



“Grandparents. Grand stories. The closest stories from World War II”

Learning Scenario

Title

The Second World War. The home front

Author(s)

Mihaela Hendreș, the *Emil Racovita National College*, Iasi, Romania

Abstract

This learning scenario is based on a family photo from the Second World War: my grandparents (Puiu) with my father (one year old) and other member of the family in front of their house. They returned to their house after they were forced to leave in 1940, after the Soviet ultimatum of June. They will leave their home for good in 1944. This photo includes some human categories of the World War II: soldier, woman, child, refugee. After the photo analysis (with information provided so that they can understand the context), students can get a better image of how life was during World War Two.

Keywords

Second World War, women, refugee, prisoner, picture, photo analysis, presentation, discussion

Table of summary

<i>Table of summary</i>	
Subject	History
Topic	
Age of students	13 – 14
Teaching time	1 lesson 45 min

Integration into the curriculum

- **Level:** Secondary education.
- **Subject:** History
- **Curriculum:** The lesson may be used in a history class.

Competences

Specific competences



Exploring historical sources by using specific critical thinking tools

Applying intellectual work techniques that value cooperation, discipline and perseverance

Derived competences

Cognitive	Formative	Attitudinal
CD1 to place in space and time events specific to WWII	CD 4 to explain the impact of the war on different categories of people	CD 7 to express opinions about the impact of the war on people on the home front
CD2 to identify categories of people affected by the war	CD 5 to identify information in a visual historical source	CD 8 to assume the rules established for group activity
CD3 to name minimum 3 effects of the war on people of the home front	CD 6 to describe using the 5 senses what children experienced during the war	

Activities

Name of activity	Procedure	Time
Updating knowledge	The teacher discusses with the students about life on the front, what it means for the soldiers, based on previous lessons. Also, important moments of the Second World War are recalled: outbreak, important battles, Romania's territorial cessions in 1940, important moments of the Eastern Front and other fronts.	5 – 8 min
Announcing the new theme and objectives	Teacher announces the new theme <i>The home front</i> and the objectives.	2 min
Directing the activity	- Teacher hands out the worksheet 1 (see Annex). Students work individually (Note: <i>worksheets can also be distributed via the electronic platform used by school if students have acces to the necessary electronic devices</i>).	5 min
	- Teacher hands out the worksheet 2. Students work in groups of 4-5.	5 min
	- The photo is visible for students (monitor, videoprojector) and each group offers the result of the work and it is discussed. The common question of each group is discussed and answered (by other students or by teacher).	10 minutes
	Based on the table on worksheet 2, teachers and students discuss about daily life on the home front (women, children, refugees): food and other goods shortage, houses destroyed by bombardments, deportation. Teacher will ask students to think about what they know about today's conflicts and their impact on ordinary people (for example, Ukraine) and express	10 minutes



	<p>an opinion about the impact of the war on people on the home front.</p> <p><i>Teacher informs students that this photo is a family photo but still a historical source and tells students about the importance of connecting local and family history to national and world history.</i></p>	
Reflection	<p>Students get one number from 1 to 5, where numbers mean:</p> <p>1 I see; 2 I hear; 3 I smell; 4 I touch; 5 I taste.</p> <p>Each student would have to respond according to what a child of their age experienced during a day in the Second World War (for example <i>I see soldiers marching in the street</i>).</p>	3 min
Extension	<p><i>Teacher asks students to search for family photos, any kind of objects from the Second World War, letters etc., analyse them according to Object Analysis Worksheet, and annex it to the personal portfolio.</i></p>	1-2 min
Final analysis evaluation and self-evaluation, homework	<p>Short discussion about how the lesson was. Students send emoticons on the class group illustrating the activity.</p> <p>Teacher presents the homework (see annex).</p>	2 min

Annex



Worksheet 1

Look carefully at the photo below, read the information, then answer the questions (if you don't know, leave blank):

Time: 5 minutes

Level 1 Observation

1.1. Look at the photo to get the big picture, then examine each item individually.



Additional information for students

Verso of the photo:

Left: As a reminder from ... (not readable) with Ticu; right: June 1943, the hours of the clock '10, To Miss Maricica Honciuc

The photo has traces of being folded in four and is torn in the middle.

1.2. In the table below, fill in each column based on the observations above. Describe each element, but do not make any evaluations/comments.

People	Places	Objects	Actions
Ex. two women			

Level 2 Association

2.1 Who is the author of the photograph?

2.2 When was the photograph taken/published?

2.3. Where was the photograph taken and/or published?

2.4. Based on what you observed above, write one-three things you can conclude from the photograph.

Level 3 – Conclusion

2.5. Write a question whose answer you would like to find out based on this photo.



Worksheet 2

1. Discuss and compare in your group the information you wrote on worksheet 1.
2. Read the information below and re-write 2.4 and 2.5 together. Time 5 minutes
 - 2.4. Based on what you observed above, write one-three things you can conclude from the photograph.
 - 2.5. Write a question whose answer you would like to find out based on this photo.

First row in the photo: Puiu family, left (mother) Agripina Puiu, middle (child) Constantin (Ticu) Puiu, right (father) Gheorghe Puiu

Second row other members of the family (sister and probably brothers of Gheorghe)

The photo was taken in front of the family house in Puieni village (now Poiana, Ukraine) and send by Agripina to her younger sister, Maricica. This village was in the Herta region, occupied by the Soviet Union in June 1940. The members of the family became refugees. After Romania entered the war and the territories taken by USSR were liberated, family (now with a baby boy born in May 1941) returned to their home. They were forced to leave their home again for good in March-April 1944 because of the Soviet advance. Agripina Puiu and her son were refugees in Oltenia (Southern part of Romania), while Gheorghe Puiu was in the army and, after August 1944, fought against Germany until the end of the war (Tatra Mountains, Slovakia). Agripina and Gheorghe never saw their home again, they build a new one in a small village in Botosani county. Ticu visited Puieni with his family in the '80 to fulfill his mother wish that her grandson and grand-daughter would see the places and the house. Most of their relatives who remained there were deported in Siberia and died.

3. Fill in the table below:

The characters in the photo represent:

Soldier in the war	Woman on the home front	Child	Refugee	POW	Deported person



Colegiul Național
Emil Racoviță Iași

Exelență în educație

Aleea Nicolina Nr. 4
IASI - 700221, ROMANIA
CF 4701592
Tel/Fax: +[40]-232-234 272
email: office@racovita.ro
Web page: www.racovita.ro

Homework



August 22 1944, Iași city center (Braunstein Palace seen from Cuza Statue) after bombardment.

Source: <https://www.libertatea.ro/stiri/analiza-ce-a-insemnat-ziua-de-23-august-1944-pentru-romania-istoricul-alexandru-aioanei-frontul-fusese-distru-si-eram-un-stat-infrant-4994490>

Imagine you are a child passing by the square when the photo was taken. Write what

I see

I hear.....

I smell.....

I touch.....

I taste.....