain the legal implications of a country's signing of various internationally recognized treaties and conventions related to the protection of human rights; and
- Analyse various issues associated with addressing human rights violations, with reference to specific past and/or present examples of violations in Canada and around the world.

Symbol key



Duration of activity



Appendix



Recommendation / Additional information

Proposed Method

The program is divided into five parts.

Part 1 -- The Holocaust

Part 1 consists of a historical examination of the genocide of the Jews during the Second World War. The objective is for students to familiarize themselves with this event and to see how Canada intervened.

Activity 1 Initiating event / trigger

Activity 2 Activating students' knowledge

Activity 3 Historical examination of the Holocaust

Activity 4 Analysis of Canada's intervention

Part 2 – Human Rights and Intervention

Part 2 examines the issue of defending human rights and of intervention in general, as well as in the context of the Second World War. International legislation (*UDHR* and *CPPCG*) will be studied, and an activity will be done on the 1942 and 1943 Allied declarations.

Activity 1 Analysis of the international legislation (Was the Holocaust a genocide?)

Activity 2 Declarations of the Allies and the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg

Part 3 – Museum visit and listening to a survivor's life story

In Part 3, students visit the Montreal Holocaust Museum and listen to a Holocaust survivor's life story. If a visit to the Museum is not possible, students can explore the Museum's free app for smartphones or tablets. They can also listen to Holocaust survivor testimonies on the Museum's website. These activities will help formalize what they learned about the Holocaust.

Part 4 – The Cambodian Genocide

Genocide

Part 4 is a historical examination of the genocidal crimes committed in Cambodia between 1975 and 1979. Students learn about this event and discover the nature of Canada's intervention with respect to this event.

| Activity 1 | Initiating event / trigger |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Activity 2 | Historical examination of the Cambodian genocide |
| Activity 3 | Analysis of Canada's intervention |

Part 5 – Summary

Activity 4

The objective in Part 5 is to compare the two historical events (similarities and differences in the stages leading to genocide) and to reflect generally on the issues relating to intervention, both then and now.

| Activity 1 | Analysis of the stages that lead to genocide (comparison of the two) |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Activity 2 | Reflection on intervention in the present day |

Part 1 - The Holocaust

As they exercise their historical critical-thinking skills, students are initiated to the history of the Holocaust and the role played by individual Canadians and their government.

Activity 1



30 minutes

Initiating event / trigger

Objective:

To arouse students' interest in the Holocaust through the reading and analysis of a letter written by a Jewish resistance fighter.



Method:

- 1. Ask the students to read the letter and do a critical analysis in response to the questions.
- 2. Collect the entire class' responses to the various questions.
- 3. Take note of the hypotheses and questions that have been put forward. Tell the students that possible answers will be revealed in the course of their study.
- 4. Give an overview of the facts that were established after reading the letter, and of the student hypotheses about the events being studied.



This activity can be done in small groups or with the class as a whole. It is important that every student know how to analyze a document, as this exercise will recur several times in the program.



Teacher's Guide The Holocaust – Part 1

Activating prior knowledge of the Holocaust and the Jews

Objective:

To identify students' knowledge of the Holocaust and of the Jewish people.

Method:

- 1. Ask the class:
 - Who has seen the films *Downfall, Schindler's List, The Pianist, Life is Beautiful*, or others?
 - What do the films have in common?
 - What do you know about the Second World War?

Continue with the next question.

Have you ever heard the words "Holocaust," "Nazism," "Hitler,"
 "Jew," "genocide," "antisemitism"?

Divide the students into groups of four and have them define any one or all these terms.



Ask each group to write the answer to the following question (in point form or in a concept web):

- What do you know about the war?
- Show various photos of pre-war Jews and ask the students to describe what they see, noting the characteristics of pre-war Jews. http://museeholocauste.ca/en/activites/exploring-evidence-holocaust-cambodian-genocide/



3. Have the students reflect on the phenomenon of discrimination (particularly State discrimination that decides who is an enemy and who is not, without ever considering whether these people see themselves as such).

Begin student reflection by asking:



- What is a prejudice or a stereotype?
- What is a scapegoat?
- Who can be a victim of discrimination?

Activity 2



45 minutes



As is the case today, in the past it was not always possible in the past to identify Jews by their appearance. Moreover, as in Canada today, European Jews then had a variety of practices; they ranged from secular Jews (non-observant) to those who were deeply religious and lived according to the laws of the Torah, their sacred book.



Part 1 – The Holocaust Teacher's Guide

Activity 3

Historical examination of the Holocaust



Objective:

To acquire historical information on the Holocaust through the analysis of documents. Photos and video clips can be found here: http://museeholocauste.ca/en/secondary-education/exploring-evidence/



Method:

 Divide the students into groups of four. Give each group a series of documents. The students must analyze the documents to answer pertinent questions. Tell them that their task is to extract information (spatiotemporal context, important facts [ideology, events], persons involved) and to put this information into chronological order.



Once the documents are analysed, all the groups come together to pool their information. Each team will appoint a spokesperson who will present the part of history that their team discovered in their dossier.



- 3. Summary or assessment activity: The students will answer the following questions:
 - What are the main characteristics of the Holocaust?
 - What elements of the social, political, and economic context explain this event?
 - Who are the executioners?
 - Who are the victims?
 - When did the genocide occur?
 - Why did the genocide happen?
 - What ideology is behind the genocide? What are the main ideas?
 - Where did the genocide take place?
 - How did the genocide end?

Teacher's Guide The Holocaust – Part 1

Analysis of Canada's Intervention

Activity 4

2 lessons

Objective:

To reflect on the reactions of the Canadian government and Canadian citizens regarding the persecution of the European Jews.

To understand the complexities of intervention

Method:

- 1. Divide the class into six teams. Assign one of the following three tasks to each team (two teams per task):
 - a. Jewish immigration to Canada
 - b. The positions of Prime Minister Mackenzie King
 - c. The speeches of Mr. Samuel Bronfman, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress
- 2. Lead a class reflection on the 1947 refugee policy, the first Canadian policy to accept refugees.
- 3. Lead a class discussion on the means that were available to Canadians to help the Jews, on their knowledge of the events and/ or the choices or possibilities available to the Canadian State during the war.
 - Using what they learned in the previous tasks, ask the students to summarize the interventions by the Canadian government and Canadian organizations, such as; admission of a few immigrants during the war, sponsorship within the Jewish community, and participation in the war.
- 4. Discuss what was done by Canada and Canadians. Do a historical assessment (N.B. no value judgements.)

Part 2 – Human Rights and Intervention

The objective in Part 2 is to understand that after the Holocaust the international community sought to take measures to prevent genocides, and it established structures for reflection and intervention. This is a reflection on human rights and on the instruments of justice that ensure the respect of human rights and the punishment of violations.

Activity 1



80 minutes



The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms or La charte des droits et libertés de la personne [Québec] can be included in the study.

A study of international texts

Objective:

To learn about two pieces of legislation that are still central to international politics and justice.

- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights



Method:

- 1. Study of the international legislation
- a. Reflection on human rights activation of prior knowledge (40 minutes)

To encourage discussion, ask the students the following questions:

- What is a right? Give examples.
- Who has rights?
- Who decides on what is a right?
- Who puts them into effect?

Then ask the students to read the summary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and to express their reaction(s) to the rights it contains.

Discuss some of the following questions:

- Does a state have all the rights on its territory?
- In what ways does a democratic state differ from a totalitarian one?
 Are there countries today still living under a totalitarian regime?
- Can genocide occur in a democratic state?
- What can be done when a state turns against its citizens?
 What are possible individual reactions? Hide? Stay away?
 Collaborate? Resist?

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- Who can intervene when a state turns against its citizens (individuals, societies, justice system, neighbouring states, others)?
- Under which principles should other countries intervene in cases where the population (or a segment of the population) of a country is threatened?
- Is an international organization (such as the UN) needed with the objective of monitoring countries and intervening when citizens are denied their rights?
- Can individuals intervene to defend human rights? How? Do you know of specific examples of intervention?
- In an ideal world, what role could States or international organizations play to protect human rights?



b. Defining genocide (20 minutes)

Ask the students for their definition of genocide. Write the elements of the definitions on the board.

Have the students read the UN definition and discuss again.



c. Was the Holocaust a genocide? (20 minutes)

Ask the students to discuss and to answer the questions that follow. You can choose to record the answers or to have an open discussion.

- Based on the official definition of genocide, can we state that the Holocaust was genocide? Why?
- What Jewish rights were flouted during the Holocaust?

Take again the elements of the definition and illustrate them with the Holocaust.

d. Defending human rights today

- Do you know of examples where human rights are being violated today? Give examples of current international or national instances.
- Do you know of other examples of genocide?
- For what reasons were certain groups the victims of genocide (religion, social status, ethnic origin, skin colour, political convictions, others)?
- In your opinion, why are we studying this topic as part of our course? What purpose does it serve?





Exact answers to these questions are not required. The aim is to have students reflect on the fact that citizens' rights are protected by the State, and that this is not enough. The students should also grasp that a democratic State, a rule of law, is committed to respecting and protecting the rights of its citizens, while a totalitarian State can decide otherwise. They should, moreover, recognize that individuals have a role to play in protecting their own rights and those of other human beings.



Draw the students' attention to the term "race." Is the term appropriate in this document? Specify that there is not just a single race of human beings and that, although the use of the term "race" to describe cultural or ethnic differences is inappropriate, it does not nullify the official document.

Activity 2



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Declarations of the Allies and the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg

Objective:

To establish a connection between the legislative texts and the Holocaust. To understand that the Nuremberg international military tribunal was the first instance of international justice. It also marked the first time that the sovereignty of a state was curtailed in favor of protecting human rights.

Method:

1. Have the students do the activity on the Allied declarations of 1942 and 1943.



- 2. Present students with the main characteristics of the Nuremberg tribunal.
- a. Remind the students that the Allies' response to punish the criminals responsible for the Holocaust was to try them in a court of law. They set up the first international tribunal, the Nuremberg international military tribunal. Give an overview of its characteristics.



b. Was the decision of the Allies to bring the criminals to justice justified? Was it the best option?





The aim of this activity is to show that the Allied leaders were well aware of the treatment inflicted on the Jews of Nazi Europe and to note that, apart from military intervention,

there was no structure

the guilty to trial.

of international justice in place at that time to bring

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Teacher's Guide Museum Visit – Part 3

Part 3 – Visit to the Museum, the Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, or Using the MHM App

General objective:

Visiting the Montreal Holocaust Museum or the Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, or going through the Montreal Holocaust Museum app, can be followed by a survivor's life story. It provides a structured summary of the subject matter, the genocide of the Jews; it also helps students to apply their newly acquired knowledge in a new context.

More information about the app can be found here: http://museeholocauste.ca/en/app/

If listening to a survivor testimony is not possible, students can watch video testimonies in the Survivors' Stories section on the Museum's website: http://museeholocauste.ca/en/survivors-stories/

They can also listen and explore other survivor testimonies by visiting two of the Museum's virtual exhibitions:

Holocaust Life Stories

http://holocaustlifestories.ca/

Students explore the testimonies and journeys of survivors. From click to click, they discover maps of Europe, timelines, and stories of men and women who settled in Canada after the war. In class, students complete the exercises offered at http://holocaustlifestories.ca/ and develop their historical thinking.

Building New Lives

http://refairesavie.museeholocauste.ca/eng

This virtual exhibit presents the history of immigration of Holocaust survivors to Canada. Students will discover the stories of people who survived Nazi persecution and rebuilt their lives in Canada through their testimony videos and photographs. The exhibit also includes a map and timeline related to the Holocaust and Canadian immigration policies between 1933 and 1955.

It is important that students work in groups so that they can focus on the rich lessons that will be learned during a guided tour or through the app. Today, Stanton's model comprises of ten steps. More information about these steps can be found here: http://genocide.mhmc.ca/en/genocide-stages. The eight-step model is still relevant and can be easier for students to understand.

Part 3 – Museum Visit Teacher's Guide

Method: BEFORE the visit, in class

- 1. Present the eight stages of genocide, as developed by Stanton.
- 2. It is important to consider not only the executioners' role but also the various reactions of the victims during the event.
- 3. Review with students the different types of Canadian intervention as seen in the first part of this program.

Preparing for the visit

We suggest that students be divided into groups of two or three (depending on the size of the class – visits are done in groups of approximately 15 students) and that each group be assigned a task from among the following: stages of genocide, examples of resistance, examples of intervention.

If you are using the app, students can explore the following three thematic tours individually or in groups of two: Life Stories: *Holocaust Survivors in Montreal, Children and Teenagers During the Holocaust,* and *Deconstructing Genocide*. Ask students to find examples that pertain to the different steps of genocide or to identify a case of intervention/resistance in the defence of individuals.

Survivor's life story

After their visit to the Museum, the Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, or going through the app, students can listen to a survivor's life story at the museum, in the classroom, or online.

Survivors present their personal experience of the Holocaust, thus helping students to put a human face to the numbers and understand the impact of the Holocaust on Jews' daily lives.

Returning to class: Consolidating the findings

The consolidating of the groups' findings and the ensuing discussion will serve to summarize the first two phases of the program (the Holocaust and human rights).



If you wish, you can ask a group of students to use the example of the survivor they have met to illustrate how he/she lived through the persecution of the Jews and the various interventions (or non-interventions).

Part 4 - Cambodian Genocide

The aim of Part 4 is to learn about the Cambodian genocide that occurred between 1975 and 1979, as well as Canada's intervention to save the victims.

Initiating activity / trigger

Objective:

To have the students reflect and to arouse their interest in the subject.

Activity 1



Method:

- 1. Before starting, create an ambiance by playing Khmer music. The national anthem of Democratic Kampuchea under the Khmer Rouge or any other music of that period can be found at these sites:
 - http://www.d.dccam.org/Archives/Musics/Music.htm
- 2. Show the photo of Duch without naming him and ask the students to imagine what his story might be.

Student materials

- 3. Tell the students that this man lives in Cambodia. Situate the country on a world map.
- 4. Introduce Duch briefly.



- 5. Announce the topic of Part 4: The study of the Cambodian genocide and Canada's role in this event.
- 6. Who are the Cambodians? Briefly present the culture and history of Cambodia before the genocide.



It is important that the students understand that the executioners and the victims belonged to the same ethno-cultural group.

Part 4 – Cambodian Genocide Teacher's Guide

Activity 2

Historical examination of the Cambodian Genocide



60 minutes

33 minutes

Objective:

To familiarize students with the history of this genocide, as well as the victims, the executioners, the issues, the methods, etc.



14 + 15

Method:

- Divide the class into groups of four. Give each group a series of documents. The students must analyze the documents to answer pertinent questions. Tell them that their task is to extract information (facts, persons, events) and to put this information into chronological order.
- Once the documents are analyzed, all the groups come together to pool their information. Each team will appoint a spokesperson who will present the part of history that their team discovered in their dossier.
- 3. Viewing of the short documentary Life in the Open Prison

http://museeholocauste.ca/en/secondary-education/exploring-evidence/

This film, made by the high school students of St. George's School of Montreal, presents the genocide and excerpts from the interviews with survivors presently living in Montreal.

Ask the students to identify the information on the genocide found in the film.



14 + 16

- 4. Summary or assessment activity: The students will answer the following questions:
 - What are the main characteristics of the Cambodian genocide?
 - Who are the executioners?
 - · Who are the victims?
 - When did the genocide occur?
 - What ideology led to the genocide? What are the main ideas?
 - Where did the genocide take place?
 - What elements of the social, political, and economic context explain this event?
 - How did the genocide end?

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Analysis of Canada's Intervention

Activity 3

45 minutes

Objective:

To understand Canada's position at the time of the genocide and to learn of the initiatives taken to come to the victims' aid.

Method

1. Assign the activity based on Minister Jacques Couture's letter.



17

- 2. Assign the activity on Canada's intervention in Cambodia.
 - Did Canada know what was happening in Cambodia?



Did Canada have economic interests in Cambodia?



Did Canada have the means to intervene?



8





Even though Cambodia was sealed off from international journalists and other countries, individuals such as Pin Yathay related what was happening in that country. The world was not altogether in the dark.



Prime Minister P.E.
Trudeau was one of the first political leaders to encourage commerce with China, the only country to recognize and to trade with Cambodia. Was that reason enough not to stop the Khmer Rouge?





After the Holocaust, the international community acquired reference documents; namely, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which declare the moral commitment to intervene in order to protect the rights of all people.

Activity 4



1 lesson

Genocidal process

Objective:

To review Stanton's stages of genocide and to analyze the Cambodian genocide in terms of these categories for a comparison with the Holocaust table completed during the museum visit.

Method:

 Divide the class into teams. Assign one stage to each team and ask the students to illustrate each stage, using their knowledge of the Cambodian genocide.



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- 2. Ask a spokesperson for each team to share the results with the class.
- 3. Gather the responses from each team and distribute them to all the students so that each has the same information. This table will be useful in the next section.



Two teams can work on the same theme. Each team must identify two or three elements that illustrate each stage.

Part 5 - Summary

General objective:

This section allows students to exercise their critical judgement with respect to the crime of genocide and the issue of intervention to protect human rights.

Comparison of the Holocaust and the Cambodian genocide, a question of methodology

Objective:

Using the scale of the eight stages of genocide, the students will understand the differences and similarities between the Holocaust and the Cambodian genocide. They will realize that it is possible to recognize genocide when it occurs and how to intervene in order to stop it.



Method:

- Make teams of four and ask them to compare their tables that illustrate the eight stages of genocide in the cases of both the Holocaust and the Cambodian genocide. Ask each team to observe two major differences and two major similarities.
- 2. Ask the students to record the main types of intervention by Canada or its citizens during the two events under study. Ask them to describe the interventions. Were they far-reaching, costly, enduring, effective, etc.?



- 3. Ask the teams to share their results with the whole class and to note the differing responses of other teams.
- 4. Discuss the results.

Activity 1





It is essential that the study of the interventions be critical because, in the end, very little was done to stop the two genocides. Part 5 – Summary Teacher's Guide

Activity 2

Reflection on intervention in the present day



1 lesson

Objective:

To update the reflection on Canada's intervention and on contemporary issues.

Method:

- 1. Ask the students to read the recommendations addressed to the Canadian government, adapted from the report of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies, *Mobilizing the Will to Intervene* and then to answer the pertinent questions.
- 2. Appoint a secretary for each team who will write down the best ideas of the team in response to each question. The team as a whole will select the best ideas.
- 3. Ask a spokesperson to convey the majority opinion of the team with respect to the questions asked in the document.
- 4. If possible, give the students time to write to their government representatives about the contemporary issues that concern them.

BUILD BETTER CITIZENS



From guided tours of our exhibitions to the study of a survivor's story or artefacts, our educational programs focus on the **human experience**.

School curricula across Canada prepare students to become educated, responsible and engaged citizens. Using our tools, invite your students to reflect on citizens' and governments' roles in the face of human rights violations.

Discover all of our educational programs by visiting the **Education** tab at

museeholocauste.ca

