Shtetl, Text for Translation

Lesson Title: The Shtetl, A Lesson Module About the Small Jewish Town

This lesson module includes a variety of materials: an animated film, a lesson plan, an interactive map, and an academic article providing further details on the subject.

Introduction:

The Shtetl – The Small Jewish Town before the Holocaust

The small Jewish town, including its typical institutions and inhabitants, had a significant role in Eastern European Jewish life before the Holocaust. One could say that it is impossible to discuss Jewish life in Eastern Europe without mentioning the culture and everyday life of the Shtetl. Even after its demise, the Shtetl remained the subject of nostalgia, often expressed in prose, in art, and in their documentation by Yizkor Books.

This module deals with everyday Jewish life in the Eastern European shtetls before the Second World War and the Holocaust, and includes a variety of materials: an animated film, a lesson plan, and an academic article providing further details on the subject. The module also includes an animated map, with that includes a unique short film from the town of Gąbin, explaining the structure of the shtetl and its daily life.

The material in this module is suitable both for synchronous learning, as in a Zoom lesson, and for asynchronous learning.

**The Shtetl, an Animated Film**

An animated film briefly explaining what a shtetl (a small Jewish town) is.

An animated film briefly explaining what a shtetl (a small Jewish town) is. For more information and material about the shtetl, click here:

**The Town of Gąbin: an Interactive Map (**[**https://view.genial.ly/5f9b1caa482d22101111802f**](https://view.genial.ly/5f9b1caa482d22101111802f)**)**

A Map of Gąbin

Gąbin (pronounced Gombin) is a small town not far from the Warsaw Governorate. On the eve of the Second World War, there were 2,300 Jews living in the town, comprising almost half of its total population. Most of them worked in retail or handicrafts, and a minority provided services to vacationers visiting the town. Several charitable organizations were active in the Jewish community, in which almost all the Jewish political parties had branches. In addition, the local Jewish community had public and religious institutions, among them the Great Synagogue, an 18th century wooden building.

In 1937, Sam Raphael, a Jewish man from Gąbin who had emigrated to the United States, visited his hometown and captured its residents on a home camera. The film was unearthed and restored by the Association for the Former Jews of Gąbin, of which Sam Raphael had served as president.

Here you can see a schematic map, based on a map annotated in Yiddish by Ze’ev (Wolff) Menczik, and created for the Gąbin Yizkor Book. Segments of Sam Raphael’s film have been incorporated into the map.

Additional information about the town

Click on the local names for a translation

Click in order to see the locations filmed

A town street

People standing outside a tailor’s shop

The Great Synagogue

Synagogues and Batei Midrash (Jewish study halls)

The Jewish cemetery

Members of the Jewish youth movement

The Catholic church

Local residents

The market square

A public garden in Gąbin

**Lesson Plan: Yizkor Books and the Small Jewish Towns**

See attached file