

# **LESSON PLAN IN THE FORM OF AN ESCAPE ROOM "PRISONERS AND VICTIMS OF THE GERMAN OCCUPATION" On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II for grades 4-8**

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## **Lesson Objectives:**

- Promote among young people an expanded knowledge of World War II history, particularly local and family history.
- Encourage students to engage with historical events through eyewitness accounts from their immediate surroundings.
- Foster teamwork, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills by completing tasks related to historical facts.

## **Introductory information:**

The class was organized into three groups, which I designated by colors for ease of management: green, yellow, and blue. However, the specific names are not of great significance, as each group follows its own distinct path.

The clock on the board counts down from 40 minutes—this is the duration allotted for students to complete all tasks.

The room contains information pertinent to its theme, utilizing calendars from the City Hall and the Marshal's Office, along with posters, books, and children's creations. Additionally, I incorporated numerous fake QR codes in various visible locations, which present time-consuming tasks without offering any clues.

On the table at each group's stand, there are printed source texts in Polish: the memoirs of a survivor of the death wall in Rubinkowo (blue group), excerpts from a book by Alojzy Liegman (green group), and excerpts from a book by Wojciech Gajdus (yellow group), along with sheets of paper and pencils. These materials will facilitate the completion of the second task, which will focus on the lives of each of these individuals connected to Toruń and their tragic fates during World War II—a teenage boy who survived the shooting yet witnessed his brother's death, a railwayman, and a priest—who were prisoners in the Toruń fort camps.

Each group requires one phone equipped with a QR code scanner and internet connectivity.

After acquiring the key to exit the classroom, students utilize it to unlock the door to the teachers' backstage area, where a reward awaits them—specifically, a sweet treat and a letter of congratulations. Upon deciphering the letter, they will earn additional points on the upcoming test.

	DESCRIPTION AND/OR FILE NAME		
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<p>We print for every group document titled "<a href="#">Introduction Last mission-blue</a>" (I printed it on cards in the respective colors of the groups). <a href="#">Introduction Last mission-gren.docx</a>  <a href="#">Introduction Last mission-yellow.docx</a></p> <p>This introductory text provides an overview of the escape room, encompassing the complete narrative, guidelines, and the initial challenge—students are required to familiarize themselves with this information.</p>		
<b>Task 1</b>	<p>Task 1 is included in the introduction sheet – it is an encrypted message using Morse code, along with a provided decoder. If we want to make the task more difficult, we can hide the Morse decoder near the table, although this task generally takes the most time for students.</p>		
<b>Solution</b>	<p><b>Blue Group:</b> Look in the book about execution</p>	<p><b>Green group:</b> Look in the book by Alojzy Liegmann</p>	<p><b>Yellow group:</b> Look in the book by Wojciech Gajdus.</p>
<b>Task 2</b>	<p>On the bookshelf, there are "fake" books—safes adorned with character stickers (file: <a href="#">Stickers for books</a>)—alongside a QR code that links to a task concerning specific characters on Flippity.net. The exercise can be translated into English using automatic translation tools. Additionally, there is a link to a page containing information about these specific characters, which also requires automatic translation; however, as this is a standard function on most phones, it should not pose a challenge. Polish students may utilize printed excerpts of books in Polish. Upon completing the task, the group will receive a code to unlock the book-safe.</p>		
<b>Solution</b>	<p><b>Blue: 149</b></p>	<p><b>Green: 209</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow: 128</b></p>
<b>Task 3</b>	<p>Inside the book-safe, there is a puzzle cut-out image of a fort or bunker, a UV flashlight, and a key to a locker. After assembling the puzzle and illuminating the image, students receive a clue: "Look for the bomb there." The room contains three regular locked cabinets with pictures of forts and bunkers attached to them. Students must identify their object and use the provided key to open the correct locker.</p>		
<b>Solution</b>	<p><b>Blue: B-54/M-2 - Ammunition storage facility</b></p>	<p><b>Green: FORT VIII</b></p>	<p><b>Yellow: FORT VII</b></p>
<b>Task 4</b>	<p>After opening the locker, students find an instruction sheet for the next task. <b>File:</b> <a href="#">Caesar Cipher with Wheel</a> – an ultraviolet marker is used to draw the number 4 on it – this is the key for adjusting the wheel found inside the locker. The locker contains a "bomb" (a regular jar wrapped accordingly) secured with a 4-digit padlock. To defuse it, students must scan the QR code on top of the "bomb," which is also included in the file. To solve the true/false task, students must use materials in the room related to important women of Toruń's independence movement. These heroines also showed</p>		

	remarkable bravery during World War II. Posters about them and a photo of a nearby mural are in the classroom (materials from Toruń City Hall), but necessary images can also be printed. After solving the quiz, students receive a message with an encrypted code, which they must decode using the Caesar cipher wheel.		
<b>Solution</b>	Blue: HELENA STEINBORN	Green: HALINA URBAŃSKA	Yellow: HELENA PISKORSKA
<b>Task 5</b>	Each poster has a UV-marked date associated with a specific figure. <b>THIS IS THE CODE TO DEFUSE THE BOMB.</b>		
<b>Solution</b>	Blue: 2309	Green: 1942	Yellow: 1960
<b>Summary</b>	After "defusing the bomb," students find the key to exit the classroom and access the storage room, where they discover a congratulatory letter encouraging them to visit nearby historical sites independently or with their families. A printed map highlighting these locations is included. <b>File:</b> <a href="#">Congratulations.</a>		

#### Key links:

<https://alfabetmorsa.pl/tlumacz-translator-alfabetu-morsea-online>

<https://learningapps.org/>

<https://calcoolator.pl/szyfr-cezara.html>

[https://spoledkurs.centrumcyfrowe.pl/img/pliki\\_tekstowe/PrzemycicMatematyke\\_final.pdf](https://spoledkurs.centrumcyfrowe.pl/img/pliki_tekstowe/PrzemycicMatematyke_final.pdf) (koło cezara do wydrukowania)

<https://cryptii.com/pipes/caesar-cipher>

<https://potoruniu.blogspot.com/>