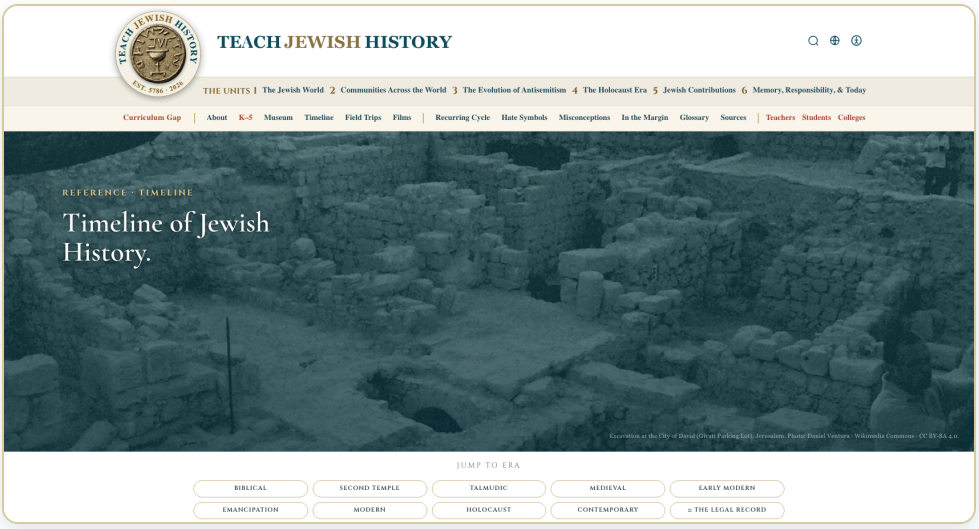
TEACH JEWISH HISTORY

THE STANDARDS COMPANION · ONTARIO 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 Ontario, learning about the Holocaust has been required in Grade 6 since 2023, and the revised Grade 10 history course adds the Holocaust and antisemitism in Canada from 2026–27. 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 the **early grades**, the K to 5 program adapts the material into themed, ready-to-teach lessons with read-aloud books and printable handouts. For **grades 6 to 12**, 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 expectations here come from the Ontario curriculum, cited by course and expectation number (for example, CHC2D C2.6), with Ontario's English curriculum supported throughout. For a version mapped to another state or country, register on the site or write to education@teachjewishhistory.org.

Ancient Civilizations

GRADE 11 AND UNIVERSITY · CHW3M E1.4 (RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY, JUDAISM AMONG THEM) · C2.5 (RELIGION IN EARLY SOCIETIES, AND SACRED BOOKS SUCH AS THE TORAH)

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

GRADE 11 AND UNIVERSITY · HRT3M B1.1 (RELIGIONS FOUND IN CANADA, JUDAISM AMONG THEM) · D2.4 (SACRED WRITINGS, SUCH AS THE TORAH AND THE MISHNAH)

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

GRADES 11–12 AND UNIVERSITY · CHW3M E3.3 (EDICTS EXPELLING JEWS FROM EUROPEAN STATES) · CHY4U B2.6 (THE EXPULSION OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES, 1450 TO 1650)

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

GRADE 12 AND UNIVERSITY · CHY4U D3.2 (NATIONALISM, INCLUDING THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT) · E3.1 (CHANGING BORDERS, INCLUDING THE CREATION OF ISRAEL)

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

GRADES 6 AND 10, AND UNIVERSITY · CHC2D C2.6 AND CHC2P C2.5 (NAZISM, THE HOLOCAUST, CANADA'S RESPONSE, AND ANTISEMITISM IN CANADA) · GRADE 6 B3.5 (CANADA'S RESPONSE TO 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

GRADE 10 AND UNIVERSITY · CHC2D C3.3 (THE HOLOCAUST'S IMPACT ON CANADA AND ON HUMAN RIGHTS) · E3.4 (COMMEMORATION OF PAST HUMAN TRAGEDIES)

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.

Canadian History

GRADES 6 AND 10 · GRADE 6 A3.7 (JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN CANADA AND THE IMPACT OF ANTISEMITISM) · CHC2D D3.5 (IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE POLICY)

The Diaspora · A Connected People · Liberation and the Displaced Persons · The Departure from MENA · Soviet Jewry · Contemporary Antisemitism.

Required Learning in Grade 6 and Grade 10

GRADES 6 AND 10 · GRADE 6 SOCIAL STUDIES (2023) · GRADE 10 CANADIAN HISTORY (2026–27)

Grade 6 has required Holocaust learning since 2023, with examples such as Canada's turning away of the MS St. Louis. From 2026–27, Grade 10 history adds the Holocaust's impact on Jewish communities and antisemitism in Canada. Start with The Years Before the Killing · Jewish Resistance and Rescue · Contemporary Antisemitism.

English and ELA

GRADE 9 · ENGLISH, GRADE 9 (ENLIW, 2023): C3.3 (THE CREDIBILITY AND RELIABILITY OF INFORMATION) · C3.5 (PERSPECTIVES AND BIAS IN TEXTS)

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

GRADES 6–12 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 expectations in this companion are quoted from the Ontario curriculum, from Grade 6 Social Studies (revised 2023) and the Grade 10 history course revised for 2026–27 to the Grade 11 and 12 world history and world religions courses. Standards are revised periodically, so confirm the current codes against the official documents. The site draws on material from established institutions, credits them, and adds original chapters of its own.

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