

Performance Task #2: Remembering the Holocaust & Fighting Anti-Semitism

Student prompt: Today you will be gathering information and evidence that you will use to help you form an opinion on this topic: *What can our community do to honor and remember those who died in the Holocaust while ensuring that something similar never happens again?*

Make sure that you view all available information sources. Utilize the handout provided to you by your teacher to keep track of evidence and information you gather from the sources.

Given the sensitive nature of this topic, please be respectful and conscious of the words you use.

Information Sources:

Source 1: [For Anne Frank's Tree, 11 New Places to Bloom](http://tinyurl.com/zt7rumx) (<http://tinyurl.com/zt7rumx>) ***printed text - included below***

Source 2: [The World is Full of Holocaust Deniers](http://tinyurl.com/mf98b9o) (<http://tinyurl.com/mf98b9o>) ***printed text with charts - included below***

Source 3: [Bedford Schools Dealing With Several Anti-Semitic Incidents](http://tinyurl.com/zmp98jw) (<http://tinyurl.com/zmp98jw>) ***video***

Source 4: [Miep and the Freedom Writers](http://tinyurl.com/z33qqk5) (<http://tinyurl.com/z33qqk5>) ***video – you might preface this clip by explaining a bit about the movie and who Miep Gies is if students are unaware)***

For Anne Frank's Tree, 11 New Places to Bloom

By Joseph Berger, *New York Times*, Oct. 15, 2009

Through saplings descended from the majestic horse chestnut tree that gave her so much pleasure in her bleak hideout, Anne Frank will soon have her story joined with that of the Little Rock Nine — the black students who integrated an Arkansas high school under the guard of 1,200 soldiers in 1957.

The school, Little Rock Central High School, is one of 11 sites dedicated to fighting intolerance that have been chosen by the Anne Frank Center USA in Lower Manhattan as the destination for saplings that originated from the tree in Amsterdam, now 150 years old. Anne often marveled as it changed through the seasons, blooming flamboyantly, then slowly losing its leaves, outside the small office building at 263 Prinsengracht where she and her family were hidden during the Nazi occupation. It was one of the few things she could glimpse for those two years.

“From my favorite spot on the floor I look up at the blue sky and the bare chestnut tree, on whose branches little raindrops shine, appearing like silver, and at the sea gulls and other birds as they glide on the wind,” she wrote in her diary on Feb. 23, 1944, six months before her hideout was discovered. “When I looked outside right into the depth of nature and God, then I was happy, really happy.”



The horse chestnut tree that Anne Frank gazed upon, seen in 2008, is battling a lethal fungus. Credit Evert Elzinga/Associated Press

She died of typhus at 15 in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

With the horse chestnut reaching the end of its life, the Anne Frank Center announced in April that it would take applications from institutions that wanted a derivative sapling. Thirty-four applied, though three — the White House, the World Trade Center site in New York and the Children's Museum of Indianapolis — were chosen ahead of time.

The Indianapolis museum, in its “Power of Children” exhibition, already honors Anne as well as Ryan White, the hemophiliac Indiana teenager expelled from school for being infected with H.I.V., and Ruby Bridges, perhaps the first black child to integrate a white elementary school in the segregated South.

In Little Rock, the sapling will be placed between two trees that were there in 1957. John Allen Riggins, the Little Rock senior who initiated his school's application, said he was spurred to try to bring the

sapling over because “we don’t often see the immediate impact that young people have on social issues.”

“It’s really moving that they shared that common bond,” he said of Anne and the Little Rock Nine. “Even thousands of miles across the world, it was the same idea.”

The saplings are currently in a nursery outside Amsterdam and will be shipped to the United States before year’s end, said Yvonne Simons, executive director of the Anne Frank Center. They will be quarantined for two years to make sure they do not carry certain plant diseases.

Ms. Simons said the 11 sites were chosen largely because they showed “the consequences of intolerance — and that includes racism, discrimination and hatred.”



*Miss Frank mentioned the tree several times in her diary.
Credit Agence France-Presse*

Among the other sites are Holocaust centers in Seattle; Farmington Hills, Mich.; Sonoma State University in California, whose exhibit was created by an Auschwitz survivor who attended school with Anne; and Boise, Idaho, whose statue of Anne was vandalized by a white supremacist group.

The other sites are:

The William J. Clinton Foundation in Little Rock, home of the former president’s library, which was chosen, the Anne Frank Center said, because of Mr. Clinton’s and the foundation’s commitment to social justice.

Boston Common, which has monuments to liberty; an 11-year-old researching what project she might undertake for her bat mitzvah asked Boston’s mayor, Thomas M. Menino, to ask for the sapling.

The Southern Cayuga Central School District in upstate New York, which based its case on nearby landmarks like Seneca Falls, regarded as the birthplace of the women’s rights movement.

The White House, Ms. Simons said, has not yet made a firm decision about accepting the sapling, though the chief groundskeeper indicated that there should be no problem.

The World Is Full of Holocaust Deniers

By Emma Green, *The Atlantic*, May 14, 2014

A new survey suggests that many Asians, Africans, Middle Easterners, young people, Muslims, and Hindus believe that facts about the genocide have been distorted.



Child survivors photographed at Auschwitz in 1945. Wikimedia

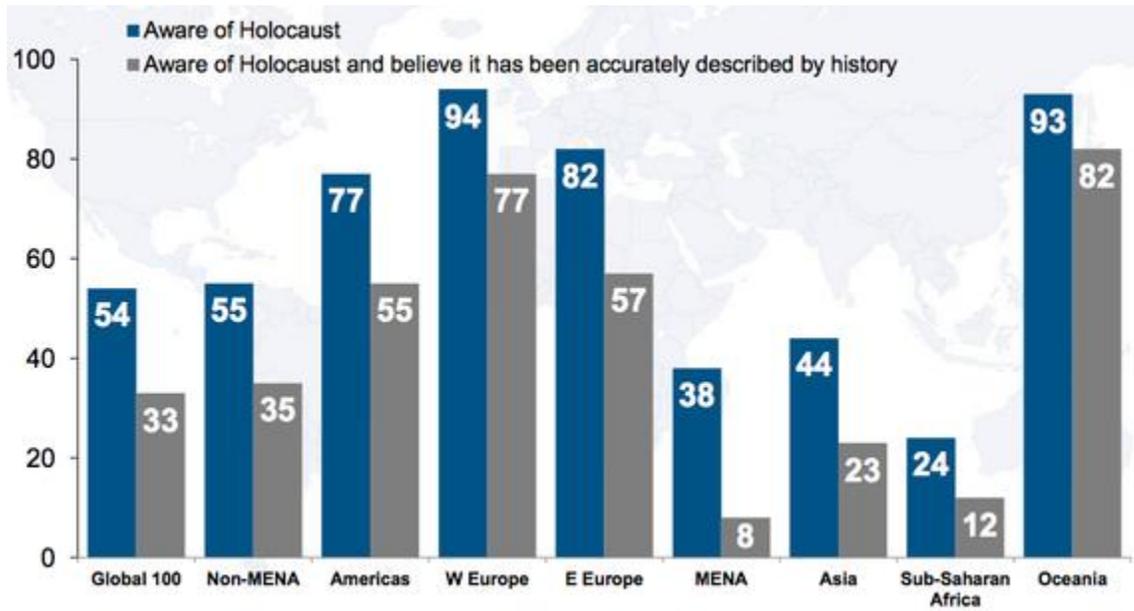
Only 54 percent of the world's population has heard of the Holocaust.

54 percent.

This is the most staggering statistic in a new survey by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of more than 53,000 people in over 100 countries, conducted by First International Resources. But that figure speaks to only those who have heard of it: Only a third of the world's population believe the genocide has been accurately described in historical accounts. Some said they thought the number of people who died has been exaggerated; others said they believe it's a myth. Thirty percent of respondents said it's probably true that "Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust."

Seventy years after the liberation of Auschwitz, two-thirds of the world's population don't know the Holocaust happened—or they deny it.

These beliefs follow some unexpected patterns, too. The Middle East and North Africa had the largest percentage of doubters, with only 8 percent of respondents reporting that they had heard of the genocide and believed descriptions of it were accurate. But only 12 percent of respondents in sub-Saharan Africa said the same, and only 23 percent in Asia. People in these groups were likely to say they believed the number of deaths has been exaggerated—just over half of Middle Easterners and a third of Asians and Africans think the body count has been distorted over time.

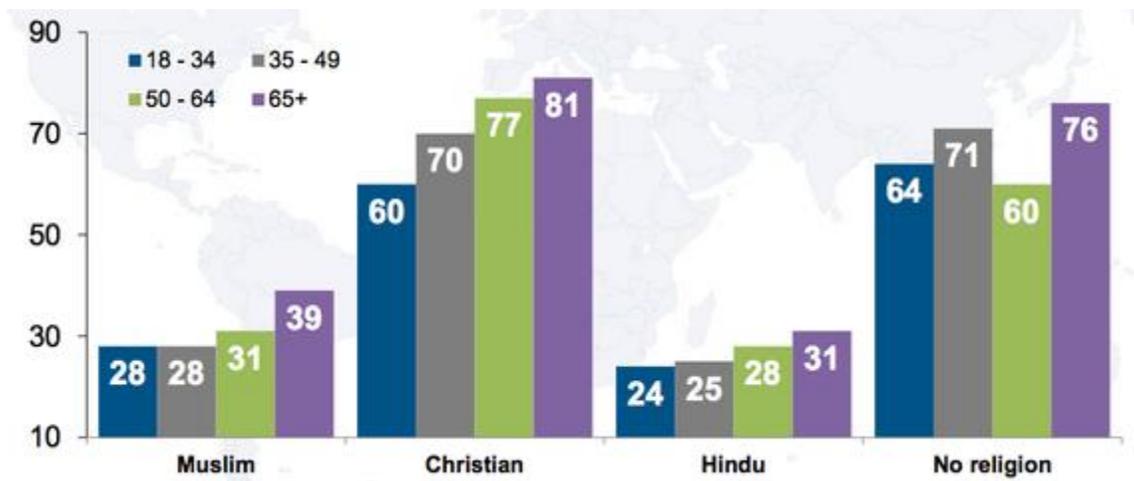


Anti-Defamation League

When the data is sliced by religious groups, the results are even more surprising: Hindus were most likely to believe that the number of Holocaust deaths has been exaggerated. Muslims followed closely, and those two groups were distantly trailed by Christians, Buddhists, and those with no religion. In no coincidence, Hindus and Muslims were also significantly less likely to have heard of the Holocaust.

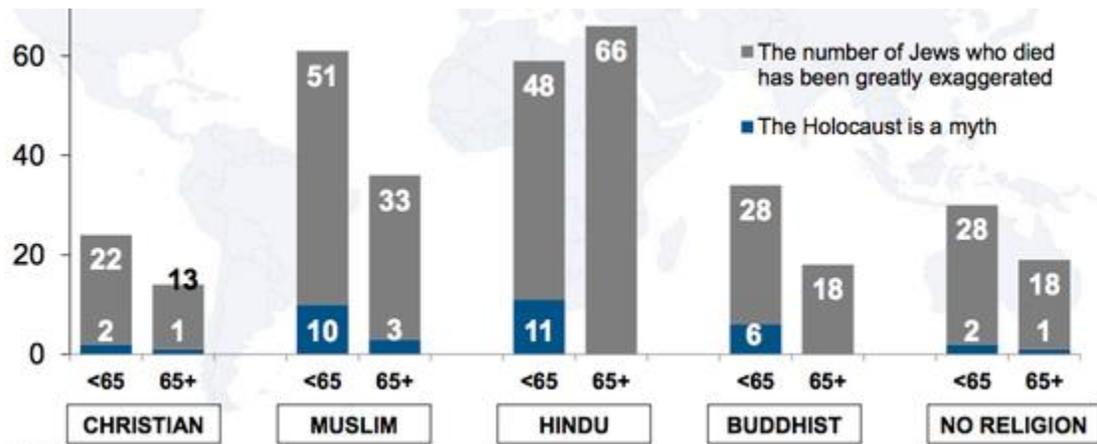
In almost every religious group, people younger than 65 were much more likely to say they believe that facts about the Holocaust have been distorted, and they were less likely to know what the Holocaust is.

Percent Who Have Heard of the Holocaust



Anti-Defamation League

Percent of Who Believe Facts About the Holocaust Have Been Distorted, by Age and Religious Group



Anti-Defamation League

The report by the ADL, a Jewish NGO that campaigns against anti-Semitism and discrimination, also covers the prevalence of other anti-Semitic attitudes, including beliefs about Jews' allegiance to Israel, influence in media and business, and likeability. Although the prevalence of Holocaust ignorance and denial was just one small aspect of the survey, it illuminates a powerful fact: As the memory of the genocide grows fainter, attitudes toward Jews—and Israel—are changing. The fate of the Jewish people in the twentieth century was largely centered around the Holocaust: the anti-Semitism that facilitated it, the loss it wrought, and the reflection it prompted. As that history becomes more distant, it's unclear what will animate the Jewish community—and attitudes toward it—moving forward.

Depressingly, the study does hint at the way most people get their information about Jews and the Holocaust today:

