After Liberation

Trace displacement, resettlement, and evidence of one survivor's Alabama life.

SS24.HOS.20 "Describe the experience of Holocaust survivors and other displaced persons following World War II.* 20a Research and report on the lives of Holocaust survivors who settled in Alabama after World War II."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two postwar challenges for displaced people, circle two documented details about Max Steinmetz, and number two types of sources that could help you investigate his resettlement.

Finding a Place After the War

1. When the war ended in Europe in May 1945, liberation did not give every survivor a home to return to. Many Jewish survivors found that relatives had been murdered and houses taken or destroyed. Some faced antisemitism if they tried to return to their former towns. Millions of people, including former forced laborers and refugees, were displaced across Europe. Relief agencies and Allied authorities set up displaced persons camps, often called DP camps, where people could obtain food, medical care, and help locating family. Camps offered shelter, but waiting for news, travel papers, or a country willing to admit them could take years.

2. Survivors made different choices after the war. Some rebuilt lives in Europe, while others sought entry to the United States or other countries. Immigration rules, sponsors, money, and the loss of documents could affect where a person went. Max Steinmetz survived Auschwitz and later made his home in Birmingham, Alabama. He spoke publicly about his experiences, helping younger people learn what persecution had done to individuals and families. His Alabama life shows that the story of the Holocaust did not stop at liberation. Resettlement could mean learning a new place and building relationships while carrying memories of people who had been killed.

3. To report accurately on a survivor's life, a researcher must separate a person's documented history from common experiences. The fact that many survivors stayed in DP camps does not prove that Steinmetz stayed in one. An oral history could reveal his own words about the years after liberation, while immigration records or local newspapers might show when and how he settled in Alabama. Compare dates and details across sources, and identify whose account each source records. A careful report might connect one verified personal event to a wider postwar challenge, then name what remains unknown rather than filling gaps with assumptions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did liberation not end displacement for many Holocaust survivors?

2. How could a missing document affect a survivor's attempt to build a life after the war?

3. What does the passage establish about Steinmetz's life after Auschwitz, and what does it not establish about DP camps?

4. Which source named in the passage could help you investigate when Steinmetz settled in Alabama, and what would you look for in it?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five- or six-sentence museum label about postwar displacement and Max Steinmetz's Alabama connection. Include a documented fact about him, a challenge survivors faced that you cannot assume he faced, two questions for further research, and a source you could consult.

ANSWER KEY

After Liberation

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.HOS.20

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two postwar challenges for displaced people, circle two documented details about Max Steinmetz, and number two types of sources that could help you investigate his resettlement. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did liberation not end displacement for many Holocaust survivors?	**Many had lost relatives or homes, and some faced antisemitism when they tried to return. Finding another country willing to admit them could take years.**
2	How could a missing document affect a survivor's attempt to build a life after the war?	**The loss of documents could make it harder to travel or gain entry to a country where the survivor hoped to settle.**
3	What does the passage establish about Steinmetz's life after Auschwitz, and what does it not establish about DP camps?	**He later lived in Birmingham, Alabama, and spoke publicly about his experiences. The passage does not establish that he stayed in a DP camp.**
4	Which source named in the passage could help you investigate when Steinmetz settled in Alabama, and what would you look for in it?	**Immigration records might provide a date or travel details. A local newspaper might also report when he arrived or began living in Alabama.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After the war, many Holocaust survivors had no home or family to return to. Some stayed in DP camps while they searched for relatives and a place to settle. Max Steinmetz survived Auschwitz and later lived in Birmingham, Alabama. He spoke publicly about his experiences, but the passage does not say whether he stayed in a DP camp. When did he arrive in Alabama, and what helped him settle there? An oral history could provide his account, which I would compare with other records.

Accept other passage-supported challenges and source choices. In the museum label, look for a clear distinction between documented facts about Steinmetz and experiences that cannot be attributed to him without further evidence.