

RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS LESSON (AKA RIGHTEOUS GENTILES)

Introductory Information

- Title: Righteous Among the Nations Award Recipients
- David Castillo (Gidley School; USA) & Megan Kelly (Albright Middle School; USA)
- Language Arts/ History/Social Studies
- Holocaust Project
- 7th or 8th grade-ESL, On-Level, Honors
- Completion time: Background...1.5 hrs, Hook and Lesson...1.5 hrs, Concluding Activity...4 to 6 hours
- [End Product](#)

Summary

This lesson focuses on Non-Jews (gentiles) who risked their lives during the Holocaust to save Jews. Students will watch Centropa videos (Return to Rivne, Rifka and Elvira- Coming of Age in a Time of War, Matilda Kalef- Three Promises, Survival in Sarajevo- Friendship in a Time of War) and research Righteous Among the Nations recipients on their own to create a presentation highlighting what the recipients did to save the Jews during the Holocaust. Multiple themes can be used for this project: courage, risk, counting the cost, sacrifice, etc.

Background Information

1. Context for the lesson- Students will learn how some Non-Jews took action against the Nazi Regime while self-reflecting on their own moral compass.
2. Enduring Understanding (EU)- Students will understand the Righteous Among the Nations award and the criteria for receiving the award. Students will walk away with stories about Non-Jewish people helping Jews. They will understand that Non-Jews were willing to risk and sacrifice their lives for others.
3. Goals/Objectives-
 - Students will know the criteria for earning a Righteous Among the Nations award.
 - Students will become aware of such award winners featured on Centropa.
 - Students will research award winners from additional sources.
 - Students will give insight into commonalities, circumstances, and the risks these winners took.
4. Centropa Sources: [Rifka and Elvira- Coming of Age in a Time of War](#) (focus time-stamp is 8:10 - 8:40), [Matilda Kalef- Three Promises](#) (focus time-stamp is 12:20 - 13:20), [Survival in Sarajevo- Friendship in a Time of War](#) (focus is 8:52 - 9:50).
5. Background Knowledge- Teachers will need to walk through the ThingLink program and define Righteous Among the Nations and the criteria for the award.

Hook:

QuickWrite- Think of a time when someone went out of their way to help you in a time of need. What sacrifices or risks did they make for you? Next, think of a time when you helped someone in a time of need. What sacrifices or risks did you make for them?

Lesson:

1. Teachers: Familiarize yourself with Thinglink for the final product before the lesson begins. You don't have to use ThinkLink for the lesson though, any type of presentation platform or usual poster would work and you can modify however you need.
2. Introduce the [Righteous Among the Nations award](#) and go over criteria with students (only cover the first 4 FAQ's).
3. **Whole group:** As a class, watch [Return to Rivne- A Holocaust Story](#) and discuss the actions of the farmers. What sacrifice did they make? What risks did they take that reflect the criteria for earning the Righteous Among the Nations Award? As a class, create a list of risks and discuss as a class.
4. **Guided Practice:** With small groups or partners, students will watch [Matilda Kalef- Three Promises](#). The small groups will discuss Father Andrej Tumpej's actions and write a summary of the actions. After students are finished, as a class, show students the [Father Andrej Tumpej example](#) (tag) on ThingLink. Point out that the tag is on his country (Serbia) and a brief description of what he did- this is a model/example for students for their project. Show students an example of one of the tags on the end-product. <https://www.thinglink.com/scene/1205090089105883143>
5. Students will use the Centropa Website to watch videos featuring Righteous Among the Nation recipients and create tags using ThingLink.

Concluding Activity:

Show students the following rubric for the ThingLink final product. The rubric should show the minimum information that should be reflected in the project's tags:

- A base map of the countries / region that will feature "Righteous" recipients
- A quote that reflects the idea of sacrifice, risk-taking, or helping others
- Define Righteous Among the Nations (with image of seal / certificate), and tell who is eligible to receive this award?
- Recipient #1 (from Centropa) with image name, city, country, details, and link
- Recipient #2 (from Centropa) with image, name, city, country, details, and link
- Recipient #3 (from Centropa) with image, name, city, country, details, and link
- Recipient #4 (outside source) with image, name, city, country, details, and link
- Recipient #5 (outside source) with image, name, city, country, details, and link
- Student's choice with image, details, and link
- Student's choice with image, details, and link

Optional Activities: Students can present their Thinglinks to the class. Students can also include a reflection that sums up their featured Righteous award winners, giving insight into commonalities, circumstances, and the risks these winners took.