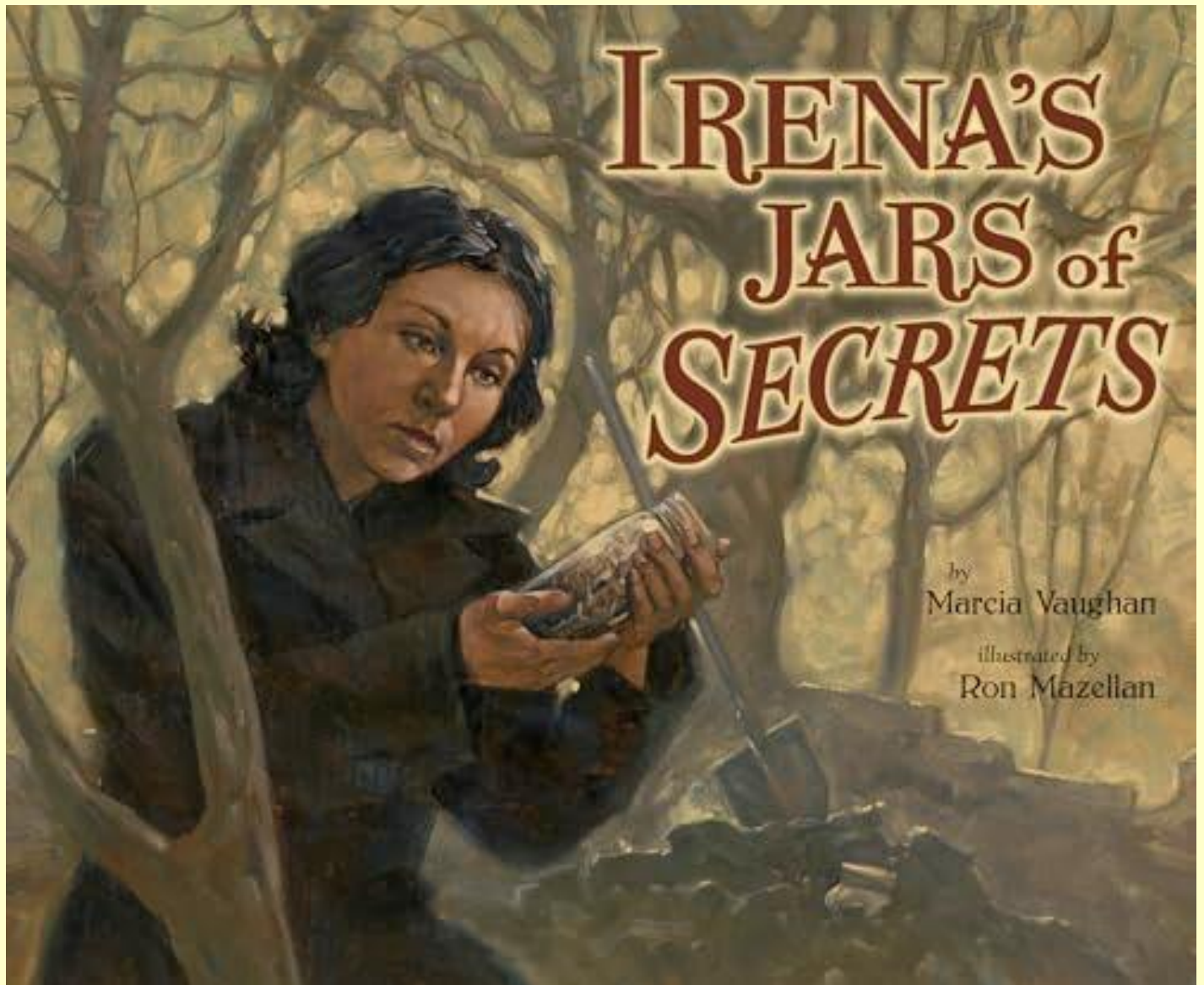


6th & 7th Grades
Lesson Plan
International Holocaust Remembrance Day



Wreaths Across America

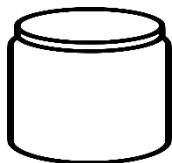
Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 6 & 7	Lesson: International Holocaust Remembrance Day-January 27

<p>OBJECTIVES: NCSS 2. TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE Through the study of the past and its legacy, learners examine the institutions, values, and beliefs of people in the past, acquire skills in historical inquiry and interpretation, and gain an understanding of how important historical events and developments have shaped the modern world.</p>	<p>STRATEGIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing/Coloring <input type="checkbox"/> Writing <input type="checkbox"/> Think/Pair/Share <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Questions <input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups <input type="checkbox"/> Large Group
MATERIALS:	Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; copies of Comprehension Questions <i>Irena's Jars of Secrets</i> ; copies of the <i>Irena's Jars of Secrets</i> Word Search Puzzle; copies of the Thinking in a Jar Summary activity
Engage: Hook the students	Think/Pair/Share Activity- Pair the students with a partner. Explain the T/P/S directions. The students will think of their answer, get with their partner, and share their answer. T/P/S Question: What does it mean when someone is referred to as an "unsung hero"? Do you know someone that you consider to be an unsung hero? If so, who and why?
Explore: Students make sense of a concept through observations.	<p>Explain: Students will learn about Irene Sendler, an unsung hero who helped to save 2500 children from the Warsaw Ghetto during the Holocaust. This lesson is in honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day which is observed on January 27.</p> <p>Go over the vocabulary with students before listening to the book. Play the YouTube Read Aloud <i>Irena's Jars of Secrets</i>, Author-Marcia Vaughan; Illustrator-Ron Mazellan. https://youtu.be/l1XyCzoYWsg</p> <p>Hand out copies of Comprehension Questions <i>Irena's Jars of Secrets</i>. (You may want to hand these out before starting the video clip, so students can answer questions as the video plays.) Allow students time to answer the questions.</p> <p>Hand out copies of <i>Irena's Jars of Secrets</i> Word Search Puzzle. Allow students time to complete the activity.</p> <p>Hand out copies of the Thinking in a Jar Summary activity. Allow students time to complete the activity. When students have completed this activity, ask for volunteers to share their answers with the rest of the class.</p>
Explain: Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.	Holocaust Warsaw Jewish Nazi Party social worker Zegota Poland Adolph Hitler Warsaw Ghetto Gestapo Pawiak Prison Typhus epidemic World War II resistance movement extermination camp
Elaborate: Students apply what they have learned.	Students will gain an understanding of how important historical events and developments have shaped the modern world.
Evaluate: assessment.	The teacher will select the items to be used for formal/informal assessments.
Enrichment/Service-Learning Project	Students can pick from many community service projects, see the last page of this lesson plan for suggestions; encourage students to share what they have learned with their class, family, and friends.

**Wreaths Across America
Lesson Plan**

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 6 & 7	Lesson: International Holocaust Remembrance Day-January 27



NAME _____

Comprehension Questions

IRENA'S JARS OF SECRETS

1. When and where was Irena born?
 2. What did Irena's parents raise her to believe?
 3. What was Irena's father's profession?
 4. What made her father unique in his profession?
 5. What were Irena's father's last words to her?
 6. What happened in 1939?
 7. Who was the leader of the Nazi party?
- What were Hitler's plans?
8. Where did German soldiers force Jewish people living in the Warsaw area to go?
 9. Why was Irena able to enter the ghetto?

Wreaths Across America Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 6 & 7	Lesson: International Holocaust Remembrance Day-January 27

10. What did Irena observe inside the ghetto?

11. How long did Irena keep going to the ghetto?

12. What did Irena take with her into the ghetto?

13. What happened in 1942?

14. What was Zegota?

Why did Irena become a member?

15. What was Irena's job in Zegota?

16. What did Irena have to convince families to let her do?

How difficult do you think this was?

What did Irena say to the families?

17. How did Irena plan to keep a record of the children?

18. Besides taking the children out of the ghetto in the ambulance, what were other ways that Irena smuggled children out of the ghetto?

Wreaths Across America Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 6 & 7	Lesson: International Holocaust Remembrance Day-January 27

19. Where were children taken once they were out of the ghetto?

20. Where did Irena place her lists of children's real and false identities?

21. What happened to Irena in October 1943?

22. What did the guards demand of her in prison?

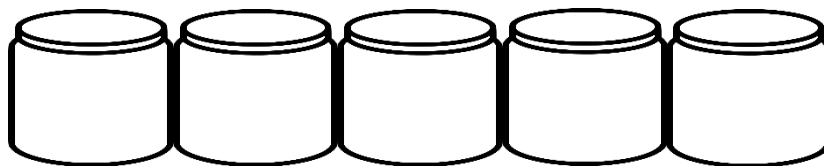
What was her sentence?

23. How did Irena avoid execution?

24. How many names were on Irena's lists after World War II ended in 1945?

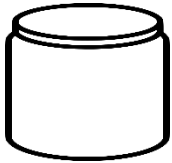
25. What did Irena do with the lists of the names?

What happened to the children after the war?



Wreaths Across America Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 6 & 7	Lesson: International Holocaust Remembrance Day-January 27



ANSWER KEY

NAME _____

Comprehension Questions

IRENA'S JARS OF SECRETS

1. When and where was Irena born? **Irena was born in 1910, in Warsaw, Poland.**
2. What did Irena's parents raise her to believe? **Irena's parents raised her to believe that you respected all people, regardless of their religion or race.**
3. What was Irena's father's profession? **Irena's father was a doctor.**
4. What made her father unique in his profession? **Irena's father was the only doctor in the area they lived in that would treat poor, Jewish patients.**
5. What were Irena's father's last words to her? **Irena's father's last words to her were that if she ever saw someone drowning, she should jump in and try to save them, even if she could not swim.**
6. What happened in 1939? **In 1939, Adolph Hitler's army invaded Poland, this was the start of World War II.**
7. Who was the leader of the Nazi party? **Adolph Hitler was the leader of the Nazi party.**

What did he intend to do? **Adolph Hitler intended to invade all of Europe and put it under German rule. He planned to eliminate anyone who he felt were inferior to the Germans, including the Jews. Hitler believed the Jews were responsible for the defeat of Germany in World War I.**

8. Where did German soldiers force Jewish people living in the Warsaw area to go? **German soldiers forced the Jewish people living in Warsaw into the Warsaw Ghetto.**
9. Why was Irena able to enter the ghetto? **Irena was able to enter the Ghetto because she put on nurses' clothing and told the guards she was there to investigate an outbreak of Typhus in the ghetto.**

Wreaths Across America

Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 6 & 7	Lesson: International Holocaust Remembrance Day-January 27

10. What did Irena observe inside the ghetto? **Inside the ghetto, Irena saw people lying in the streets, without food, water, medicine, and heating oil. Children were crying and asking for food. She saw death and despair.**

11. How long did Irena keep going to the ghetto? **Irena kept going into the ghetto for the next two years.**

12. What did Irena take with her into the ghetto? **Irena carried food, clothes, and medicine into the ghetto.**

13. What happened in 1942? **The Nazis started to take the Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto to Treblinka, an extermination camp.**

14. What was Zegota? **Zegota was a secret organization in Poland that tried to help the Jews get to safety.**

Why did Irena become a member? **Irena joined Zegota so she could try to help the children get to a place of safety.**

15. What was Irena's job in Zegota? **Irena worked as the Head of the Children's Department.**

16. What did Irena have to convince families to let her do? **Irena had to convince the parents to let her take their children and place them with non-Jewish families and organizations outside of the Ghetto, so their children would have a chance to survive.**

How difficult do you think this was? **Answers will vary.**

What did Irena say to the families? **Irena asked the parents if it was better to let their children stay in the ghetto and starve or freeze to death or to let her take them to a place of safety. She also told the parents if they were taken to Treblinka they would be killed.**

17. How did Irena plan to keep a record of the children? **Irena made a secret list with the names of the parents, the names of the children, the false names the children were given in hiding and the name of the places the children were taken.**

18. Besides taking the children out of the ghetto in the ambulance, what were other ways that Irena smuggled children out of the ghetto? **Irena and members of Zegota would pack the children in sacks, boxes, toolboxes, suitcases and sometimes under**

Wreaths Across America Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 6 & 7	Lesson: International Holocaust Remembrance Day-January 27

bags of trash. Some of the older children were carried out through the sewer pipes, or through the old courthouse or they bribed the guards to let them out.

19. Where were children taken once they were out of the ghetto? The children were carried to orphanages, convents or to non-Jewish homes where people would pretend the children were their own.

20. Where did Irena place her lists of children's real and false identities? Irena placed the names of the children in jars. She buried the jars underneath an apple tree.

21. What happened to Irena in October 1943? Someone told the Nazis that Irena was smuggling children out of the ghetto. She was put into a Nazi prison and was tortured and beaten.

22. What did the guards demand of her in prison? The Gestapo demanded that Irena give them the names of all of the children she had smuggled out of the ghetto.

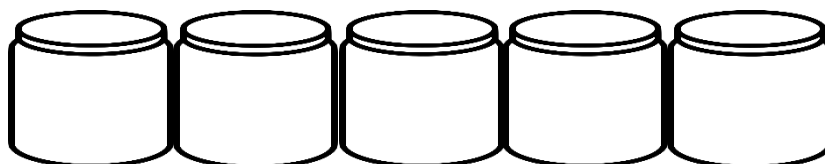
What was her sentence? Irena was sentenced to be executed.

23. How did Irena avoid execution? Zegota bribed the guards to release Irena the day before she was to be executed.

24. How many names were on Irena's lists after World War II ended in 1945? There were approximately 2500 names on the list.

25. What did Irena do with the lists of the names? Irena gave the list to the Jewish National Committee.

What happened to the children after the war? Most of the parents of the children had died in the Treblinka Death Camp. The Committee found living relatives of some of the children, some of the children stayed with the people who had taken them in, and other children went to live in other countries.



Wreaths Across America Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 6 & 7	Lesson: International Holocaust Remembrance Day-January 27

Name _____

Irena's Jars of Secrets Word Puzzle

I	P	A	W	I	A	K	P	R	I	S	O	N	Q	W
E	R	Z	R	T	Y	U	I	G	E	S	T	A	P	O
O	P	E	P	A	T	Y	P	H	U	S	S	D	S	E
F	O	G	N	W	G	H	J	E	K	L	Z	O	X	C
H	L	O	C	A	V	B	N	T	M	Q	A	L	Z	N
O	A	T	X	R	S	S	W	T	E	D	C	P	V	A
L	N	A	F	S	R	E	B	O	G	T	Y	H	H	L
O	D	N	M	A	H	Y	N	U	J	I	K	H	O	U
C	L	P	Q	W	O	R	L	D	W	A	R	I	I	B
A	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	L	O	P	T	A	M
U	N	S	U	N	G	H	E	R	O	E	Z	L	X	A
S	C	V	B	N	A	P	P	L	E	T	R	E	E	M
T	A	S	D	F	G	H	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N

Warsaw	Typhus	children	apple tree	World War II
Irena Sendler	Zegota	ambulance	Adolph Hitler	unsung hero
Holocaust	ghetto	Gestapo	Pawiak Prison	Poland

Wreaths Across America Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grades: 6 & 7	Lesson: International Holocaust Remembrance Day-January 27

ANSWER KEY

Name _____

Irena's Jars of Secrets Word Puzzle

I	P	A	W	I	A	K	P	R	I	S	O	N	Q	W
E	R	Z	R	T	Y	U	I	G	E	S	T	A	P	O
O	P	E	P	A	T	Y	P	H	U	S	S	D	S	E
F	O	G	N	W	G	H	J	E	K	L	Z	O	X	C
H	L	O	C	A	V	B	N	T	M	Q	A	L	Z	N
O	A	T	X	R	S	S	W	T	E	D	C	P	V	A
L	N	A	F	S	R	E	B	O	G	T	Y	H	H	L
O	D	N	M	A	H	Y	N	U	J	I	K	H	O	U
C	L	P	Q	W	O	R	L	D	W	A	R	I	I	B
A	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	L	O	P	T	A	M
U	N	S	U	N	G	H	E	R	O	E	Z	L	X	A
S	C	V	B	N	A	P	P	L	E	T	R	E	E	M
T	A	S	D	F	G	H	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N

Warsaw	Typhus	children	apple tree	World War II
Irena Sendler	Zegota	ambulance	Adolph Hitler	unsung hero
Holocaust	ghetto	Gestapo	Pawiak Prison	Poland

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Thinking in the Jar

Name _____

What does it mean to stand up for what's right? Why did Irena Sendler stand up for what she believed in even though she knew the consequences if she was caught? Would you have been brave enough to help Irena save the children? Why or why not? Write your answers in the jar! Be prepared to share your answers with the class.

IRENA'S JARS OF SECRETS



Wreaths Across America

Lesson Plan

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Community Service Opportunities

- Help an elderly neighbor with yard work.
- Volunteer at your local library.
- Create “Survival Back-Packs” for the homeless with socks, caps, gloves, toothpaste, a toothbrush and other toiletries to be distributed to homeless people in your community.
- Organize a Checkers, board game or card game tournament at your local nursing home. Coordinate with the nursing home staff and plan a fun afternoon for the residents and students alike!
- Write letters to be included in soldier care packages. [Operation Gratitude](#) sends over 250,000 packages to Servicemen and Women, and First Responders annually, the link above provides guidelines for participation in their program.
- Collaborate with teachers, students, administration, and parents to create a food “Back-Pack” pantry at your school for students who may have food insecurities at home. Twenty-two million children receive free or reduced-price meals through the National School Lunch Program and the National School Breakfast Program. For many of these children, school meals may be the only meals they eat during the day.
- Make a “New Student Kit” for students who are new to your school. Create a list of school clubs, a calendar of events, school lunch menus, map of the school, and something with the school mascot to help the student feel like they are welcome.
- Organize a Zoom Meeting between your class at school and local nursing home residents. Discuss what their childhoods were like growing up, what kind of classes they took in school. Did they live in town or in the country, what kinds of chores and activities did they participate in when they were your age. Document their responses and share with other classes in your school. If some of your interviewees have a talent like singing or playing the piano, maybe they could share those talents with the class the next time you Zoom. Once you have met the residents, select a “pin-pal” you can correspond with by letter every few weeks.
- Be a companion to a senior citizen in a local nursing home. Make cards, surprise them with visits around their birthday or sing carols for them around the holidays.
- Organize a coat drive in your school/community that collects new and slightly used coats as part of [ONEWARMCOAT.org](#)
- Use AARP’s [Create the Good Guide](#) to start recycling events in your community.