

# Kindertransport Lesson Plans For Years 14-18



Please see the  
downloadable  
PowerPoints on  
the history and  
memory of the  
Kindertransport

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These sessions are designed to help students understand the transnational history of the Kindertransport.

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They will learn about the circumstances that led to the Kindertransport, the journey itself, arrival in different host nations, and what the Kinder experienced there.

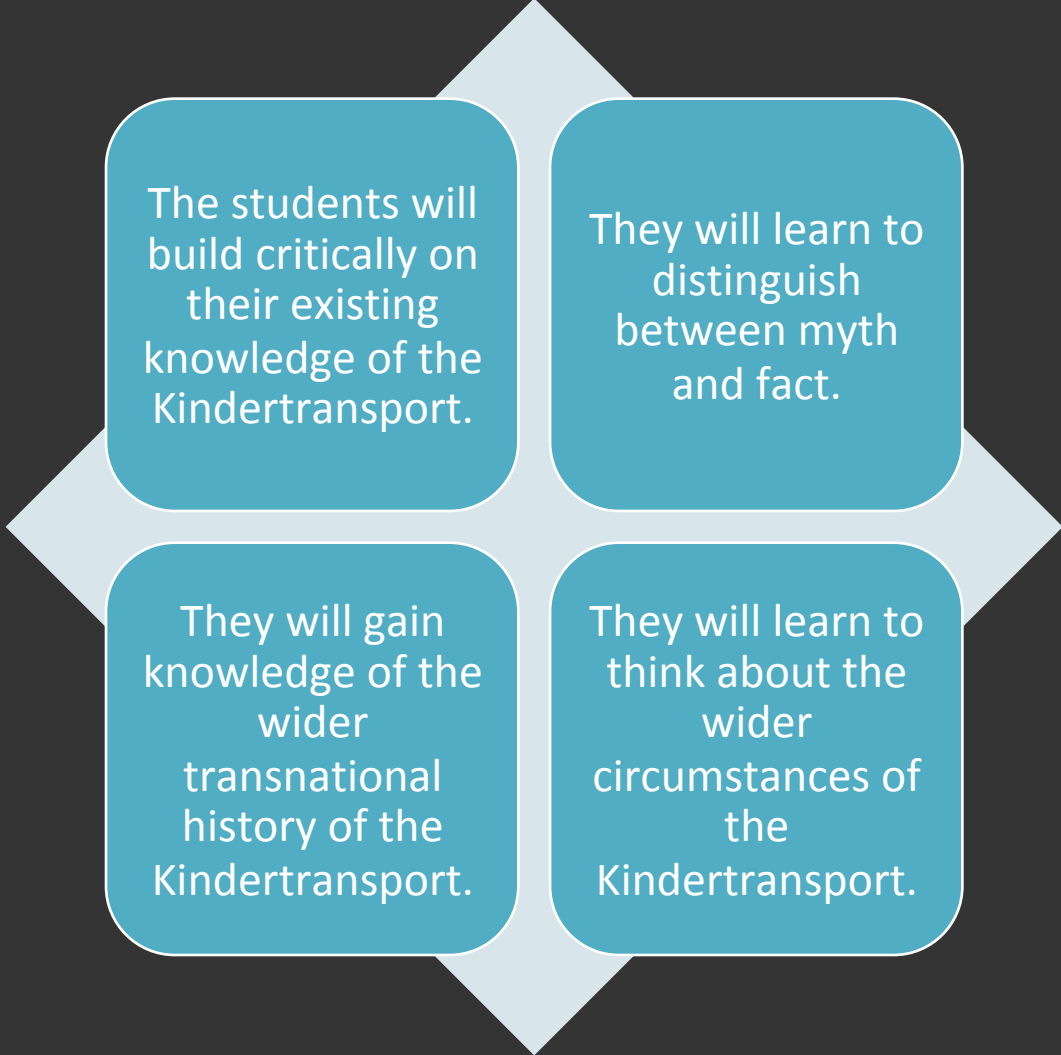
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Students will also become aware of the memory and myths around the Kindertransport.

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They will learn to think about the historical truth and the way the past is remembered.

# Learning Outcomes



The students will build critically on their existing knowledge of the Kindertransport.

They will learn to distinguish between myth and fact.

They will gain knowledge of the wider transnational history of the Kindertransport.

They will learn to think about the wider circumstances of the Kindertransport.

# Activity One: What do I know?

Students should individually write down what they know about the Kindertransport before looking at any of the material provided.

Students should then discuss with one another what they know.

Students should agree on what is important about it.





# Activity Two: Refining Knowledge

Look at the PowerPoint and read any other secondary literature provided by your teacher.

Note down the main differences between what you have learnt and what you have understood about the Kindertransport before your wider reading.



# Activity Three: Life Before

What were the Kinder's lives like before the Kindertransport?

Why did Reich Pogrom Night trigger the Kindertransport?

How did parents obtain places for their children on the Kindertransport?

What were the long- and short-term effects of the Reich Pogrom Night?

How did the Kindertransport begin?

Who was involved in organising the Kindertransport?

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# Activity Four: The journey and arrival

- Where did the Kinder depart from?
- How did the Kinder travel to their host nations?
- What did they experience on their way?
- How were the refugee children greeted on arrival?

# Activity Five: Living with the British

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- What happened to the refugee children who arrived in Britain?
- How did life change for them when the Second World War broke out?
- Did male and female refugees experience life in Britain differently?
- Did all the Kinder stay in Britain?
- If they moved to another country – why did they move and when?



# Activity Six: The Postwar Period

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What careers did the Kinder embark upon after the war was over?

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Were they reunited with any family members?

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How did they find out what had happened to their families?

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Did they always remain in their host nation? Did they make further journeys to find a home?

# Activity Seven: Memory

How do the different host nations remember the Kindertransport?

What are the main similarities and differences between the national memories?

How do you think they can be explained?

What main forms does memory take?

Are there differences between these forms?

# Activity Eight: Myths

What are the myths around the Kindertransport?

Do these myths exist in several countries?

How can we dispel these myths?

Is it possible to remember history without myths?



# Activity Nine: Memorials

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- Why is the memorial at a station in London?
- Do you know of other Kindertransport memorials at stations?
- <https://frank-meisler.com/special-projects/kindertransport/>
- Is this memorial just for British or British-Jewish people? What is the wider significance of this memorial?
- What other forms of Kindertransport memorials do you know about?
- Think about the Stumbling Stones in Germany - [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stolperstein\\_Choriner\\_Str\\_81\\_\(Mitte\)\\_Edwin\\_Singer.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stolperstein_Choriner_Str_81_(Mitte)_Edwin_Singer.jpg)
- In many European countries, brass stones have been placed in the ground near the last place where Jews lived or worked during the Nazi period before they had to leave. There are also stones to Kinder, such as this one in Berlin.
- Why is it important to remember where the Kinder left from? As well as their arrival in Britain?

# Activity Ten: Testimony

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- What is the difference between testimony and other forms of remembering such as a memorial or museum?
- After listening to Kindertransport testimony has it affected the way you think and feel about the Kindertransport?
  - Why is testimony important?
- What do we learn from testimony that we do not learn from history books?
  - [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgbM\\_FbHV7nPPQ-yk6dguzQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgbM_FbHV7nPPQ-yk6dguzQ)

# Summary

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The students have learnt more about the history and memory of the Kindertransport.

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They have learnt to understand the different ways in which the Kindertransport is passed down to us.

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They have learnt to differentiate between different forms of memory.

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They have also learnt about different types of memorials in Britain and Germany.