

# ACTIVITY FACTSHEET

## PART ONE



### TITLE

Preparing to Visit Auschwitz-Birkenau

### ENQUIRY QUESTION

How do I prepare students for a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau?

### SHORT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this 90-minute workshop is to prepare students for their visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau. They receive background information on Auschwitz-Birkenau and the symbol that it has become for the Holocaust. Discuss what they can expect to see when they visit and the potential emotional reactions they will have and how to cope with them. It is a balance of teacher and student-centred approaches to learning, with instruction from the facilitator and group work. We use a mix of primary and secondary sources through video, photographs and personal testimonies which the students analyze and interpret in order to help them prepare for their visit. We encourage students to keep a field diary during their visit to Auschwitz and Krakow to help them reflect upon their emotions and reactions to the site which can be discussed on their return.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

- Learn about Auschwitz-Birkenau and why it is an important symbol of the Holocaust
- Learn about the potential emotional responses and how to cope with them
- Learn about appropriate behaviour when visiting Auschwitz Birkenau

## KEYWORDS

- Remembrance education and/or history education
- Citizenship/democracy education
- Antisemitism
- Racism
- Study Visit
- Human rights/discrimination
- Radicalization prevention
- The Holocaust and/or other genocides
- Preparation
- Sites of memorialisation
- Critical thinking

## TEACHING CHALLENGES

X	Making the past relevant		Multiperspectivity
	Remembrance Education in post-conflict settings	X	Using primary sources
	Culturally diverse history classrooms	X	Using secondary sources
	Alternative and competing narratives		Use of role play
X	Promotion of a safe learning environment	X	Use of video testimonies
X	Preparation of a visit to a remembrance site		Engaging professionals who

## DEVELOPED SKILLS RELATING TO HISTORICAL THINKING

X	Applying knowledge of the past		Change and continuity
X	Analysis of historical sources	X	Chronological understanding
X	Historical interpretations	X	Historical significance
	Cause and consequence	X	Presenting the past
	Promotion of a safe learning environment		Use of video testimonies
	Preparation of a visit to a remembrance site		Engaging professionals who

## PART TWO

### INDICATIVE AGE

Age of the students who you expect to work with

The Auschwitz Memorial Museum recommends students under the age of 14 years do not visit the camp. This workshop is aimed at students aged 14 years and older.

**PRIOR  
KNOWLEDGE  
REQUIRED FROM  
STUDENTS**

It is useful if students have already learned about the Holocaust as part of the school curriculum.

**APPROXIMATE TIME**

This workshop takes approx. 90-mins in total. If the group are very engaged the workshop can take a bit longer, up to approx. 2-hours

## PART THREE

**TEACHER  
MATERIALS**

1: Learning from the Holocaust - Preparing for the visit - [https://www.euroclio.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/29550b\\_HETI-Visit-1.pdf](https://www.euroclio.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/29550b_HETI-Visit-1.pdf)

2: Learning from the Holocaust - Reflecting on the visit - [https://www.euroclio.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/29550a\\_HETI-Leave-1.pdf](https://www.euroclio.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/29550a_HETI-Leave-1.pdf)

**ONLINE  
MATERIALS**

Title: Encountering Auschwitz  
URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1SzuCBVPPZc>

Title: The Auschwitz Album  
URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATQp8rFXRkg>  
[https://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/album\\_auschwitz/arrival.asp](https://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/album_auschwitz/arrival.asp)

Title: Objects: They Were Just Like Us  
URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXIAZSrAlJM>

Title: European pack for visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum, Polish Ministry of Education, Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and Council of Europe; 2010: Council of Europe Publishing  
URL: <http://auschwitz.org/en/education/resources-for-teachers/how-to-prepare-students-for-visits-to-the-auschwitz-memorial/>

# PART FOUR

## AUTHORS

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## LICENSE

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## MORE HELP

(Where can a teacher get more help with this activity?)

Memorial and Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau have published an extensive resource about preparing students to visit Auschwitz Birkenau. USHMM have an online encyclopaedia detailing all aspects of the Holocaust and is useful for background information or for further testimonies from survivors.

Yad Vashem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum