

Yom Hashoah Virtual Commemoration Instructions

Due to COVID-19, we will be unable to gather this year for Yom Hashoah, the annual Holocaust commemoration ceremony, which will be taking place on Tuesday April 21, 2020. The Montreal Holocaust Museum (MHM) has prepared the following toolkit so that you can commemorate Yom Hashoah virtually with your students.

1. MATERIALS:

Teacher's materials:

- Computer with microphone and camera (optional) and internet connection
- Video conference software
- The Montreal Holocaust Museum's *Yom Hashoah Commemoration Slideshow*
- Candles

Students' materials:

- Computer with microphone and camera (optional) and internet connection
- Video conference software
- LED candles (or candles and matches, under adult supervision)

2. COMMEMORATION SLIDESHOW:

- The commemoration has been designed to fit into one 40-minute class period.
- Optional opportunities for student participation are highlighted in the instructions below.
- To share the commemoration slideshow with your students, open the slideshow, then start your video-conference and share your screen.

Slide	Content	Description/Instructions	Duration
1	Introduction to the ceremony	You can display this opening slide while everyone gets connected and prepares for the ceremony.	2'
2	Opening Music	The <i>Partisan Hymn</i> is sung in Yiddish by Montreal survivor Fishel Goldig. It's also the reading featured on slide #4 (in English). <i>Click on the link in the slideshow to access the music. If you want your students to view the accompanying video for this song, you'll need to stop sharing the commemoration slideshow, select the video, then</i>	5'

		<p><i>share your screen again once the video is playing. Once it's finished, you can return to screen-sharing the slideshow.</i></p> <p>Student participation: Ask one or two students to read the introductory notes about the hymn and the singer.</p>	
3	Opening Remarks	You can prepare your own opening remarks, or use the speech provided in the slideshow.	3'
4	Reading	<p>The Partisan Hymn highlights the suffering and death of the Jews during the Holocaust, but also their resistance to Nazi barbarity. It is a song of both pain and hope.</p> <p>Student participation: Ask 4 different students to each read one stanza of the hymn.</p>	5'
5	Testimony	<p>Joseph Cooper's testimony highlights his acts of resistance during the Holocaust.</p> <p><i>Click on the link in the slideshow to listen to the testimony. If you want your students to view the accompanying video, you'll need to stop sharing the commemoration slideshow, then share your screen again once the video is playing. Once it's finished, you can return to screen-sharing the slideshow.</i></p> <p>Student participation: Ask a student to read the survivor's brief biography before watching the testimony.</p>	5'
6	Candle Lighting	<p>The ceremony concludes with 6 candles being lit to commemorate the 6 million Jewish victims of the Holocaust. You can light these candles yourself, or invite students to participate.</p> <p>Student participation: Ask 6 students to each light a candle and share them via the video camera. Alternately, ask your students to each gather 6 candles in advance, which you can then all light simultaneously.</p>	5'
7	End of the Commemoration	This can be a moment of individual reflection for students, or a time to answer their questions. You could also introduce or assign the Extension Activity (below)	5'

3. OPTIONAL EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

These activities have been adapted to both primary and secondary students. All the materials are available for download on the Virtual Commemoration webpage.

Teacher's Materials:

- Extension Activity slideshow (optional) - Primary or Secondary level

Student's Materials:

- Extension Activity worksheet - Primary or Secondary level

Instructions:

There are two options:

1. Have students complete the activities individually by sending them the worksheet. Then, lead a discussion during virtual class time about the work they completed, using the *Extension Activity* slideshow as a reference.
2. Complete the activities virtually as a class, using the *Extension Activity* slideshow to guide discussion.