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**The Devil's Arithmetic by Jane Yolen**

**Online Research Project**

 In The Devil's Arithmetic, New Yorker Hannah Stern travels back in time to Poland during World War II. At the beginning of the story, Hannah doesn't see the importance of honoring the traditions of her family's Jewish religion or remembering the history of the Holocaust. The horrors of the Nazi concentration camps mean little to her, even though her own grandfather is a survivor of the camps. During the course of the novel, Hannah's life is changed forever as she experiences World War II as Chaya, a young Jewish girl who is sent to one of the Nazi concentration camps.

 In this activity, you will use online sources to gather information and gain insight into what it was like to live as a Jewish person or other victim of the Nazis. You will learn basic facts about the Holocaust, view historical photographs, and learn about inspirational children and adults who lived and died during this time. First, type the following URL into your address bar to visit The Devil's Arithmetic research website: [devilsarithmeticresearch.weebly.com](http://devilsarithmeticresearch.weebly.com/). Once you are at the site, follow the directions for each section to guide your research.

**Part I: Introduction to the Holocaust**

Read the "Introduction to the Holocaust" article to answer the following questions.

1. What does the word Holocaust mean? Briefly summarize the Holocaust of World War II. (Who was in power? Who were the victims?)

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2. Hitler's goal was to eliminate all types of people who were not "racially pure" or who posed a threat to Nazi power because of their beliefs. The millions of victims of the Nazis included groups other than the Jewish people. List at least three other groups mentioned in this article. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. We are able to prove many of the events of the Holocaust by using primary sources such as photographs, films, and other artifacts. To gain an understanding of some of the artifacts that are studied and preserved by museums, click on the "View Artifacts" link on the right. Browse the artifacts and choose two different items that are interesting to you. Record your choices in the chart.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Artifact Description** |  **Artifact Sketch** | **Why I chose this artifact** |
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**Part II: Children of the Holocaust**

Over one and a half million innocent children suffered in concentration camps and were killed by the Nazis. Choose three children to read about on this website and briefly summarize their experiences in your own words by using the biographical information given.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name: | Birthdate: | Location: |
| Biographical information: |

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| Name: | Birthdate: | Location: |
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**Part III: The Auschwitz Album**

Read the introduction, then view the photos in the album and read the captions at the bottom of each page. You may view the multimedia section as well.

1. What was the selection process faced by prisoners when they first arrived at Auschwitz-Birkenau? (What two fates awaited the people who were brought to the camps?)

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2. Which people were most frequently killed first as a result of being judged "unfit for work" by Nazi prison guards? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was done with the possessions of the people once they were imprisoned? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Write one question or observation you have about the photos and information on The Auschwitz Album website. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Part IV: Holocaust Children's Art**

Out of the approximately 15,000 children taken to Terezin, only 132 are known to have survived. The art created by these children was hidden and saved after the war. Today these historical works of art are preserved by museums and many have been published in books, such as Fireflies in the Dark: The Story of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis and the Children of Terezin by Susan Goldman Rubin. Read about Terezin and view the artwork of the children who were imprisoned there. Now connect their experiences to those of Hannah/Chaya in the book. What do you think she would draw? Illustrate and explain an event in the book from her perspective.

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**Part V: Hana's Story**

1. Who is Fumiko Ishioka and how has she contributed to preserving the history of Holocaust victims and survivors? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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2. Although Hana Brady did not survive Auschwitz, her brother George did. You can hear his answers to questions about the Holocaust on the FAQ page. Choose at least three questions to hear his answers and paraphrase his responses in your own words.

Question: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

George's answer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Question: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

George's answer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Question: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

George's answer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Extension: If you click on the suitcase, there is an interactive activity designed to help you discover more about the contents and story of Hana's Suitcase. If you find the interactive loads too slowly you may skip this section and may choose to try it on another computer with a faster connection.

**Part VI: Six Million Lives Remembered: The Paper Clips Project**

1. Read the information and view the videos on this site. How did the students use paper clips to memorialize Holocaust victims? What is the historical significance of the paper clip? If you were to develop a similar project, what might you do to help people understand how many lives were lost? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Part VII: Race: The Power of An Illusion**

Although Hitler's Nazi party was eventually defeated, racism, prejudice and genocide are still problems in our world today. Use the interactive activities on this site to learn more about the differences between people and common misperceptions about race. Write at least one new fact or insight you have gained as a result of the information contained in this interactive.
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