


## LESSON PLAN

Name:

Date:

<p>Group and number of participants: <b>School or Community Groups. Up to 30.</b></p> <p>Focus of Lesson: Looking at the importance of using witness evidence and testimony to gain first-hand knowledge about events that occurred.</p> <p><b>LEARNING OBJECTIVE (LO): I can use evidence from witness testimony for research.</b></p>	<p>Time Available: (up to 1 hour)</p> 
<p><u>Groups previous knowledge and experience</u> They should be aware of various events that occurred and what led the Nazis to Alderney. They need to be reminded of the purpose of the research. How is looking at witness testimony or witness evidence going to assist in an archaeological project?</p>	
<p><u>SUCCESS CRITERIA (SC)</u> The group will (know/be able to):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand that not everyone had the same experience during this period.</li> <li>2. Understand that testimony is a primary resource.</li> <li>3. Understand the importance of using witness testimony as evidence.</li> </ol>	

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Outline of lesson	Resources (including ICT)
<p><b>Introduction</b> ( 10mins )</p> <p><b>Starter-</b> Discuss how witness evidence/testimony has helped us in understanding past events. Talk about examples where using witnesses has helped us to develop further knowledge about the past.</p>	<p>Resources; Screen and PowerPoint slides.</p>
<p><b>Development</b> ( 40mins )</p> <p>Group divided into pairs or threes. The groups are given copies of witness evidence. Where possible, the groups will be given evidence/testimonies from individuals with different backgrounds and at different stages during this period. The groups should compare the testimonial evidence given to identify any comparisons and differences.</p> <p><b>Exercise one:</b> Each group is given a worksheet to complete. This helps them to identify specific details in the testimonial evidence, draw comparisons and spot differences.</p> <p><b>Exercise two:</b> Each group will share their overall ideas with the class in order to note any patterns.</p>	<p>Resources; Screen and PowerPoint slides, printed witness evidence and profiles, worksheets.</p>
<p><b>Conclusion</b> ( 10mins )</p> <p>What have you learnt about the events mentioned in the testimonial evidence? How has this helped with our understanding of the lives of camp prisoners? Why do you think that archaeologists look at testimonies or witness evidence before beginning excavations?</p>	<p>Resources; Screen and PowerPoint slides.</p>

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### Supporting notes;

Archaeologists use a range of techniques to investigate an area before they excavate. As much information as possible is collected to provide archaeologists with specific knowledge and a more detailed picture of a site. They will look at maps, illustrations, photos, documents and books and often talk to people local to the area. Any other archaeological work carried out in the area is also looked at. Maps and photos are particularly useful when there is nothing left to see on the ground.

#### Testimony 1 Answers:

- 1 His name was Julio Comin and he arrived on Alderney aged 33.
- 2 He was held on Norderney camp. Any of the following, or another CORRECT answer, is acceptable:
  - It was one of four camps built on Alderney
  - It was constructed in the summer of 1942
  - Prisoners were made to perform forced labour
  - Harsh conditions
  - Prisoners received beatings and were occasionally murdered
- 3 He explains why he was sent to Alderney (trying to cut the barbed wire in a camp in Brest), what work he undertook while at Norderney (barber), and that the Spanish were treated better than the Russian prisoners (paid more, received more food, etc).  
Before being imprisoned, the Spanish Republic had fell and Spanish citizens fled to the French border. After liberation, areas were recaptured from the Germans as they were forced to surrender and many Nazi collaborators were arrested.
- 4 This testimony shows individuals tried to escape from the camps (cutting the barbed wire) but many were caught and taken to another camp, it also shows the prisoners were forced to complete labour tasks for the Nazis in order to receive basic necessities such as food.
- 5 Any appropriate questions

#### Testimony 2 Answers:

- 1 Her name was Louise Melanie Blamont and she arrived on Alderney aged 33.
- 2 She was held on Borkum camp. Any of the following, or another CORRECT answer, is acceptable:
  - It was one of four camps built on Alderney but was the smallest
  - It was constructed in January 1942
  - It was a "volunteer" labour camp
  - Gate posts still remain from the camp
- 3 She explains that she worked as a Kitchen maid in the camp and received wages for her work before being transferred multiple times before liberation working in kitchens and finally doing laundry and sewing for the Wehrmacht. She also states she heard beatings took place on the island but never experienced or witnessed any occurrences.  
Before working on the camp, there was a failed allied attack on Dieppe and the German army reached Stalingrad.  
After liberation, areas were recaptured from the Germans as they were forced to surrender and many Nazi collaborators were arrested.
- 4 This testimony shows some individuals didn't receive as poor treatment as others or witness any violence and may have chosen to work for the Nazis for whatever reason.
- 5 Any appropriate questions

#### Testimony 3 Answers:

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- 1 His name was Bendeli Weiss and he arrived on Alderney aged 34.
- 2 He was held on Sylt camp. Any of the following, or another CORRECT answer, is acceptable:
  - It was one of four camps built on Alderney
  - It was constructed in early 1942
  - Its entrance gate posts still stand
  - Control of Sylt camp changed from March 1943 from thr Organisation Todt (OT) to the Schutzstaffel-SS-Baubrigade 1 and it became a subcamp of the Neuengamme concentration camp (located in Hamburg, Germany)
  - Prisoners received beatings and were occasionally murdered
- 3 The testimony explains how Weiss had been imprisoned since 1938 and passed from camp to camp mostly likely due to him being a Roma. It also states he suffered harsh labour, hunger, disease and ill-treatment within the camps.

Around the time he was first incarcerated, the Munich agreement was signed by Germany, Italy, Great Britain and France, Kristallnacht occurred, and Jew exclusions began. Prior to him arriving in Alderney, there was the German defeat at Stalingrad and the liquidation of the Krakow Ghetto. Around October 1944, the prisoners in Auschwitz-Birkenau revolted with Himmler later ordering the demolition of the Auschwitz gas chambers and crematoria.
- 4 This testimony shows some individuals were treated more harshly due to their characteristics, such as being Roma. It also shows that some people were imprisoned for long periods of time and may never have come out of the Nazi regime.
- 5 Any appropriate questions

**Worksheet:**

- 1. What was the individual's name and how old were they at the time of the events that they describe?**

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- 2. In which camp on Alderney was the interviewee held? Name 2 things you know about this camp.**

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- 3. What events does the interviewee describe? Where and when did the described events take place? What might have happened immediately before or after events described in the testimony?**

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- 4. What does this testimony reveal, if anything, about the decisions and actions of the interviewee and/or people involved?**

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- 5. What questions does the testimony clip raise about the Holocaust that you would like to explore further?**

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