IN THE MUSEUM: LIFE BEFORE THE WAR AGAINST THE JEWS

Listen to the recorded guides describing Jewish life before the war. Write a brief description of what each person says. What do their accounts suggest about the variety of situations they found themselves in?

- Nelly Komras, Vilna
- Harry Berger, Vienna
- Renata Vamberg, Stuttgart
- Hilda Lebedun, rural Czechoslovakia

Look carefully at the photos that line the entrance to the museum. These are St Louis families that experienced the cruelties of the Third Reich.

Describe the family activities they chose to photograph. In what ways do their daily lives look familiar?

What you can observe about their economic and social status? What objects, clothing, or settings suggest this?

Want to know more?

- The Hare With the Amber Eyes. Edmund De Waal. Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2010. The lives of a cultured and wealthy family through the 19th and 20th century.
List the ways that people in these photographs managed to survive the Nazi intention to rid the Germany of Jews:

**BONUS QUESTION:** In another gallery in the museum, find Felix Levy. How did he survive?

The Berger family is represented in a number of photographs. If you read carefully, you can trace their individual experiences. What happened to them?

- Elias Berger:
- Theresia Berger:
- Harry Berger, Theresia’s son:
- Edith Berger, Theresia’s daughter:
- Steffi Berger, a cousin:

What do these different paths tell us about the choices and opportunities faced by those who eventually survived?

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Want to know more?

  The lives of a cultured and wealthy family through the 19th and 20th century.
  Read the stories that inspired *Fiddler on the Roof.*
IN THE MUSEUM: **LIFE BEFORE THE WAR AGAINST THE JEWS**

**Listen to the recorded guides** describing Jewish life before the war. Write a brief portrayal of what each person says. What do their accounts suggest about the range of situations?

- Nelly Komras, Vilna
- Harry Berger, Vienna
- Renata Vamberg, Stuttgart
- Hilda Lebedun, rural Czechoslovakia

**Look carefully at the photos** that line the entrance to the museum. These are St Louis families that experienced the cruelties of the Third Reich.

Describe the family activities they chose to photograph. In what ways do their normal, daily lives look familiar?

- Family groups on a picnic or at other leisure activities; well-dressed people in formal portraits; people in military uniforms; photos include their pets; they are well-fed and seem to be at ease. They appear secularized: no tsitzit, yarmulkes or other obviously observant dress.

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Want to know more?

- *The Hare With the Amber Eyes.* Edmund De Waal. Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2010. The lives of a cultured and wealthy family through the 19th and 20th century.
❖ What you can observe about their economic and social status? What objects, clothing, or settings suggest this?
   The formal portraits and good clothes, the inclusion of a nanny suggest upper middle, upper class, or professional status

❖ List the ways that people in these photographs managed to survive the Nazi intention to rid the Germany of Jews:
   - Lived in hiding in the Reich
   - Escaped to live in Russia
   - Escaped to live in hiding in France and Italy
   - Survived work/concentration camps
   - Able to emigrate to Cuba
   - Included in the *Kindertransport*
   - Emigrated to Shanghai

BONUS QUESTION: In another gallery in the museum, find Felix Levy. How did he survive?
   - Rescued by boat from Denmark to Sweden

❖ The Berger family is represented in a number of photographs. If you read carefully, you can trace their individual experiences. What happened to them?

   - Elias Berger: Died in Auschwitz
   - Theresia Berger: Escaped to Italy & France
   - Harry Berger, Theresia's son: Escaped to Italy & France; joined the Resistance
   - Edith Berger, Theresia's daughter: Emigrated to Cuba
   - Steffi Berger, a cousin: *Kindertransport*

What do these different paths tell us about the choices and opportunities faced by those who eventually survived?