Centers on a Map

Locate pre-war Jewish communities using geographic clues

SS24.HOS.3a "Locate on a map pre-war centers of Jewish life, including shtetls, in Europe in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.*"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the six community names, circle the direction words and geographic features that help locate them, and write S beside each shtetl. Use those clues to draw your sketch map in Part 3 before answering Part 2.

Where Jewish Communities Lived

1. In 1900, Jewish communities lived across eastern and central Europe, in large cities and small towns. To locate them, start with Warsaw in present-day Poland. Warsaw was a major center of Jewish life, with newspapers, schools, and places of worship. Kraków, another Polish city, lies south of Warsaw. Tykocin, a small town northeast of Warsaw, was a *shtetl*, a town with a substantial Jewish community. On a north-up sketch map, those three places form a useful starting group: Kraków below Warsaw, and Tykocin above and to its right.

2. Continue northeast from Tykocin to Vilna, a city in present-day Lithuania known for Jewish learning and publishing. Vilna is also called Vilnius today. Southeast of Vilna lies Mir, a shtetl in present-day Belarus. Farther south and east, Odessa stands on the Black Sea coast in present-day Ukraine. Its busy port connected people and goods across long distances. These places did not form a single kind of community. A student in Vilna, a shopkeeper in Mir, and a dockworker in Odessa lived in different settings, even though each belonged to a center of Jewish life.

3. Present-day country names help you place these communities on a map, but they do not describe the political borders of 1900. At that time, the Russian Empire ruled Warsaw, Tykocin, Vilna, Mir, and Odessa. Kraków was part of Austria-Hungary. Both empires included people who spoke many languages and followed many faiths. When you make a sketch map, use north, south, east, and west to position the communities. Label the present-day countries, but do not mistake those labels for the governments that ruled the places before World War I.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. On your sketch map, which shtetl belongs northeast of Warsaw but southwest of Vilna?

2. Which shtetl belongs southeast of Vilna? Name its present-day country.

3. Which named center belongs on the Black Sea coast, south and east of Mir?

4. Which named city belongs south of Warsaw in present-day Poland?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Before answering Part 2, draw a north-up sketch map in the box. Locate and label all six communities, write each one's present-day country beside it, mark both shtetls with S, and label the Black Sea. Below your map, write one sentence explaining why present-day country names do not show who ruled these places in 1900.

Centers on a Map

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the six community names, circle the direction words and geographic features that help locate them, and write S beside each shtetl. Use those clues to draw your sketch map in Part 3 before answering Part 2. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	On your sketch map, which shtetl belongs northeast of Warsaw but southwest of Vilna?	**Tykocin.**
2	Which shtetl belongs southeast of Vilna? Name its present-day country.	**Mir, in present-day Belarus.**
3	Which named center belongs on the Black Sea coast, south and east of Mir?	**Odessa.**
4	Which named city belongs south of Warsaw in present-day Poland?	**Kraków.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The sketch places Kraków south of Warsaw and Tykocin northeast of Warsaw, all labeled Poland. It places Vilna northeast of Tykocin and labels it Lithuania; Mir southeast of Vilna and labels it Belarus; and Odessa south and east of Mir, on the labeled Black Sea coast, and labels it Ukraine. Tykocin and Mir have S marks. Sentence: Present-day country names do not show who ruled these places in 1900 because political borders have changed.

Accept approximate positions on a north-up sketch map if the stated directional relationships are clear. Students need not draw borders or coastlines accurately.