

Virtual Visit to the New England Holocaust Memorial Lesson Plan

Title: Numbers, Names and the New England Holocaust Memorial

Grades: 5-8

Time: 45 minutes

Essential Questions:

- What is a memorial? What roles do memorials play in honoring the past and inspiring the future?
- How does the use of numbers and names impact our understanding of the Holocaust?

Lesson Overview:

- Students will explore the New England Holocaust Memorial virtually.
- Students will listen to Holocaust survivor voices to help frame their experience visiting the New England Holocaust Memorial.
- Students will discuss the ideas of representing the Holocaust with names and/or numbers.

Mini Lesson:

Memorials:

- Ask students what a memorial is. Why do we have memorials?
- Key points: Memorials help us mark or remember an event or people in the past. Memorials are in important places related to the event and also in places where the event affected a particular, often local community
- Explain that we are going to visit the NEHM today, a memorial in Downtown Boston

“Another World”

- Before we go to NEHM, I want you to hear from a survivor of the Holocaust who is going to help frame for us what we are going into:
- [Sonia Weitz Video \(1:18\): “I come from another world”](#)
- Question: What is Sonia telling us here?
- Key points: The Holocaust feels like “another world,” things that happened were so dramatically different from how life is like now. Hold that idea in your head as you explore. What ways are is the Holocaust another world and in what ways are their echoes of the Holocaust today?

NEHM Exploration

- Students should use VR headsets or headphones with laptops and explore [NEHM 3D Experience](#) for about 8 minutes
- **Note:** School will need to unblock links to videos in order for students to be able to play videos in the site.

Reflection

- Write noticings, wonderings, questions in notebooks, big paper around the room or in digital collaborative tool like [Padlet](#) or [Google Jamboard](#)
- Pull out question or comment about names or numbers from Padlet (at least one student will likely comment on this)

Numbers and Names

- [Anna Orenstein Video \(0:58\): “We didn’t have names in camps”](#)
- [Elie Weisel \(1:02\): “I believe in names”](#)
- What do you think about the choice to use numbers on the columns instead of names?
- Why is it important to talk about numbers in relation to the Holocaust?
- Why is it important to talk about names?

Wrap Up

- Reflect on experience. What were some of the videos or audio that you listened to in your exploration?
- How was the experience of going to NEHM like going to “another world”?