



Holocaust Memorial Video Streaming Collection Film Guide

Movie Tunnel of Hope **Time: 1hr 18 minutes** **Hebrew/Russian with English sub-titles**

Theme: Reconstructing the past

Summary: This film is about the incredible escape story of 250 Jewish slave workers (including Jared Kushner's mother) who dug a tunnel under the labor camp where they were incarcerated in Belarus. The film follows the surviving escapees and their descendants upon their return to Novogrudok and their attempt to locate the tunnel through which they escaped. As they begin to dig for the tunnel, they recount the events of their capture and their life in the labor camp. The archaeological excavations dig up remnants and memories.

Summary Questions:

1. What type of equipment did they use to search for the tunnel?
2. What artifacts did they find in the dug-up dirt?
3. Who were the first group of Jews rounded up in Novogrodok?
4. After everyone was lined up in rows, what did the Nazis proceed to do with them?
5. What did they use the blankets for in digging the tunnel?
6. Where did they put the earth that they dug up?
7. What was one of the artifacts that was found that assured them they were on the right track?
8. What was the purpose of the pit near the road that the Germans had dug in the middle of the night?
9. What did the Germans do to the wheat field that made the escapees have to alter their planning?
10. What did the dog-catcher and his family offer the Jews?
11. What happened to the Russian family helping the Jews?
12. What was the most important priority to the Germans in that town?

Reflective Questions:

1. What were these survivors hoping to find when they began excavating for the tunnel?
2. Why would the Nazis have executed all of the educators and intellectuals in the town first?
3. How did the Nazis determine which Jews should be kept for work and which should be killed immediately?
4. Describe the attitude of some of the non-Jews in the town towards what was happening?
5. Describe the reaction of the inmates when they were told there was an escape opportunity.
6. How did it come about that "there came a river of blood" in the large pit the Germans dug.
7. Describe the reaction of the group when they discovered the actual tunnel in the ground.
8. How do the grandchildren react to the discoveries and to the unfolding of the stories?
9. Describe what the Germans did to the dog-catcher's family when they found them helping Jews.
10. Why do you think only one-third of the inmates polled were willing to escape in the tunnel?



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STANDARDS:

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Middle School

Subject: Social Studies

Strand: **SS.6.W:** World History

Standard 1:SS.6.W.1 – Utilize historical inquiry skills and analytical processes.

Benchmark: SS.6.W.1.6 Describe how history transmits culture and heritage and provides models of human character.

High School

Subject: Social Studies

Strand: **SS.012.G:** Geography

Standard 2: SS.,912.G.2 Understand physical and cultural characteristics of places.

Benchmark: SS.912.G.2.1 Identify the physical characteristics and the human characteristics that define and differentiate regions.

Strand: **SS.912.W:** World History

Standard 7:SS.912.W.7 Recognize significant causes, events, figures, and consequences of the Great War period and the impact on worldwide balance of power.

Benchmark: SS.912.W.7.5 Describe the rise of authoritarian governments in the Soviet Union, Italy, German and Spain, and analyze the policies and main ideas of Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler and Francisco Franco.

Strand: **SS.912.S:** Sociology

Standard 4: SS.912.S.4 Social Groups/Explore the impacts of social groups on individual and group behavior.

Benchmark: SS.912.S.4.11 Discuss how humans interact in a variety of social settings.

Standard 6 SS.912.S.6: Social Change/Examine the changing nature of society.

Benchmark: SS.912.S.4.7 Discuss the concept of deviance and how society discourages deviant behavior using social control.

Strand: **SS.912.P:** Psychology

Standard 9 SS.912.P.9:Sociocultural Context Domain/Social Interactions

Benchmark: SS.912.P.9.6 Describe how group dynamics influence behavior.

Standard 10 SS.912.P.9:Sociocultural Context Domain/Sociocultural Diversity

Benchmark: SS.912.P.10.6 Discuss how privilege and social power structures relate to stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination.

Standard 11 SS.912.P.11:Cognition Domain/Memory



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Benchmark: SS.912.P.11.10 *Discuss the factors influencing how memories are retrieved.*

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