

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY

Biography

Elie Wiesel was born in a small Romanian village in 1928; at the age of sixteen he and his family were deported to the Jewish concentration camp run by Nazi forces at Auschwitz. After being liberated by Allied forces in 1945, he moved to France and began to work in journalism. In 1958 his landmark book *Night* was published; it records his experience as a young Jewish man during World War II. Wiesel has remained active in Jewish politics around the world; his work has been central to promoting remembrance of the horrors of Holocaust. He became a U.S. citizen in 1963.

What is Mr. Wiesel's profession? (circle your answer or answers)

- A. Politician
- B. Business professional
- C. Activist
- D. Author

Answers:
C & D – Mr. Wiesel is an Author and an Activist.

Vocabulary

Concentration Camp: A camp established in Nazi Germany to which Jews, Slavic peoples, homosexuals, and the disabled were confined

Genocide: The deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, cultural, or political group

Have there been other cases of genocide in history?



1.



2.



3.



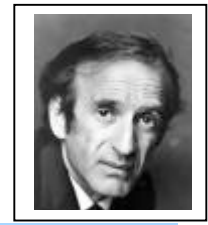
4.

Can you identify the images above?

1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

Answers:
1. World Map 2. Europe (with Romania in orange) 3. Romania 4. Romanian Flag

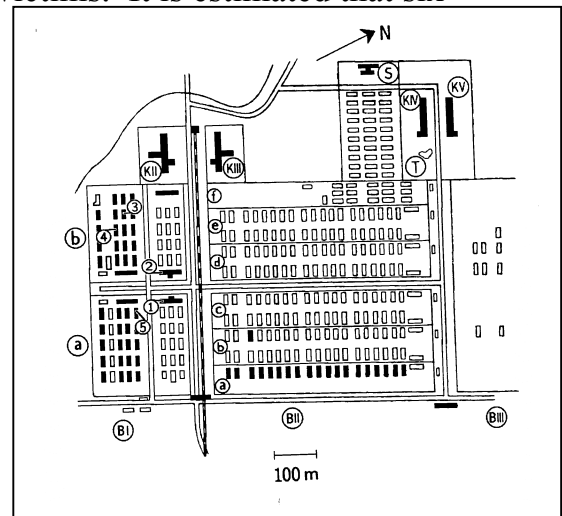


POST-VISIT ACTIVITY

Anti-Semitism was common in Europe in the 1920s and 1930s. Adherents of Nazism believed that the German state and the “Aryan” race were superior to other races. Jews and communists became the scapegoats for those invested in an idea of superiority that accompanied the belief in using military power to achieve goals.

Two types of concentration camps began to be established in Nazi controlled areas: labor camps (established beginning when the Nazis officially rose to power in 1933) and extermination camps. Many people died of starvation and fatigue in labor camps, but those held in extermination camps were murdered on large scales using gas chambers and other methods. Although Nazis targeted many groups deemed “undesirable,” the Jews of Europe were their main victims. It is estimated that six million Jews were killed during a campaign of genocide known as the Holocaust, lasting from 1941 until the Nazi defeat by Allied forces in 1945. Referred to as “the Final Solution to the Jewish question,” the German state established a process of destruction that used all the technology and resources at their disposal.

The Holocaust and its aftermath left millions of refugees who often faced anti-Semitism in their home countries. The need to find a homeland for these refugees fueled the Zionist movement. Many Jews moved to Palestine in the Middle East; this had great influence upon the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 by recommendation of the United Nations.



Vocabulary

Anti-Semitism: Prejudice or discrimination against those of Jewish faith or ethnicity

Zionism: An international movement originally for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine; currently Zionism is a movement in support of the Jewish state of Israel

Can you name the members of the Allied forces that fought against the Nazi Germany in World War II?

The image above is the concentration camp at Auschwitz showing bunkers and other buildings. Can you get an idea of how extensive the camp was from looking at the map?
