



STUDENT WORKBOOK

MUGUETTE MYERS: A CHILDHOOD UNDER THE OCCUPATION | Sound Immersion Activity

ACTIVITY 1: Holocaust History

Based on what you know already and/or after reading the Montreal Holocaust Museum's [History of the Holocaust](#) page, answer the questions below.

- What was the Holocaust?

- When and where did the Holocaust take place?

- Who was persecuted and killed?

- Who were the Nazis?

ACTIVITY 2: The Holocaust in France

Read the article below and complete the chart on page 3 by finding the relevant information in the article.

After the Revolution of 1789, France was the first European country to emancipate Jews (i.e., provide them with equal rights). Despite periodic resurgences of antisemitism¹, France was one of the most attractive countries for European Jews fleeing persecution. By 1939, about half of the 330,000 Jews who lived in France were recent refugees from elsewhere in Europe.

France was invaded by German troops in the spring of 1940. After a few weeks of fighting, an armistice was signed on June 22. According to the treaty, Germany annexed Alsace and Moselle, and occupied the north of France. The south, which remained unoccupied, was administered by a new French government headed by Marshal Pétain, who settled in Vichy. He established an authoritarian regime and collaborated² with Germany.

In the fall of 1940, the Vichy government established anti-Jewish legislation nearly identical to that put in place in German-occupied France. Jews were excluded from public life, administration and the army, and could no longer practice liberal professions or work in commerce and industry. In July 1941, the government also put in place a vast “aryanization³” program by which all Jewish goods became property of the French state.

On May 29, 1942, the German authorities made it compulsory for Jews to wear a yellow star within the occupied zone. Deportations to concentration camps and killing centres started shortly thereafter. During the summer of 1942, the Germans and the French police began rounding up⁴ and arresting Jews in the occupied and unoccupied zones. Most of the Jews who were arrested and deported were foreign Jews. However, after the German invasion of the unoccupied zone in November 1942, French Jews were also deported.

In total, about 77,000 Jews living in France died in concentration camps, killing centres (the vast majority were killed in Auschwitz-Birkenau), or detention centres on French territory. One third of these victims were French citizens.

Text adapted by the Montreal Holocaust Museum

Source: Paul Webster, “The Vichy Policy on Jewish Deportation” (2011):

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/genocide/jewish_deportation_01.shtml#two:

and a USHMM article about France: <https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/fr/article.php?ModuleId=129>

¹ Antisemitism: A hostile and discriminatory doctrine and attitude towards Jews. A specific form of racism that targets Jews.

² To collaborate: To cooperate with the Nazi regime by promoting and enforcing anti-Jewish legislation, by arresting and/or by deporting and assassinating Jews.

³ Aryanization: Transfer of Jewish-owned property to so-called “Aryans.” The Nazis falsely claimed that their the German people belonged to the “Aryan race,” which was considered genetically superior to all other racial groups. For the Nazis, the typical Aryan was tall and blond with blue eyes.

⁴ Roundup: Massive arrest of Jews in order to deport them to killing centres.

ACTIVITY 3: Muguette Myers: A Childhood Under the Occupation

MUGUETTE MYERS

A CHILDHOOD UNDER THE OCCUPATION



Québec

Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum



MUGUETTE



YELLOW STAR



FAMILY



PARIS

Champlost

ID CARD



PASSPORT



DOWNLOAD
THE SPOKEN
ADVENTURES APP

SAY
THE KEYWORDS
FOUND ON THIS POSTER

DISCOVER
THE STORY OF MUGUETTE,
A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

STUDENT WORKBOOK

After looking closely at the poster on page 4, fill in the chart below.

| What does the poster tell me about Muguette Myers? | What would I like to learn about Muguette Myers? |
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After listening to the sound app, answer the questions below.

TIP: To ensure smooth interactions with the sound app, wait for the sound of the little bell, then speak clearly and slowly into the microphone.

Keyword 1: _____

- What did you learn about Muguette and her childhood?

Keyword 2: _____

- What country were Muguette's parents originally from?

- What language did her parents and grandparents speak?

- Why did her family immigrate to France?

Keyword 3: _____

- What was the purpose of the yellow star?

- What happened to Muguette and her family during the roundups of July 1942?

Keyword 4: _____

- What did resistance mean during the Holocaust?

- Describe an example of resistance that Muguette speaks about in her testimony.

- What did collaboration mean during the Holocaust?

- If you listened to the story about the village’s mayor, describe the story of collaboration that Muguetta talks about in her testimony.

Keyword 5: _____

- What message does Muguetta want to share by telling her story?
