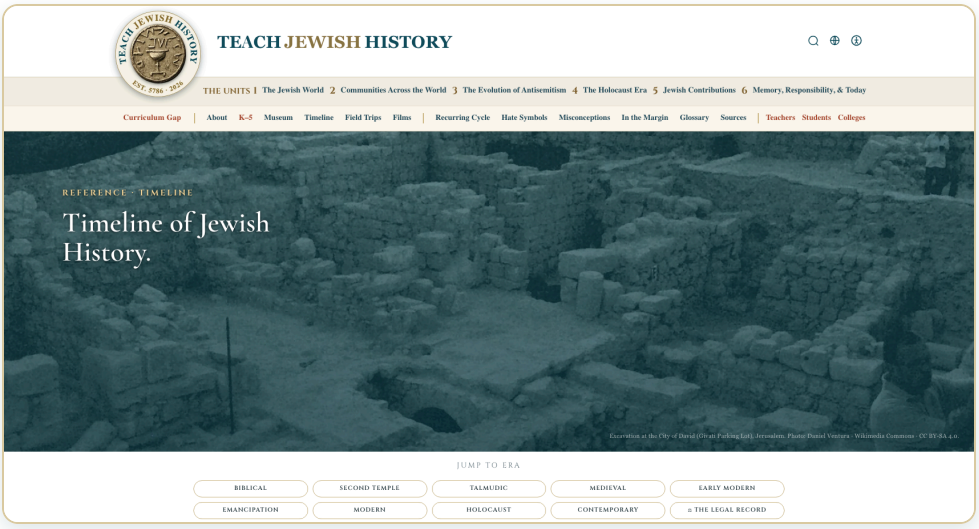
TEACH JEWISH HISTORY

THE STANDARDS COMPANION · IRELAND EDITION

In many textbooks, Jews appear as ancient Israelites, then vanish until they reappear as victims of the Holocaust, with a two-thousand-year gap in between.

Teach Jewish History covers what comes between, and after.
Free, source-based, and ready for the courses you already teach.



The site at teachjewishhistory.org: the whole arc of Jewish history, from the Biblical era to the present.

What it is

Teach Jewish History is a free online textbook and teaching companion for Jewish history, civilization, and the evolution of antisemitism, from antiquity through the Holocaust to the present. Six Units and more than 60 classroom-ready Chapters, each with primary sources, discussion questions, curated readings, and a printable PDF, mapped to the standards you already work from. No login, no cost.

Why it exists

In Ireland, every Junior Cycle student studies the Holocaust. History has been a core subject for all first-year students since 2020, and its learning outcome 3.10 requires them to explore the significance of genocide, including the causes, course and consequences of the Holocaust. The specification names it in one line. A student can reach the Holocaust having met the civilization that was destroyed only in passing, with little sense of how the hatred behind it was built over centuries, or what came after. The site covers the whole arc, before, during, and after, so students meet the Holocaust as the culmination of a history, not its origin. The full case is on The Curriculum Gap.

How to use it, by grade

The site serves three levels from the same body of work. For **primary school**, the site's K to 5 program adapts the material into themed, ready-to-teach lessons with read-aloud books and printable handouts. For **secondary school**, first to sixth year, the more than 60 Chapters work as textbook chapters: each has a readable history, primary sources and images with full credits, discussion questions, Classroom Connections, and a printable PDF. For **university survey courses**, the same Chapters carry the primary-source depth and bibliographies to assign directly. Critical-thinking lessons add source-literacy exercises for any level. Each item is a link or a PDF, so you can hand it out on paper, email it, or post it in Google Classroom or any learning platform, with no student login.

A note on order. Where you can, teach a Unit 1 Chapter before Unit 3 or the Hate Symbols guide. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's teaching guidelines ask teachers to show Jewish life before the Holocaust, "so that victims are not perceived only as victims."

Where the site fits the courses you already teach

Every Chapter is mapped to a course. Find the course you teach, and here are the Chapters to pull. The lines quoted here come from the NCCA specifications for Junior Cycle History, Religious Education, Jewish Studies, and English, and from the Leaving Certificate History syllabus and the new Leaving Certificate History specification. For a version mapped to another state or country, register on the site or write to education@teachjewishhistory.org.

Ancient Civilizations

JUNIOR CYCLE · HISTORY 3.1: "ONE ANCIENT OR MEDIEVAL CIVILISATION OF THEIR CHOOSING" · JEWISH STUDIES 3.6: "THE FIRST AND SECOND TEMPLE"

Who Are the Jews? · The Land of Israel · A Connected People · The First and Second Temples · The Synagogue · Ritual Objects and Material Culture · The Continuous Jewish Presence · plus the printable chapters *Ancient Israel and Judah* and *Judea in the Classical World*.

World Religions and Belief Systems

JUNIOR CYCLE · RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 1.1: "THE FIVE MAJOR WORLD RELIGIONS FOUND IN IRELAND TODAY," JUDAISM AMONG THEM

Who Are the Jews? · Sacred Texts · The Synagogue · The Calendar · The Jewish Life Cycle · The First and Second Temples · Ritual Objects · Nostra Aetate.

> *Teach Judaism here as a religion in its own right, not only as the root of what came after. It is a continuous people and faith that does not seek converts and has no central authority or governing hierarchy the way a church does.*

Medieval Europe

JUNIOR CYCLE · HISTORY 3.6: "EXPLORE LIFE AND DEATH IN MEDIEVAL TIMES"

Adversus Judaeos · The Blood Libel · The Expulsions · The Ghetto System · The Dhimma · The Jews of Spain and the Sephardic World · Rashi · Maimonides · Joseph Karo · The Diaspora.

Modern and World History, nineteenth and twentieth centuries

JUNIOR CYCLE AND LEAVING CERTIFICATE · HISTORY 3.9: "ONE FASCIST COUNTRY AND ONE COMMUNIST COUNTRY" · NEW LC: "RACE, SOCIAL DARWINISM AND ANTISEMITISM"

The Racial Turn · The Russian Pogroms · The Protocols Forgery · The Nazi Synthesis · The Eastward Turn · Theodor Herzl · The Modern State of Israel · The Jews of Poland and Lithuania · Soviet Jewry · The Departure from MENA · The Terror Record · Contemporary Antisemitism · and the community Chapters: North Africa, Iraq, Iran, Ethiopian Jewry (Beta Israel), and American Jewry.

The Holocaust

JUNIOR CYCLE, EVERY STUDENT · HISTORY 3.10: "EXPLORE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GENOCIDE, INCLUDING THE CAUSES, COURSE AND CONSEQUENCES OF THE HOLOCAUST"

The Years Before the Killing, 1933 to 1939 · Aktion T-4 · The Camp System · The Einsatzgruppen · The Nazi Ghettos · The Holocaust in the Middle East and North Africa · Jewish Resistance and Rescue.

Postwar, Memory, and Human Rights

JUNIOR CYCLE AND LEAVING CERTIFICATE · HISTORY 3.12: "JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS" · NEW LC: "POTSDAM, THE NUREMBERG TRIALS"

Liberation and the Displaced Persons · The Postwar Trials · Hannah Arendt · Postwar Restitution · The Memory Architecture · Holocaust Denial and the Response · The Hatred That Outlived the War · The Afterlife of the Image. With them, the living registers: The Legal Record, judgments and statutes updated quarterly, and the Incident Record, documented incidents each ending with a verdict, a plea, or an official finding.

Irish History

LEAVING CERTIFICATE AND JUNIOR CYCLE · NEW LC HISTORY, STRAND 3: ANTISEMITISM NAMED IN EVERY IRELAND OPTION · JEWISH STUDIES 1.2: AN IRISH JEWISH COMMUNITY

A Connected People · The Years Before the Killing · Liberation and the Displaced Persons · Contemporary Antisemitism.

Required in Junior Cycle History

FIRST TO THIRD YEAR, EVERY STUDENT · CIRCULAR 0016/2020 · JUNIOR CYCLE HISTORY 3.10

Since September 2020, every school must offer History and every student beginning Junior Cycle must study it. Outcome 3.10 names the Holocaust, and the specification's glossary says "including" marks material that must be a focus of learning. At Leaving Certificate, the new History specification for September 2027 names antisemitism in every Ireland option. Start with The Nazi Synthesis · The Years Before the Killing · The Camp System · Jewish Resistance and Rescue.

English

JUNIOR CYCLE · ENGLISH, READING 3: "TO QUESTION, ANALYSE, SYNTHESISE AND EVALUATE" · ORAL LANGUAGE 8

Every Chapter supports the close reading of primary sources. Strongest fits for media and information literacy: The Protocols Forgery and Contemporary Antisemitism, plus the critical-thinking lesson *The Primary Source vs. the Headline*.

Jewish Contributions, from scholarship and science to the arts

FIRST YEAR AND UP, AND UNIVERSITY · UNIT 5

Across the Fields · Moses Mendelssohn · Levi Strauss · Emma Lazarus · Samuel Gompers · Albert Einstein · The Founders of Hollywood · Jonas Salk · with Theodor Herzl, Rashi, Maimonides, and Joseph Karo listed above.

Other ways to weave in the materials

Beyond the core lesson, the materials fit naturally into the rest of classroom life.

- **Print-and-go guides.**
  The eight Teaching Guides, one per grade band or subject, each opening with a first lesson planned beat by beat and a chart for the course.
- **A student club.**
  The Makor Club kit turns student interest into a member-led history club: film nights, virtual field trips, an assembly plan, and community service.
- **Current-event assignments.**
  Pair a story in today's news with the critical-thinking lesson *The Primary Source vs. the Headline*, or with the Contemporary Antisemitism Chapter, to build media literacy.
- **Readings.**
  Assign a Chapter page, or a printable chapter from TJH Originals, with its discussion questions, as a reading.
- **Films.**
  The Films collection gathers documentary viewing for the classroom.
- **Field trips.**
  Virtual Field Trips visit sites and memorials online, and Chapters also point to local museums and historic synagogues for in-person visits.
- **Symbols and misconceptions.**
  When they come up, bring in the guide to recognizing Hate Symbols and the Misconceptions reference.
- **Explore and reference.**
  The online Museum of objects and manuscripts, the interactive Timeline, the Recurring Cycle, and the Glossary support projects, warm-ups, and independent study.
- **Extra credit and independent work.**
  Any Chapter, with its sources and questions, stands alone as a research or writing assignment.

Professional development

A free, self-paced course, Teaching Jewish History and the Roots of Antisemitism, built entirely from the site. About six hours, taken in any order, ending with a classroom plan you build as you go and a certificate of completion. It draws on the guidelines of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the IHRA.

Pass it on

Read it. Use it in your classroom. If it works, share it with a colleague, a department, or a district.

A note on standards

The lines in this companion are quoted from the NCCA specifications for Junior Cycle History (2017), Religious Education (2018), Jewish Studies (2018), and English (amended 2018), the Leaving Certificate History syllabus (for examination to June 2028), and the new Leaving Certificate History specification for introduction in September 2027. Junior Cycle History has been a core subject under Circular 0016/2020. Specifications are revised periodically, so confirm current wording against the official documents. The site draws on material from established institutions, credits them, and adds original chapters of its own.

Teach Jewish History · education@teachjewishhistory.org