



Life Journeys Leading to **MAUTHAUSEN**

www.lebenswege-nach-mauthausen.org



Teaching materials for the preparation and follow-up of a visit to the Mauthausen Memorial - Handout for teachers

Dear teachers,

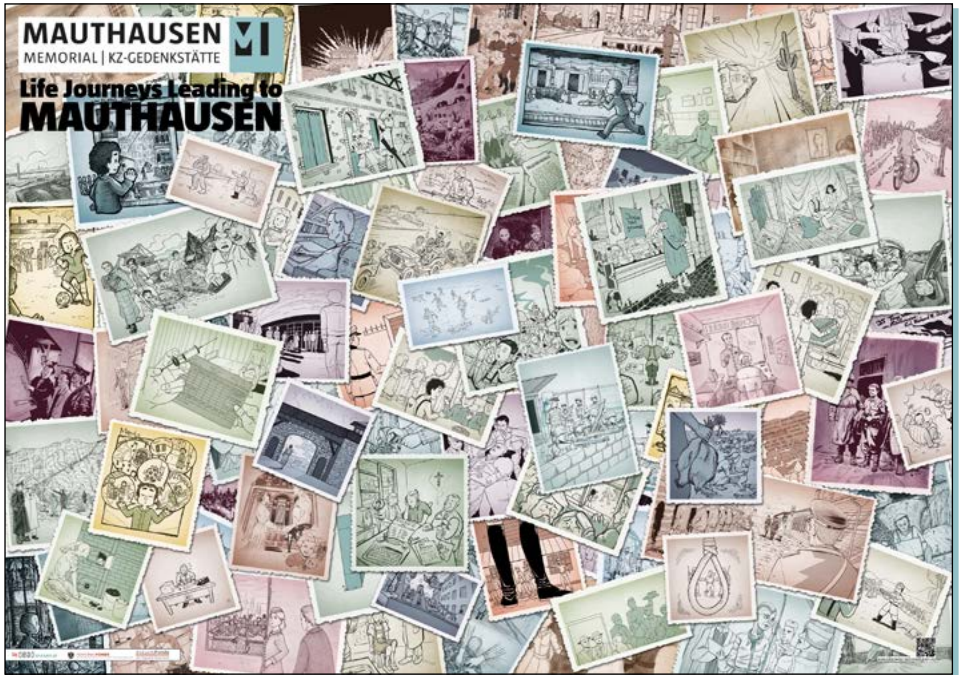
When learning about National Socialism and concentration camps, teachers and learners come up against both historical and moral questions. It is a form of learning that takes longer as students are required to share expectations, acquire knowledge, discuss experiences and develop independent thinking. A visit to a concentration camp memorial site can be an important part of this learning process – if it is carried out voluntarily and there is adequate preparation and follow-up. The ‘Life Journeys Leading to Mauthausen’ teaching booklet supports you in preparing for and following up on a visit to the Mauthausen Memorial. It is aimed at students aged 14 and up. ‘Life Journeys Leading to Mauthausen’ presents the biographies of people who were imprisoned in Mauthausen concentration camp, committed the crimes in the camp or lived near it. Their stories are told in short, illustrated texts using plain language. The biographies outline the historical context of the Nazi era, the different groups of victims and how the people involved were able to shape events.

Suggestions for further reflection help students make connections between the past and the present. Below you will find a suggestion for how ‘Life Journeys Leading to Mauthausen’ can be used in the classroom. If you have any organisational and/or content-related questions, please contact: education@mauthausen-memorial.org. Information on the educational services available at the Mauthausen Memorial can be found here: <https://www.mauthausen-memorial.org/en/Visit/Visitor-Information/Educational-services>

What's included in the preparation and follow-up material?

Poster

The poster is a montage of illustrations from the biographies. It provides a starting point for learning about the different life stories.



14 life stories

Each life story is presented in a separate booklet. Each booklet contains:

- A short introductory text on the history of the Mauthausen Memorial
- An illustrated biography
- ‘Some words explained ...’ – a glossary
- ‘Brief history’ – key events from the person’s life in the historical context
- ‘Further reflection in groups ...’ – suggestions for how to engage with the text, illustrations, more in-depth questions, and tasks for the upcoming visit to the Memorial.

The following biographies are included:

- Wolfgang Sinai Adler (1928-2020) survives several concentration camps as a young Jewish man, the last of which were Mauthausen and Gunsckirchen.
- Emil Baum (1904-1940) is persecuted and interned by the Nazis as an ‘asocial’ person. He dies in the Mauthausen concentration camp after a few months of imprisonment.
- Richard Dietl (1911-1971) is in the resistance and is held as a political prisoner in Mauthausen. He survives his imprisonment in the concentration camp.
- Karl Fiebinger (1913-2014) is a planner and construction manager for ‘war buildings’ during the Nazi era, including the underground aircraft factory with the codename ‘Bergkristall’ in Sankt Georgen an der Gusen. After 1945, he has a career in the USA.
- Margaretha Freinberger (1919-1989) trains as a concentration camp supervisor at Ravensbrück. After that, she works in the Lenzing subcamp. Following liberation, she works as a seamstress.
- Manuel García (1918-2006) is interned as a Spanish Republican in the Mauthausen and Gusen concentration camps. In 1963 he becomes the caretaker of the Mauthausen Memorial.

- Johannes Grimm (1897-1947) manages operations of the SS company Deutsche Erd- und Steinwerke at the Wiener Graben concentration camp quarry. He is executed for his involvement in the crimes in 1947.
- Stanisław Grzesiuk (1918-1963) is interned as a Pole in the Mauthausen and Gusen concentration camps. After 1945, he has a career as a musician, among other things.
- Marija Hafner (1895-1942) and her daughter Marija (1914-1942) support the partisan resistance in Yugoslavia. In 1942, they are executed in the Mauthausen concentration camp.
- Michael Horvath (1922-2004) is imprisoned in several concentration camps because he is Roma. In 1995, two of his grandsons are murdered in an extreme right-wing attack in Oberwart.
- Franz Jäger (1900-1972) is a member of the Volkssturm who murders an escaped concentration camp prisoner during the 'Mühlviertel Hare Hunt' in 1945. After the war, he serves a prison sentence for the crime.
- Johann Kanduth (1908-1984) becomes a prisoner functionary in the crematorium unit. He survives the camp and is an important eyewitness of the Mauthausen concentration camp.
- Pavel Kovela (1902-1945) from Ukraine is sent as a Soviet prisoner of war to the Mauthausen concentration camp, where he dies shortly after it is liberated in 1945.
- Johann Kraft (1894-1967) has to give up land to the SS for the Mauthausen concentration camp. As a neighbour of the camp, he comes into frequent contact with SS men and prisoners.
- Achmed Kranzmayr (1932-2011) grows up as a child of colour in the town of Mauthausen during the Nazi era and is a victim of forced sterilisation by the Nazis. He lives in Mauthausen until his death.
- Franz Lucas (1911-1994) works as an SS doctor in several concentration camps. In the postwar years, he is tried for his crimes and serves a prison sentence.

- Peter van Pels (1926-1945) and his parents hide with the Frank family in a secret annex in Amsterdam during the persecution of Jews. After they are discovered in 1944, he eventually ends up in the Mauthausen concentration camp, where he dies shortly after it is liberated.
- Richard R. Seibel (1907-1999) is a colonel in the US Army who is given overall command of the liberated Mauthausen camp in May 1945.
- Karl Streng (1918-1948) is an SS corporal in charge of the prisoners' kitchens at Mauthausen and several subcamps. He is executed for his crimes in the camps in 1948.
- Leopold Trauner (1883-1947) is a civilian worker deployed in the quarries of the Gusen concentration camp during the Nazi era. He is executed for his crimes in the camp in 1947.

Website

All the teaching material is available to download for free as a web version and as pdf files at www.lebenswege-nach-mauthausen.org.

Suggestion on how to use the teaching material

Before working on the material, the students need to have been given a basic understanding of the history of National Socialism, the Second World War and the Holocaust.

You then need to set aside 15 minutes of a lesson to introduce the topic, as well as one lesson to prepare the visit to the Mauthausen Memorial and another lesson for follow-up.



Introduction – 15 minutes of a lesson before the preparatory unit

- Hang up the montage poster in class. Divide the students into six to eight small groups. Each group looks at the montage (poster, printout or website) and chooses a biography based on the illustrations. The group will look at this biography in more detail. Ensure that the students choose different biographies. Teachers should make sure that different biographies are chosen and that they are taken from across the categories of victim, perpetrator and those living nearby. (15 min)
- Before the preparatory lesson, prepare the required number of booklets for each biography (printout or copy). All materials can be downloaded for free at www.lebenswege-nach-mauthausen.org. The best way to print the booklets is to use the 'Booklet printing' function.



Preparatory unit – one school lesson

- Each student receives the booklet with the selected life story. First, the class reads the introductory text together. This gives a brief history of the Mauthausen concentration camp. It is the same text in every booklet. Answer any comprehension questions the students have. (10 min)

- The students then read the life story on their own, looking closely at the illustrations and using the glossary. In their group, they discuss the overview and the tasks under 'Further reflection in groups'. These include tasks for the Memorial visit, which the students should take with them on their visit. (30 min)
- Conclude the lesson by giving the students information about the upcoming visit to the Mauthausen Memorial: clarify the distinction between a concentration camp and a memorial site, tell them about the dialogue-oriented approach of the programme, and give practical advice (clothing, equipment) for the visit. (10 min)

Objectives of this lesson:

- Learn the overall history of the Mauthausen concentration camp and its subcamps
- Carry out individual and group work on a life story and some of its central themes
- Understand the main features of the concentration camp memorial, the destination of the field trip

Visit to the Mauthausen Memorial

You should plan for the visit to the Mauthausen Memorial to take at least three to five hours (depending on the education programme). Book an education programme for your class. Visit this page for more information: <https://www.mauthausen-memorial.org/en/Visit/Visitor-Information/Educational-services>

All the education programmes at the Mauthausen Memorial address the main themes of the biographies read by the students.

Students should take their booklet with them when they visit the Memorial. They can use it to make notes or look up information.



And they can revisit the questions asked in the “Further reflection in groups” sections at the end of each booklet. Some of these questions are related to the Memorial visit.

Objectives of the Memorial visit:

- Visit a key location of the crimes committed by the Nazis
- Gain historical knowledge about the Mauthausen concentration camp system
- Discuss conceptions of history and contemporary associations
- Connect the Memorial with the biographies and the themes addressed in them




Follow-up session – one school lesson:

- Opening discussion as a class: What do you remember most from your visit to the Memorial? Are there any questions left unanswered? Information for teachers can be found here: <https://www.mauthausen-memorial.org/en/History/The-Mauthausen-Concentration-Camp-19381945> and <https://www.mauthausen-memorial.org/de/Teilnehmen/Vor-und-Nachbereitung/Themen> (10 min)
- Small group phase: Each group prepares a presentation of “their” biography. They tell the life story using the illustrations. This can also include information that was gained during the Memorial visit. The group nominates a speaker who presents the life story to the rest of the class. (10 min)
- Presentation to the class: The montage poster is used again during this session. The speaker points to the illustrations on the poster that belong to the biography discussed in their small group and tells the story. Alternatively, you can project the home page of the website and point to that. The illustrations for each biography are available on the website as a slideshow. (30 mins, approx. 4 mins per life story)
- Tasks from the “Further reflection in groups” sections can be set as homework.

Follow-up lesson objectives:

- Discuss students' impressions of the Memorial and any questions it gave rise to
- Understand the different historical roles and perspectives (victim, perpetrator, bystander) in the synopsis of the life stories

 If you have any organisational and/or content-related questions, please contact: education@mauthausen-memorial.org

Publication Details

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References for the biographies available at: www.lebenswege-nach-mauthausen.org

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Technical development of the website www.lebenswege-nach-mauthausen.org:

INFOUND

druckerei-wien.at (Vienna)

Translation: Alexander Bradbury, Paul Richards

Published by:

Mauthausen Memorial

Director: Barbara Glück

www.mauthausen-memorial.org



In cooperation with:

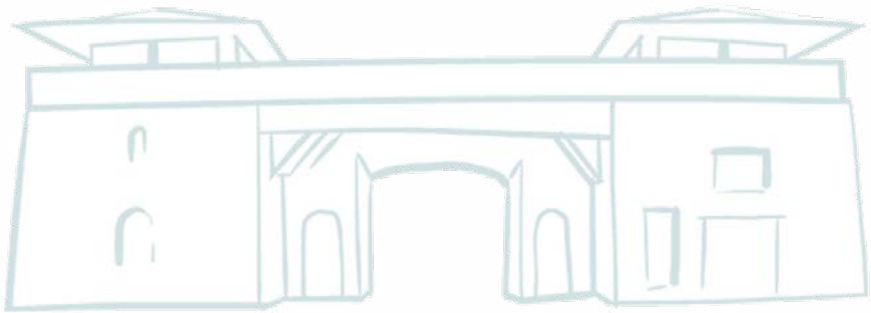
With funding kindly provided by:

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DER REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH FÜR OPFER DES NATIONALSOZIALISMUS

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der Republik Österreich



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