

INSTRUCTIONS: For each scene in the virtual field trip, answer the questions below.

HALL OF WITNESS

1. The Museum's architect used structures and materials from Holocaust sites - including former camps - as inspiration for the Museum's design. What building materials and structures do you see in this Hall?
2. Does this space remind you of any buildings or places you've seen? How does it make you feel?
3. What does the architecture suggest your Museum experience will be like? Does it remind you of anything you've studied or experienced?

THE JEWS OF EJSZYSZKI AND THE HOLOCAUST

1. How many Jews were killed in the Holocaust?
2. Which photos are you drawn to and why? How would you describe the people of Ejszyszki?
3. Hundreds of years of Jewish civilization was annihilated during the Holocaust. How does getting a glimpse of life in one community help visitors understand the human losses?

KRISTALLNACHT: THE NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS

1. What was Kristallnacht?
2. Examine what the Nazis and their collaborators destroyed on Kristallnacht. How were these things important to the Jewish community? What message did their destruction convey?
3. How do the photographs and artifacts displayed in the Museum illustrate what had changed for Jews in Germany as a result of Kristallnacht?

GHETTOS: CONCENTRATION AND ISOLATION

1. What were Nazi ghettos?
2. Why did the Nazis create a system of ghettos? What function did the ghettos serve?
3. What do the artifacts and photographs in the Museum reveal about life, death and survival in the ghettos?

THE RAILCAR: DEPORTATION TO THE KILLING CENTERS

1. How do the railcar and historical photographs help visitors learn about the experiences of deportees? What were conditions like during deportations?
2. How were rail lines an important part of the process by which the Nazis and their collaborators annihilated European Jewry?
3. Countless people participated in the confiscation and auctioning of Jewish property, as well as the arrest and transport of millions to camps. Do they bear any responsibility for the Holocaust?

THE BARRACKS: CONDITIONS IN THE CAMPS

1. How do the artifacts and photos displayed here depict conditions in the camps?
2. How were concentration camps different from ghettos?
3. What factors made it difficult for people to survive or escape from camps?

“FINAL SOLUTION”: KILLING CENTERS AND GAS CHAMBERS

1. The Nazis often deceived people to get them to do what they wanted. How did they deceive Jews into entering the gas chambers?
2. Look closely at the model. What would have discouraged people from attempting to resist or escape?
3. Look closely at the model. The artist carefully sculpted each person as an individual with their own story. What effect does this have? Why do you think he did this?

HALL OF REMEMBRANCE

1. How does the Museum memorialize victims of the Holocaust in this space?
2. Holocaust Survivor, Elie Wiesel, called the Museum a “living memorial,” warning, “a memorial unresponsive to the future would violate the memory of the past.” What does that mean to you?
3. Why is it important for visitors to glimpse monuments to American democracy from the Hall of Remembrance?

CONSERVATION LAB: RESCUING THE EVIDENCE

1. Why is it important to preserve collections related to the Holocaust? Why is it important to preserve the stories that go with the artifacts as well as the artifacts themselves?
2. Many documents, photographs, and artifacts are of significance to individuals and their families. Why would it be important for the Museum to house them instead of remaining in people's homes?
3. What can we learn from this collection about the challenges facing Jewish refugees trying to flee Nazi Germany in the late 1930s?