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## *Children in the Ghetto*

### *For Grades 4 to 5*

*This lesson plan was developed by Deborah Fripp for the Teach the Shoah Foundation based on the plans produced by Yad Vashem for their interactive street.*

*Objective:* "To expose students to the Holocaust in a way that is suitable for them both emotionally and cognitively." (*Yad Vashem, Children in the Ghetto Lesson Plans*)

*Estimated time:* 15 to 30 min per class (*depending on student interest*), for 6 to 8 classes

### *Essential questions:*

- What was life like for children living in the ghetto?

### *Essential lessons:*

- Life in the ghetto was difficult and different from normal life. However, Jews in the ghetto continued to educate their children and celebrate their holidays.

### *Materials:*

- A computer with an internet connection. Flash player must be allowed on the site in order for the street to work.
- (Optional) A projector to project the street on the wall.

### *Procedure:*

- Go to <http://ghetto.galim.org.il/eng/street.html> (be sure flash player is enabled)
- Let the students drive the computer.
  - Pick one student per week to be in control. Allow them to pick one icon or highlighted area of the street to click on.
  - If you have time to do more than one area, allow a different student to pick.
- Have the students work together through the readings and activities in each section.
- Spend some time discussing what they learned.
- *Some notes:*
  - *Some of the sections have interviews with survivors. These can be difficult to follow as they are often either not in English or the English is broken. They are subtitled but the subtitles can be difficult to keep up with.*
  - *Activities with pictures to which the students can relate are particularly good. E.g. Students may consider what it would be like to have to live in one room. Be careful not to try to get the students to imagine what life in the ghetto was like in a more general sense, however, as that could be traumatic.*



*For more specifics:*

- Specific lesson plans with step-by-step instructions and worksheets, can be found from Yad Vashem for several sections of the street (*Closure and isolation; Grownup children; Children's life in the ghetto; and Religion and tradition in the ghetto*). Go to <http://ghetto.galim.org.il/eng/about/lessons.html#lessonPlans>.

*ISJL Note:*

- If you are using the ISJL curriculum, we recommend you use this in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and *Circles* in 4<sup>th</sup>. This is primarily because *Circles* is a particularly good match for the ISJL 4<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum.

*Notes on staying age-appropriate:*

- Never ask the students to think about what they would do in if they were in the ghetto. Ask instead what they think the children on the street did.
- Be sure to stay within the children's normal attention span and not try to do too much each week.