Survival and Settlement

Researching a Holocaust survivor's life in postwar Alabama

SS24.HOS.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 one fact about Ruth Siegler's wartime experience and circle one fact about where she lived after the war. Number two kinds of sources that could help you research her life.

A Survivor's Alabama Story

1 Ruth Siegler survived Nazi persecution during World War II and later settled in Birmingham, Alabama. Her story connects events in Europe with Alabama's postwar history. The Holocaust was the Nazi regime's systematic murder of six million Jews. Nazi persecution also harmed and killed millions of other people. For survivors, liberation in 1945 did not end every hardship. Many had lost relatives and homes. Researching Siegler's life means looking beyond what she survived. It also means asking where she made a home afterward and how her experiences became part of the history of the place where she lived.

2 A report about Siegler must establish two things: that she survived the Holocaust and that she settled in Alabama after World War II. The passage identifies Nazi persecution in Europe as part of her wartime experience and Birmingham as her later home. A visit to Alabama would not establish that someone settled there. Researchers should check dates and places carefully, especially when accounts move between wartime and postwar events. They should also seek evidence about a survivor's life beyond the war. Details about work, family, or community belong in a report only when a source supports them.

3 The Alabama Holocaust Education Center in Birmingham preserves survivors' stories and materials about the Holocaust. An oral history can preserve a survivor's own words. A biographical profile can provide dates and places. These sources may answer different questions: a profile might confirm where a person lived, while an interview might explain what a move meant to that person. A careful report identifies the source for each claim. It also recognizes a source's limits. A record of someone's wartime experience, for example, cannot by itself prove that the person later settled in Alabama.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two facts in the passage establish that Ruth Siegler fits this research topic?

2. Why would a record of a survivor's visit to Alabama be insufficient for this report?

3. Which kind of source named in the passage would you seek to learn what a move to Alabama meant to a survivor? Explain why.

4. A classmate writes, "Siegler worked as a teacher in Birmingham." Can the passage support that claim? What should the classmate do?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Find an Alabama Holocaust Education Center survivor profile or oral history for someone who settled in Alabama after World War II. Write a 60 to 90 word report that names the survivor, identifies a documented wartime experience and a postwar Alabama home, adds one fact not in this passage, and names your source.

ANSWER KEY

Survival and Settlement

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.HOS.20a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one fact about Ruth Siegler's wartime experience and circle one fact about where she lived after the war. Number two kinds of sources that could help you research her life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two facts in the passage establish that Ruth Siegler fits this research topic?	**She survived Nazi persecution during World War II and later settled in Birmingham, Alabama.**
2	Why would a record of a survivor's visit to Alabama be insufficient for this report?	**A visit does not establish that the survivor made Alabama a home after the war.**
3	Which kind of source named in the passage would you seek to learn what a move to Alabama meant to a survivor? Explain why.	**An oral history, because it can preserve the survivor's own words about the move.**
4	A classmate writes, "Siegler worked as a teacher in Birmingham." Can the passage support that claim? What should the classmate do?	**No. The passage does not identify her work. The classmate should check a reliable biographical profile or oral history before including the claim.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Ruth Siegler survived Nazi persecution during World War II and later made her home in Birmingham, Alabama. The Alabama Holocaust Education Center's survivor profile of Siegler reports that she was born in Poland, a fact not given in the passage. Her birthplace helps place her early life in Europe, while her later home connects her story to Alabama after the war. Both parts matter in a report about a survivor who settled in the state.

For Part 3, accept another documented survivor who settled in Alabama after 1945. Check that the added fact and the wartime and postwar claims are supported by the source the student names.