

# Activity 2: Kindertransport & Child Refugees in Wales: Part 2 - The Journey



## TOPIC

Kindertransport  
Child Refugees in Wales

## AGE GROUP

Years 7-9 (ages 12-14)  
Progression Step 4

## LENGTH

1 hour

## AREAS OF LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE

Health and Well-being  
Humanities  
Languages, Literacy and Communication

## DESCRIPTION

In this activity, students will learn about the child refugee experience during the 1930s and their journey to the UK. They will develop an understanding of the emotional impact on families and learn about the global response to the Kindertransport.

This activity forms part of the *Kindertransport & Child Refugees in Wales* module and it is recommended to complete *Activity 1 - Driving Forces* of this module before completing this activity.\*

## LEARNING AIMS

As a result of completing this activity, students will:

- Develop an understanding of the emotional impact of the Kindertransport on refugee families.
- Understand the global response to the Kindertransport.
- Develop an understanding of the difficulties and dangers the WW2 child refugees faced.
- Make the local connection in contemporary Wales.

## EQUIPMENT NEEDED

Whiteboard/markers, projector, computer to listen to testimony.



\* A full list of activities can be found at the end of this document.

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### Consider

On the board, write down the word 'Journey'. Ask students to think about this word and what other words come to mind when they think of this particular word. Ask the students to think about the most recent journey they took. This could be a holiday, to see family, friends, an appointment, and write the responses on the board.

Ask students to write down, on the student worksheet, three emotions they felt when they went on their journey, e.g., excitement, apprehension, happiness, sadness, anxiety, safety, etc. (**Task 1**).

Project a blank map of Wales (**Handout 3**) on the board, ask the students if they can locate Llanwrtyd Wells (marked in red) and also their own location. As a general question, ask the students if they know of this town. Explain that they will hear a testimony from a Holocaust survivor and child refugee who came to Llanwrtyd Wells in the 1930s.



Map of Wales.  
Image: [Google Maps](#) ©2021.

## Teachers' Notes

**Activity 2: Kindertransport & Child Refugees in Wales: Part 2 - The Journey****Collect**

Ask the students to read the short biography of Robert Wasserberg, a child refugee from Košice, in then Czechoslovakia (modern-day Slovakia), and the information on Llanwrtyd Wells (**Handout 1**).

Inform the students that they will be listening to the first Robert Wasserberg's testimony (Clip 1).

Once they have read the materials and listened to Clip 1 ask the students to work in pairs and complete **Task 2** on the student worksheet:

- What does the clip tell you about the situation in Robert's home country? Write down two words that describe the situation.
- What does the clip tell you about the emotional impact on Robert and his family of having to leave home? List three emotions experienced by Robert and his family.
- Are there any similarities and/or differences between the emotions you listed in **Task 1** and the emotions you identified in the clip? What do you think about it?

Ask the students to listen to Clip 2 and then, working in pairs, complete **Task 3** on the worksheet:

- List three countries that Robert travelled through to get to the UK.
- Pinpoint these countries on the blank map of Europe included in the worksheet.<sup>1</sup>
- In a few sentences, write down how Robert describes the response of different countries to the child refugees who were fleeing Nazi persecution.
- Give one example of how Robert was not safe.
- List three ways in which people showed kindness to Robert and the other children.

**Construct**

Ask the students to write a short letter on behalf of young Robert to one of his friends or family members, which he would have written on his journey (**Task 4**).

<sup>1</sup> Wikimedia Commons, *BlankMap -Europe*, 2015 < <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BlankMap-Europe.png> > [accessed 9 November 2021].

## Teachers' Notes

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## Construct continued

Students should think about the emotions felt by Robert and his family as well as their own feelings. They may wish to include the different elements of the journey, e.g., goodbyes, dangers, acts of kindness.

## Communicate

Students should choose one of the two options below:

### Option 1

Read at least one letter written by your classmates and provide a comment explaining how this letter adds to your understanding of the Kindertransport or the emotional impact of the child refugee experience.

### Option 2

Send or show the letter you wrote to a friend or family member and discuss with them how it adds to their understanding of the Kindertransport or the emotional impact of the child refugee experience.

In preparation for **Activity 3** of the module, ask the students to bring to the next lesson a few photographs (or copies), which they think best represents their favourite place and sense of community. This can be family, their home, their friends, a holiday. If they wish, students can also draw a picture of their favourite place. For students who are unable to bring photographs and/or are uncomfortable drawing, images will be available to print, within **Activity 3**.

## Appendices

1. Handout 1: Robert Wasserberg - Biography; Llanwrtyd Wells.
2. Handout 2: Video Transcriptions.
3. Handout 3: Blank map of Wales.
4. Handout 4: Student Worksheet.



## Teachers' Notes

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## List of Activities

- Activity 1: Kindertransport and Child Refugees in Wales: Part 1 - Driving Forces.
- Activity 2: Kindertransport and Child Refugees in Wales: Part 2 - The Journey.
- Activity 3: Kindertransport and Child Refugees in Wales: Part 3 - Arrival in Wales.
- Activity 4: Jewish Life in Pre-War Europe – Identity, Diversity and Commonality.
- Activity 5: The Legal Effect: How Laws can Persecute or Protect.
- Activity 6: Prejudice and Propaganda.
- Activity 7: Britain and the Legacy of Loss - Part 1.
- Activity 8: Britain and the Legacy of Loss - Part 2.
- Activity 9: Re-thinking Responsibility.
- Activity 10: Resistance and Remembrance.

## Cover Image

Robert Wasserberg's journey from Košice, Czechoslovakia, to Llanwrtyd Wells, Wales. Graphic created by JHASW/CHIDC.

