Lives Across Europe

Read for place, work, and culture before World War I.

SS24.HOS.3 "Describe cultural, economic, and social aspects of pre-war Jewish life in Europe and explain how these aspects differed across regions. 3a Locate on a map pre-war centers of Jewish life, including shtetls..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the main centers of Jewish life and where they were located. Circle details about work, language, or community life that help you compare regions.

Different Places, Different Lives

1. Before World War I, Jewish communities stretched across Europe, but their daily lives did not look alike. In eastern Europe, many lived in shtetls, small market towns, in areas now within Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine. A shtetl's shops and market connected Jewish artisans and merchants with nearby farmers. Families might speak Yiddish at home, attend synagogue, and organize schools or charities. Warsaw, east of Berlin in what was then Russian-ruled Poland, was a large city with Jewish newspapers, theaters, factories, and labor movements.

2. Farther west, Berlin, in Germany, and Vienna, in Austria-Hungary, were major centers of Jewish life. Many Jews there lived among non-Jewish neighbors in large cities rather than in shtetls. They worked in trades and professions, joined cultural societies, and debated whether to keep traditional practices or change them. German was common in public life, while families followed a range of religious customs. These cities offered opportunities, yet Jews also faced antisemitism and barriers to some jobs and social circles.

3. A different center stood in southeastern Europe: the port of Thessaloniki on the Aegean Sea, south of Vienna. Under Ottoman rule until 1912, the city had a large Jewish population whose ancestors included Jews expelled from Spain centuries earlier. Many spoke Ladino, a language rooted in Spanish, and worked in commerce, crafts, and port trades. After Thessaloniki became part of Greece, its Jewish life continued. Its coastal economy and Ladino-speaking culture differed from Yiddish-speaking shtetls farther north and east.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where was Warsaw in relation to Berlin? How did Jewish life in Warsaw differ from life in nearby shtetls?

2. How did work in eastern European shtetls differ from the work described in Berlin and Vienna?

3. Which center lay south of Vienna on the Aegean Sea? How did its language and economy differ from those of eastern European shtetls?

4. Compare cultural life in Warsaw with cultural life in Berlin and Vienna. Give one feature of each.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label for a journey from an eastern European shtetl through Berlin to Thessaloniki. Show where the stops are, compare work and language or cultural life, and end with one idea the communities shared.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the main centers of Jewish life and where they were located. Circle details about work, language, or community life that help you compare regions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where was Warsaw in relation to Berlin? How did Jewish life in Warsaw differ from life in nearby shtetls?	**Warsaw was east of Berlin. It was a large city with Jewish newspapers, theaters, factories, and labor movements, while shtetls were small market towns where shops connected artisans and merchants with farmers.**
2	How did work in eastern European shtetls differ from the work described in Berlin and Vienna?	**Shtetl artisans and merchants served nearby farmers through shops and markets. In Berlin and Vienna, Jews worked in urban trades and professions.**
3	Which center lay south of Vienna on the Aegean Sea? How did its language and economy differ from those of eastern European shtetls?	**Thessaloniki lay south of Vienna. Many Jews there spoke Ladino and worked in a port economy, while many shtetl Jews spoke Yiddish and traded with nearby farmers.**
4	Compare cultural life in Warsaw with cultural life in Berlin and Vienna. Give one feature of each.	**Warsaw had Jewish newspapers and theaters. In Berlin and Vienna, Jews joined cultural societies and debated religious practices.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In an eastern European shtetl, Yiddish-speaking families might run shops that served nearby farmers. Traveling west to Berlin, a visitor would find a large German city where Jewish residents worked in trades and professions and joined cultural societies. Farther southeast, Thessaloniki stood on the Aegean Sea, where many Jews spoke Ladino and worked in commerce and port trades. People in all three places earned a living, although their languages and kinds of work differed.

Accept other accurate comparisons supported by the passage. Student labels should place the stops in a sensible geographic order and avoid suggesting that everyone in a region had the same experience.