



United States Embassy in Croatia  
Velikopostolstvo Sjedinjenih Američkih Država u Hrvatskoj

PROPOSAL FOR STUDENT RESEARCH OR FIELDWORK BASED ON THE GRAPHIC NOVEL "LEA'S STORY"

## PLACES OF MEMORY RELATED TO LEA DEUTSCH

- AUTHOR:** Ida Ljubić, History Teacher, Hospitality and Tourism School, Zagreb
- SUMMARY:** This proposal for student research or fieldwork is an educational activity designed to explore the life and fate of Lea Deutsch and her family based on the graphic novel "Lea's Story." This activity allows students to investigate the history of Zagreb during World War II, focusing on Lea Deutsch's life and her family's experiences. The proposed research or fieldwork offers students the opportunity to create a map or photo album of places of remembrance dedicated to Lea Deutsch, as well as to assess existing commemorative sites in Zagreb related to this young girl.
- KEYWORDS:** Lea Deutsch, Holocaust, Zagreb during World War II, remembrance, commemoration
- SUBJECTS:** History, Geography, Civic Education, Croatian Language, Ethics, Art
- TOPIC:** Mapping Places of Memory Related to Lea Deutsch. Creation of (digital or hand-drawn) maps or photo albums of memory sites associated with Lea Deutsch.
- TARGET AGE GROUP:** 8th grade primary school, 1st and 2nd grade vocational high school and grammar school
- DURATION:** 45 minutes
- CURRICULUM INTEGRATION:** Teaching about the Holocaust, World War II, Genocides, and Crimes Against Humanity
- GOALS OF TEACHING:** The objectives of the student research or fieldwork titled "Places of Memory Related to Lea Deutsch" are: engaging students in active learning about the Holocaust (using the example of Lea Deutsch's life and fate); applying knowledge gained from reading the graphic novel "Lea's Story" to research or fieldwork (linking visual and experiential information);

encouraging students to be independent in research and creative expression (self-directed actions and experiential learning), cross-curricular integration of learning content.

### **PURPOSE OF THE RESEARCH (FIELDWORK):**

The proposal serves as an example of how to teach about the Holocaust in primary schools, vocational high schools, and grammar schools. The activity can be implemented within regular, supplementary, elective, or optional social and humanities subjects and is intended for students in higher primary school grades and lower secondary vocational school grades.

### **PREREQUISITES FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH (FIELDWORK):**

Creating a map or photo album of Places of Memory Related to Lea Deutsch can be carried out in two ways:

#### **1. Independent Research (Designed for students who do not reside in Zagreb)**

Before beginning, students need to be guided through the research phases, assisted in finding literature, and directed towards reliable online resources about Lea Deutsch. Students outside of Zagreb can present their findings (collected information and photos of locations related to Lea's life) using a digital map of Zagreb (e.g., Google Maps). They can mark places from Lea's life on this map and include key information about each location. If digital tools are unavailable, students can create hand-drawn maps.

#### **2. Fieldwork (Intended for students living in Zagreb)**

These students can visit places or locations from Lea's life, creating a photo album of these memory sites. They can take photos of these locations, compare them with depictions in the graphic novel, and add textual descriptions.

Regardless of the method, students should read the graphic novel "Lea's Story" before starting their research or fieldwork, and familiarize themselves with the context of World War II in Zagreb. They will also need a camera or smartphone and internet access for digital tools.

## **QUESTIONS STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER:**

1. Who was Lea Deutsch?
2. Are there official places of memory or monuments in Zagreb dedicated to Lea Deutsch or her family? Which institutions are responsible for these commemorative sites?
3. What identities/affiliations did the Deutsch family have? Which communities and groups were they part of?
4. What are my (student) suggestions for commemorating Lea Deutsch in Zagreb?

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Students will evaluate the collective memory of Zagreb's residents regarding Lea Deutsch.
2. Students will describe Lea Deutsch's life and fate.
3. Students will assess the impact of the totalitarian regime of the Independent State of Croatia on individuals (like Lea Deutsch) and groups (the Deutsch family and the Jewish community in Zagreb).

**WORK FORMATS:** Individual work, pair work, group work, collaborative learning

**TEACHING METHODS:** Oral presentation, demonstration

**TEACHING STRUCTURE (STUDENT PREPARATION) FOR RESEARCH OR FIELDWORK:**

### **INTRODUCTORY PART**

In the introductory phase of preparation for research or fieldwork, students, with the help of teachers, review facts from the life of Lea Deutsch as well as key terms related to the Holocaust and the context of the establishment of the Independent State of Croatia.

### **MAIN PART**

*During the main preparation phase, teachers orally explain to students the topic and objective of the research or fieldwork. Teachers also outline the stages of the research or fieldwork to the students:*

#### **1. Preparation for Research**

In this stage, students read the graphic novel *Lea's Story* and gather additional information about Lea and her family from the available literature. While reading the graphic novel, students take notes on places and locations in the city of Zagreb that are connected to the life of Lea and her family and still exist today.

If students need further assistance in identifying the locations and places mentioned in the graphic novel, here is a list of those sites. Teachers can use this list to help students recognize where these places are located.

- Tomislav Square
- Zrinjevac Park
- Praška Street (the former site of the Zagreb Synagogue)
- 29 Gundulićeva Street (home of the Deutsch family)
- Jurišićeva Street (residence of Leina's grandmother)
- Croatian National Theatre
- Dolac Market (Roda Riffler Dance Studio)
- 14 Klaićeva Street (former Third Women's Real Gymnasium)
- Main Train Station
- Ban Josip Jelačić Square
- Parish of St. Blaise (64 Prilaz Gjura Deželića)
- Maksimir Park and Maksimir Stadium
- Dotrščina Memorial Park
- Sisters of Charity Hospital (Sisters of Charity Clinical Hospital Centre)
- Stolperstein or Stumbling Stone at 29 Gundulićeva Street
- Mirogoj Cemetery – Grave of Stjepan Deutsch

Before conducting the research or fieldwork, students can be reminded to pay attention to official memorial sites or commemorative markers dedicated to Lea Deutsch and her family, as well as to investigate which government institutions or organizations are responsible for establishing these memorials.

During the preparation phase for research or fieldwork, students are introduced to digital tools for map creation (e.g., Google Maps) and tools for presenting their findings (such as PowerPoint, Canva, etc.).

## **2. Planning the Research Work**

Students plan the timing and duration of the research work or field trip. If they are working in groups or pairs, they coordinate the distribution of tasks. Prior to the fieldwork, students gather information from literature about the sites or locations they will visit.

## **3. Research or Fieldwork**

Based on the information found in the graphic novel *Lea's Story*, students either virtually or physically visit the sites connected to the life of Lea Deutsch and her family. During in-person visits, students take photographs of the locations they visit.

## **4. Results of the Research or Fieldwork**

In this stage, students compile and synthesize the results of their research or fieldwork, including information from literature and photographs taken. They organize the collected results into a (digital or hand-drawn) map or photo album of the memorial sites related to Lea and the Deutsch family.

## **5. Presentation of Research or Fieldwork Results**

Students present the findings of their research to their peers and respond to any additional questions. They can present their results using digital tools or hand-made poster boards.

## 6. Evaluation and Assessment of Research or Fieldwork Results

Teachers evaluate the outcomes of the research or fieldwork and provide students with feedback on the quality of their work.

### CONCLUSION

In the concluding phase of preparation for research or fieldwork, teachers may address any additional student questions or concerns and may assign homework if deemed necessary. Additionally, teachers can explain the evaluation and grading criteria for the students' work during this stage.

### Literature (for Teachers)

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**Bitunjac, Martina.** *Lea Deutsch: A Child of Theater, Music, and Dance.* Srednja Europa, Zagreb, 2021.

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**Čelebija, Matea.** *The Life of Lea Deutsch (Thesis).* Juraj Dobrila University of Pula. Pula, 2020. (Online version: <https://dabar.srce.hr/islandora/object/unipu%3A5435>, accessed 17.09.2020.)

**Pešorda, Suzana, Tvrtko Božić.** *Structuring Independent Student Research Papers in History, History in Teaching*, Vol. VII No. 13 (1), 2009. (Online version: <https://hrcak.srce.hr/82520>, accessed 10.12.2023.)

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