WHEN DO YOU PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE TO HELP OTHERS?

Authors:

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Courses:

History, Psychology, Civic Education, Sociology

Primary category:

The Holocaust, WWII

Grade level:

15-18

Total required time to teach lesson:

2 classes (90 minutes)

Summary:

Teacher introduces the lesson with Kahoot quiz about WWII and the Holocaust.

Using Centropa film "Return to Rivne" students learn more about the Holocaust, Righteos Among the Nations and human behavior in risky situations. Students are divided in 5 groups and they answer on previously defined questions after they see the film. They go around each table, so every group add their answers on each sheet with the question. After they present their answers, they discuss about it and give answers on next group of questions given to all groups together. The final discussion is about human reactions in risky situations.

Background information

Context for Lesson:

History - WWII theme

Psychology - Social environment impact on human behaviour

Civic Education - Context of civil, human and children's rights

Sociology - The role of society, democracy

Enduring Understanding:

Strong society at some point demands a personal sacrifice.

Goals/objectives:

To gain knowledge about the Righteous Among the Nations

To develop critical thinking and communication skills

To be able to recognize the importance of individual impact in the society

To be able to explain who can be declared as the Righteous Among the Nations

Centropa materials:

"Return to Rivne" film

Duration: 22:00

Countries: Ukraine

Background skills:

Basic WWII knowledge, basic ICT skills

LESSON

Introductory: Kahoot quiz on WWII and Holocaust - 15 minutes

"Return to Rivne" film - 22 minutes

Main Activity: We need to create 5 groups of students. We provide each group with a sheet of paper and a question. Each group discuss the question and write down the answers. They have around 6 minutes for the task and then they change the table. After half an hour they will add their answer to each sheet of a paper. Groups return to their first table, they check what was added and they report results.

Questions:

1. How Shelly and Raya spent their childhood?
2. In which way Palashuk family helped two sisters and their daughters?
3. Why Natalia and Nikinor Palashuk were helping Shelly, Raya and their mothers?
4. What was risky for Palashuk family when they were helping Jews? What could happen to them if they were discovered by Nazis?
5. How the hiding experience from the WWII influenced the later life of Shelly, Raya and their families?

After reporting results, we discuss about each question.

Conclusion questions for everybody (discussion) - 20 minutes:

Who are Righteous Among the Nations? Who can be declared as the Righteous? Why there are no Jews who are declared as the Righteous Among the Nations? Why do some people help others and other people don't?

Can we draw the line between risk we take and help we provide? What kind of challenges or moral dilemmas might people struggle with when facing a risky situation?