**Title:** Shabbat Visit

**Location:** Europe - Western

**Short description**

A postcard with a picture of a young boy visiting his grandparents on Shabbat.

**Detailed description**

**​**This is a postcard with a picture of a young boy visiting his grandparents on Shabbat. The boy is standing in front of his grandparents, who are sitting down. The grandfather holds an open Hebrew book on his lap, while the grandmother is reaching her arms out towards her grandson. The grandfather seems to be testing the grandson on his knowledge of the book. To the right of the grandmother is a table with a tablecloth and a black cat underneath. Behind the grandparents is a piece of furniture with candlesticks and what appear to be other Judaica on it. The grandson is wearing a long coat and fur trimmed hat, the grandmother is wearing a long skirt and a bonnet, and the white bearded grandfather is wearing a dark suit and a black kippah. The postcard is from the early twentieth century. Similar scenes of a young child being tested by parents or grandparents on *Shabbat* were painted by other Jewish artists of the time, such as Moritz Oppenheim, and most likely reflected their memories of childhood.

At the bottom of the postcard there is text in German or Yiddish, Hebrew, and Russian, reading: “The Shabbat Visit.” In addition, there is a notice in German saying: “Reprinting prohibited.” The name of the artist L. Krestin also appears underneath the picture.

**Would You Like To Know More?**

**Shabbat –<previous document>**.

**German Jews in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries – <previous document>**.

**Teaching Suggestions**

**​Jewish Studies**teachers can use this postcard when teaching about Shabbat and discussing family values in Judaism.

**Jewish History**teachers can use the postcard when teaching about Jews and Jewish life in Germany in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

**Art**teachers can discuss the themes that Jewish artists depicted in this period and what message they were conveying in these pictures. They can also compare works of art on the theme of Shabbat by different artists at different times.

**Discussion Points**

**Observation**

* Describe the people in the picture.  
  What are they wearing?  
  What are they doing?
* What does the caption say?  
  What languages is it written in?
* Describe the room where the scene is taking place.

**Reading Between the Lines**

* What do you think the relationship is between the three people?
* Which day is the picture depicting?  
  What are the people doing?  
  What questions might the grandfather be asking his grandson?
* What book do you think is open on the grandfather's lap?
* From looking at the grandson's body language, how do you think he is feeling?
* Why do you think this visit is taking place on Shabbat?
* This was painted in the nineteenth century.  
  How was life for German Jews at this time?
* At the time the picture was drawn, Jews were struggling to find a balance between Jewish life and integration into German society.  
  Some artists depicted an idealized version of Jewish life perhaps in an effort to impress their gentile neighbours or perhaps as nostalgic memories. Others included more critical views in their depiction of Jewish tradition.  
  How do you think this artist feels about his Jewish heritage? How does this picture lead you to this understanding?
* What message might this artist be conveying by depicting a scene of learning?  
  How does he represent the Jews in the picture?

**Connections**

* How do you spend your Shabbat?
* Do you ever visit people on Shabbat?  
  Who would you like to visit?  
  What would you like to do during your visits?
* What do you do when you visit your grandparents or other relatives?

**Creative Ideas**

* Draw a picture of what you would consider a perfect Shabbat visit.
* Write a short story to accompany the painting.

**Target audience:** Pre-school**,** Primary School, Junior High, High School, Informal Education, Higher Education

**NLI Links**

[Time Travel Ephemera Collection](http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/English/digitallibrary/time_journey/Pages/default.aspx)

[Shabbat Afternoon, postcard](http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/English/digitallibrary/pages/viewer.aspx?docid=EDU_XML_ENG700343896&presentorid=EDU_XML_ENG&searchurl=http%3A%2F%2Fweb.nli.org.il%2Fsites%2Fnlis%2Fen%2Feducation%2Fpages%2Fresults.aspx%23%3Fquery%3Dlsr16%2Cexact%2CPrimary+Source%26query%3Dany%2Ccontains%2Cshabbat%26institution%3DNNL%26vid%3DEDU_XML_ENG%26loc%3Dlocal%2Cscope%3A(EDU_XML_ENG)%26sortField%3Dlso04%26indx%3D1%26bulkSize%3D10)  
[Conclusion of Shabbat, later nineteenth century](http://web.nli.org.il/sites/NLI/English/digitallibrary/pages/viewer.aspx?docid=EDU_XML_ENG700343995&presentorid=EDU_XML_ENG&searchurl=http%3A%2F%2Fweb.nli.org.il%2Fsites%2Fnlis%2Fen%2Feducation%2Fpages%2Fresults.aspx%23%3Fquery%3Dlsr16%2Cexact%2CPrimary+Source%26query%3Dany%2Ccontains%2Cshabbat%26institution%3DNNL%26vid%3DEDU_XML_ENG%26loc%3Dlocal%2Cscope%3A(EDU_XML_ENG)%26sortField%3Dlso04%26indx%3D1%26bulkSize%3D10)