

Sharon remembers Holocaust (Fri 28 Jan)

WARM UPS

1. CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about WWII / Nazism / Auschwitz / concentration camps / Anti-Semitism / Jewish people / Israel / racism / civilization / never forgetting ... Change topic / partner frequently to energize the class.

2. EVIL IS REAL: US Vice President Dick Cheney said, "The story of the camps remind us that evil is real and must be called by its name and must be confronted." Talk in pairs / groups about the evil and horror that still exists in the world today, and why evil does not disappear.

3. ANTI-SEMITISM: British Prime Minister reminding the world, "we must remember above all that the holocaust did not start with a concentration camp. It started with a brick through the shop window of a Jewish business, the desecration of a Synagogue, the shout of racist abuse on the street." Talk about this comment, and about the racism that exists around you today. How do we eradicate Anti-Semitism and other forms of racism?

4. WHY JEWS?: One thing the writer of this material has never understood is why Jews have been persecuted throughout history. Students discuss this. Write on the board the following reminders of just a few injustices: the Christian Roman Empire, the medieval Crusades, the Spanish Inquisition, the Russian Pogroms, Nazism and the 'Final Solution'. (For more background for this activity, go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution_of_the_Jews).

5. OPINIONS: Discuss the following with your partner / group. Find out which are the most commonly held opinions:

- (a) Evil will never disappear.
- (b) Another Holocaust will happen.
- (c) Israel is a monument to the human spirit.
- (d) The Holocaust should be taught in every school in the world..
- (e) The world should also have a day of remembrance for the far greater number of African slaves murdered in times of Slavery.
- (f) The world has forgotten the Holocaust because it allowed Rwanda and Kosovo to happen.
- (g) One day we will treat everyone equally.
- (h) Religion is the cause of the world's wars and problems.
- (i) Everyone has racist feelings. Everyone has one ethnic group they hold negative feelings towards.

PRE READING EXERCISES

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries, or a search engine, to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'anniversary' and 'remember'.

TRUE / FALSE: Predict from the headline whether these statements are true or false:

- (a) The world marked the 80th anniversary of the Holocaust yesterday (today). T / F
- (b) Six million tragic souls lost their lives in the Holocaust. T / F
- (c) A great evil befell the Jewish people at the hands of the Nazis during World War Two. T / F
- (d) America, Britain and the allies did nothing to stop 6,000,000 Jews from being murdered in concentration camps. T / F
- (e) The American and British armies did everything in their power to deal with the problem of the annihilation of Jews. T / F
- (f) The state of Israel provides a safe haven for any Jew around the world. T / F
- (g) Israel has many friends it can rely on. T / F
- (h) Anti-Semitism has disappeared today. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| (a) trust | scolded |
| (b) marked | |
| (c) tragic | commemorated |
| (d) at the hands of | protect |
| (e) somber | catastrophic |
| (f) admonished | give up / quit |
| (g) annihilation | believe |
| (h) defend | by |
| (i) surrender | sad |
| (j) rely | obliteration |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases based on the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| (a) we can trust no-one but | a threat |
| (b) the world marked the 60th | the Nazis |
| (c) the six million tragic souls who lost | anniversary of the Holocaust |
| (d) at the hands of | dealing with the situation |
| (e) the world did nothing to | power |
| (f) no one cared | haven |
| (g) did everything in their | ourselves |
| (h) to avoid | prevent it |
| (i) safe | that Jews were being murdered |
| (j) evil still poses | their lives |

GAP FILL

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BNE: "We know we can _____ no-one but ourselves." These are the words of Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as Israel and the world marked the 60th anniversary of the Holocaust and the six million tragic _____ who lost their lives in it. Leaders from all around the world gathered at the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland to remember the horror and evil that _____ the Jewish people at the hands of the Nazis during World War Two. In Israel itself the day is one of reflection, with no special commemorative events. Mr. Sharon gave a somber speech in his parliament. His solemn, yet powerful words reminded his people of the _____ that six million Jews were murdered during the Holocaust and the world did nothing to prevent it. "The sad and horrible conclusion is that no one cared that Jews were being murdered ... This is the Jewish lesson of the Holocaust and this is the lesson which Auschwitz taught us." He admonished the ' _____ ' world, saying, "The allies knew of the annihilation of the Jews. They knew and did nothing, ... did everything in their power to _____ dealing with the problem." His reminder to Israelis and Jews is that history has taught them the lesson that still strongly exists today, that Jews can only rely on themselves for protection. "The state of Israel learned this lesson and since its _____, it has done its utmost to defend itself and its citizens, and provide a safe haven for any Jew, wherever he may be. We know that we can trust no one but ourselves. ... We must always remember that this is the only place in the world in which we, the Jews, have the _____ and the power to defend ourselves with our own strength, this we will never surrender. ... The lesson is that we cannot _____ on anyone but ourselves." He warned of the continuing Anti-Semitism around the world, "Sixty years after the liberation of Auschwitz, the evil that begat the horror still _____, and still poses a threat."

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DISCUSSION: Ask each other the following questions:

- (a) What does Auschwitz mean to you?
- (b) How much do you know about the Holocaust?
- (c) How much do you know about Nazism?
- (d) How much do you know about Anti-Semitism?
- (e) Is your country a racist place?
- (f) Do you hold any racist feelings towards other people?
- (g) Will the world remember the lesson of the Holocaust?
- (h) Have you ever seen movies of the Holocaust, for example *Schindler's List*, or *The Piano Player*?
- (i) Has anything evil ever happened to your country or people?
- (j) What is your image of Israel?
- (k) Do you think we'll all love each other one day?
- (l) Should all schoolchildren learn about the Holocaust?
- (m) Why are people evil?
- (n) Why is Anti-Semitism still so prevalent in the world?
- (o) Teacher / Student additional questions

INTERNET / WEB LINKS:

Visit the online Auschwitz Museum:

<http://www.auschwitz-museum.oswiecim.pl/html/eng/start/index.php>

For an overview of 2000 years persecution of the Jewish people

http://www.religioustolerance.org/jud_pers.htm

For information on everything Jewish:

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/>

Israeli newspaper:

<http://www.jpost.com/>

Read world opinions, or post yours, on Auschwitz:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/talking_point/4205319.stm

Read what world leaders said at Auschwitz yesterday (today) and look at news videos:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/europe/01/27/auschwitz.quotes.reut/>

For a list of other concentration camps:

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/cclist.html>

Learn about Israel at the Israel Museum:

<http://www.imj.org.il/>

An active anti-Semitism site:

<http://www.antisemitism.org.il/frontend/english/index.htm>

World Genocides:

<http://www.scaruffi.com/politics/dictat.html>

HOMEWORK

HOLOCAUST POSTER: Create a poster about the horror of Auschwitz.

LETTER TO ANNE FRANKE: Write a letter to Anne Franke telling her about the world today.

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