

*Butterfly*  
*Journal*  
*of...*



## Introduction:

In the late 1930s and into the 1940s, Nazi Germany carried out a plan to eliminate people that they thought were undesirable. Of the millions of people who were imprisoned and killed by the Nazis, many were Jews.

In this Web Quest we will be learning about a place called Terezin (also known as Theresienstadt), a small Czechoslovakian town that became a Nazi concentration camp. Over 15,000 children were held prisoner at Terezin. Through some of the poetry and art that the children of Terezin left behind, we can learn about their lives, their hope and their dreams.

On this Web Quest we will gather information about Terezin, and you will be recording answers to some questions, as well as writing your own reflections in this Butterfly Journal.

To begin the quest, you will need to go to the "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" web page at the address below:

[http://www.hilliard.k12.oh.us/hth/INeverSawAnotherButt2\\_files/INeverSawAnotherButt2.htm](http://www.hilliard.k12.oh.us/hth/INeverSawAnotherButt2_files/INeverSawAnotherButt2.htm)

Please turn to the next page to begin.

### Days 1, 2, & 3

#### **Essential Questions / Research:**

Each response must be supported by at least two sources. Each response must be an explanation supported by evidence from your sources.

1. What is the Holocaust?

2. Why did the Holocaust happen?

3. Could the Holocaust have been prevented?

4. How did the Nazis define who was Jewish?

5. What was Hitler's ultimate goal?

6. What is D-Day, and what was the involvement of the United States?

## Day 4

Next, we are going to find out about Terezin Concentration Camp.

**Follow the Terezin Concentration Camp link:**

**<http://www.sitesofconscience.org/sites/terezin-memorial>**

**and use the information on the page to answer these questions:**

1. Terezin (Thereisenstadt) is located in what European country?
2. What was Terezin before the Nazis turned it into a concentration camp?
3. How many people were imprisoned at Terezin?
4. How many were children?
5. How many of those children survived?

**Now choose one more Concentration Camp to answer the questions below:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is located in what European country?
2. How many people were imprisoned at this camp?
3. How many were children?
4. How many of those children survived?

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## Day 5

Click on the **Terezin Memorial** link on the web page. You will need to read these three pages: "Terezin Memorial." What Happened Here?," and "How Is It Remembered?"

**After you read, write your answers to these:**

What are 3 reasons why the Nazis choose to use Terezin as a place to put prisoners?

1.

2.

3.

Look on the **Terezin Memorial** pages for these important words:

Displaced -

Ghetto -

Genocide -

Beside each word, write what you think the word means. If you are not sure, use a dictionary.

**Think and write about this:** Very few people even knew about Terezin and what happened there until the 1990s! Why was Terezin's story kept secret for so long? (Click on the **Terezin Memorial "Museum Programs"** link for the answer.)

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## Day 6

Now we will learn about some people who were prisoners at Terezin. On the **Terezin Memorial** page:

<http://www.sitesofconscience.org/sites/terezin-memorial>

click on "**What Happened Here?**" Click on the picture of the young man wearing a suit and tie. This is Emil Lederer. Take a few minutes and read his story.

Next, click on the "**How Is It Remembered?**" page. About halfway down the right side of the page, you will see a small color drawing. Click on the words beneath the drawing, and you will find out about children imprisoned there.

Now look at the "**Journal of a Survivor**" handout to read the Terezin diary of Sophie Rosenfelder.

***\*\*Yes - it takes time to read all this, but it really helps us understand what happened!\*\****

**Think and write about this:** Do you think it would have been more difficult for a child or for an older person to handle living in a place like Terezin? Why?



Day 7

## **ART**

### **The Art of Terezin:**

An accomplished Jewish artist named Friedl Dicker-Brandeis was deported from her home in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and was imprisoned at Terezin in 1942. During her career, Friedl created many drawings and paintings, and also designed furniture and theater sets. While at Terezin, Friedl devoted herself to teaching the children how to draw and paint. Follow the **Art Teacher of Terezin** link to learn more about Friedl:

<http://www.cet.ac.il/terezin/f-eng4.htm>

If you want to see some of Friedl's artwork, there is a link at the very bottom of the page.

### **Think and write about:**

Friedl thought it was extremely important to encourage the children at Terezin to paint and draw. Why? Do you agree?

Now follow the **Student Gallery of Art** link:

<http://www.remember.org/imagine/imagine1.html>

The art and poetry on this site were created by students, just like you, who were learning about the Holocaust.

Choose and evaluate one of the pieces, using the same 4 questions from above. Write your responses on the space provided below.

**Think and write about:**

1. The name of the piece (if there is one) and the name of the artist.
2. What made you select this piece?
3. What do you think the artist was thinking/feeling when this piece was created?
4. What do you think the message of this piece is?

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**Day 8**

**Poetry**

**Poetry of Terezin:**

Read the following poem.

*The Butterfly*

The last, the very last,  
So richly, brightly, dazzlingly yellow. Perhaps if the sun's tears would sing against a white stone. .

Such, such a yellow  
Is carried lightly 'way up high.  
It went away I'm sure because it wished to kiss the world good-bye.  
For seven weeks I've lived in here,  
Penned up inside this ghetto.  
But I have found what I love here.  
The dandelions call to me  
And the white chestnut branches in the court.  
Only I never saw another butterfly.  
That butterfly was the last one.  
Butterflies don't live in here,  
in the ghetto.

- by Pavel Friedman

The words of this poem have been used in the title of a book about the children of Terezin and also in music written in their memory.

**Think and write about:**

Why do you think this poem has had such a strong impact on people?

Why has the image of a butterfly come to represent the children that lived and died at Terezin ( and in the Holocaust)?

**More Terezin Poetry:**

Follow this link for the **Terezin Children's Cantata** to read other poems written by the children of Terezin:

<http://www.nonduality.com/terezin.htm>

These nine poems were all selected to be the lyrics for a cantata (a musical story sung by a chorus) composed by Robert Convey in memory of all children who perished in the Holocaust. The cantata was first performed in New York City in April of 1991.

**Choose** one of the nine poems from this site. Copy the poem into this journal on the space below and/or on the next page.

**Think and write about:**

Why did you select this poem?

What do you think the author was thinking or feeling when he or she wrote this poem?

What is your reaction (your feelings and thoughts) when you read this poem?

If you could magically go back through time and talk to this person, what would you want to tell him or her?

**Assignment for tonight:**

**Think and write about this:**

Why should we remember the children of the Holocaust?

"Out of our memory...of the Holocaust we must forge an unshakeable oath with all civilized people that never again will the world... fail to act in time to prevent this terrible crime of genocide... we must harness the outrage of our own memories to stamp out oppression wherever it exists. We must understand that human rights and human dignity are indivisible."

Jimmy Carter, 39th President of the United States

Butterfly Presentation:

### Days 9, 10, 11 WORK DAYS

Each pair or group will be required to present the information from this packet. Students will complete **each** of the following for your presentation:

1. Biography: Child of the Holocaust
  - a. Follow the "Children of the Holocaust" link:  
<http://www.graceproducts.com/fmnc/main.htm> Once there choose 1 child's name from this site. Click on the link and read the information found about "your" child.
  - b. Write a biography based on the information you read on your child. This should include name, birthdate, place, his/her story, and his/her fate (what happened to him/her).
  - c. Your final Biography will be written on a butterfly, and will also include two artifacts that connect to your child and/or the Holocaust.
2. Butterfly project: in memory of the children of the Holocaust
  - a. Create a butterfly in memory of your child
  - b. Each butterfly must have the biography information included and 2 artifact.
  - c. Your butterfly can be an original piece of artwork, using any medium. Please be creative. But remember it **MUST** contain the above information!
3. Typed reflections from above, about the following information:
  - a. Why should we remember the children of the Holocaust?
  - b. Reflect over the poem that you chose. Your illustration for the poem, letter to the poem's author, or your own poem.

### Days 12 & 13 PRESENTATIONS