Paths After Liberation

How survivors' choices and immigration policies shaped resettlement

TOT.C.7.9 "Examine the settlement patterns of Shoah (Holocaust) survivors after World War II, including immigration to the United States of America and other countries and the establishment of the modern State of Israel."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle places where survivors lived or hoped to settle, underline barriers to moving, and number three different settlement paths. Use your marks to compare why survivors' paths differed.

Finding a Place to Begin Again

1. When World War II ended in 1945, hundreds of thousands of Jewish survivors faced a question: where could they live safely? Many had lost family members, and returning home could mean finding their houses occupied or facing renewed antisemitism. Some returned to their former communities and rebuilt their lives. Others stayed in displaced persons (DP) camps, especially in Germany, Austria, and Italy, while seeking a new home. These camps were temporary shelters, not a single destination shared by all survivors. Choices depended on family connections, available visas, safety, and changing government policies.

2. For survivors seeking the United States, a relative's address could offer a starting point, but immigration laws limited how many people could enter. The U.S. Displaced Persons Act of 1948 opened a route for many displaced Europeans, including Jewish survivors, although its early rules disadvantaged some of them. A 1950 revision eased certain restrictions. Survivors also settled in countries such as Canada and Australia, where entry rules and sponsorship affected their options. These moves did not happen all at once. A person might spend years in a camp before receiving permission to travel and begin work or school elsewhere.

3. Many survivors hoped to move to the land then called British-controlled Palestine, where Jewish communities already lived. British restrictions on Jewish immigration blocked many attempts to enter before 1948. In May 1948, the modern State of Israel was established, and its government opened immigration to Jews, including Shoah survivors. Some arrived during the war that followed the state's founding and faced shortages of housing and jobs. For many, Israel became a place to build a new life, while other survivors chose destinations elsewhere or remained in Europe. The pattern was shaped by both personal ties and political decisions.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did remaining in a DP camp differ from returning to a former community?

2. What shaped survivors' chances of settling in the United States, Canada, or Australia?

3. How did the establishment of Israel change one possible settlement path for survivors?

4. What do the paths to the United States and Israel show about the role of government decisions in survivors' settlement?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a short museum exhibit note explaining why Shoah survivors did not all settle in the same place. Use evidence from at least three destinations or settlement paths in the passage, and explain how one government policy affected a path.

ANSWER KEY

Paths After Liberation

HIGH SCHOOL · TOT.C.7.9

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle places where survivors lived or hoped to settle, underline barriers to moving, and number three different settlement paths. Use your marks to compare why survivors' paths differed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did remaining in a DP camp differ from returning to a former community?	**A DP camp was a temporary place to stay while seeking a new home. Some survivors returned to former communities to rebuild their lives.**
2	What shaped survivors' chances of settling in the United States, Canada, or Australia?	**U.S. immigration laws and changes to the Displaced Persons Act affected entry. In Canada and Australia, entry rules and sponsorship also affected survivors' options.**
3	How did the establishment of Israel change one possible settlement path for survivors?	**British restrictions had blocked many attempts to enter before 1948. After Israel was established, its government opened immigration to Jews, including survivors.**
4	What do the paths to the United States and Israel show about the role of government decisions in survivors' settlement?	**Government decisions shaped where survivors could go: U.S. immigration laws limited entry, while Israel's government opened immigration to Jews after the state was established.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After the war, Shoah survivors followed different paths as they looked for safety and a place to rebuild. Some returned to former communities in Europe, while others stayed in DP camps as they sought permission to move. Survivors who hoped to reach the United States faced immigration limits, though a 1948 law opened a route for many displaced Europeans. Others settled in Canada or Australia. After Israel was established in 1948, its government opened immigration to Jews, including survivors. Family connections, entry rules, and personal choices all shaped where people went.

Accept responses that distinguish temporary DP camp stays from longer-term settlement and explain how personal circumstances and government policies affected destinations. Do not require students to suggest that every survivor had lost all family members.