



Musée Holocauste Montréal  
Montreal Holocaust Museum

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR YOM HASHOAH (Elementary level)

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1. Read Ursula Feist's [biography](#) (p.2-3).
2. Identify one thing that surprised you about her biography.
  
3. Watch Ursula Feist's [video testimony](#).
4. Identify a word/phrase that resonates with you from this testimony excerpt.
  
5. Complete this sentence:  
I'll remember what Ursula Feist said because
  
  
6. To conclude, what question would you like to ask a senior you know to learn more about their story?  
Suggestion: If you can, record the senior telling you their story, so that you can preserve their memories.



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## Ursula Feist's biography

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Ursula Feist was born in 1921 to an assimilated Jewish family in Berlin, Germany. Her father worked in a bank and they lived comfortably until Hitler rose to power. Ursula went to public school, where most of her friends were not Jewish. In 1935, she was expelled because she was Jewish and had to continue her education in a Jewish private school. After finishing elementary school, Ursula attended a commercial college. When she graduated, she found a job at an Italian travel agency, where she worked for 6 months until [Kristallnacht](#).

As the Jews were gradually isolated socially and economically, her father's permit for the stock exchange was revoked and the family experienced financial difficulties. After Kristallnacht, Ursula's father was interned in the Sachsenhausen [concentration camp](#) for 8 weeks. When he was released, he was told that the family had to leave Germany. Through her work at the travel agency, Ursula managed to get tickets to Shanghai for her sister and their parents. They survived the war in Shanghai, albeit under very harsh conditions, interned by the Japanese, along with other refugees from Germany and the occupied German countries. After the war, they immigrated to the United States.

Ursula managed to get on the [Kindertransport](#) in 1939, two weeks before her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was taken in by a Quaker family in the north of England, who treated her as their own daughter. She had an aunt in Birmingham and she went to live with her to train as a nurse. Ursula was also interned for a year on the Isle of Man, where she worked in the camp office. She met her husband, David, through his aunt who was interned with her. David had immigrated to London from Prague in 1938. During the war, he was in the army and in the intelligence corps. They married in 1943 and their first son, Anthony, was born in London in 1948.

They immigrated to Canada in 1951, where their second son, Daniel, was born 3 years later. Ursula worked in the Neurological Hospital, then in the Royal Victoria as administrative assistant to the chief of surgery. Ursula has four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Kristallnacht</b>	(German, literally “Night of Crystal”): Name given to violent attacks (pogrom) against the businesses, places of worship and homes of the Jews throughout Germany and in the annexed countries (Austria and Sudetenland) on November 9 and 10, 1938. The violence was implemented by Nazi leaders. The sound of broken glass explains the name given to the event.
<b>Concentration camp</b>	Any internment camp for holding “enemies of the Third Reich”. The construction of concentration camps began almost immediately after Hitler came to power. Thousands of camps were established during the war.
<b>Kindertransport</b>	(German, literally “children’s transport”): Program developed in Great Britain to rescue Jewish children from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland between 1938 and 1940. About 10,000 unaccompanied children (mostly Jews) were sent to live with host families in England.