

Principles to consider when planning to teach the Holocaust

- Make activities meaningful (no word searches or dot-to-dot games!)
- Avoid role-play/empathy activities – we cannot imagine or expect our students to imagine what it was like to be in the camps etc.
- Focus on individual experiences to make understanding the enormity of the experience more personal.
- Where possible, use Survivor testimony.
- Teach about Jewish life in Europe before the war.
- Choose resources carefully and with sensitivity to students, victims and survivors.
- Contextualise the history – just because it happened does not mean it was inevitable.
- Do not romanticise history.
- Be precise with language – avoid stereotypical descriptions – including not seeing all Germans as Nazis.
- Important to see Jews (and others) not just as victims but also as rescuers and resisters.
- Teach about perpetrators as well as victims
- Teach about bystanders and collaborators.
- Don't forget non-Jewish victims.
- Do not show graphic or shocking imagery to engage students.
- Re-humanise all involved – the Nazis were humans not monsters.
- Consider the lessons to learn from the topic.