After the Gates

Liberation, displacement, and the search for a new home

USH.C.5.3.B "Describe the liberation of concentration and death camps and the immigration of Shoah (Holocaust) survivors."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details about camp liberation, circle two reasons survivors could not go home, and number two immigration destinations to trace what happened after liberation.

Liberation Was a Beginning

1. In July 1944, Soviet troops reached Majdanek in occupied Poland, one of the first Nazi camps they liberated. In January 1945, Soviet troops entered Auschwitz, a complex that included a death camp. The Nazis had forced many prisoners on marches westward before the troops arrived. Soldiers found survivors who were starving and ill, along with evidence of mass murder. Liberation ended Nazi control of those camps, but it could not undo the harm prisoners had suffered.

2. In April 1945, American troops liberated Buchenwald, a concentration camp in Germany. They found weakened prisoners and evidence of brutal conditions. Allied soldiers and aid workers provided food and medical care, but some survivors still died from illness and starvation. After the war, many Jewish survivors could not safely return to their former homes. Their families had been murdered, their property was gone, or antisemitism remained. Many lived in displaced persons camps while seeking a place to rebuild their lives.

3. For many survivors, immigration required documents, permission to enter another country, and time. Some hoped to reach British-controlled Palestine, where British restrictions limited Jewish immigration before Israel was established in 1948. Others sought entry to the United States, whose immigration rules limited admission; a 1948 law and later changes allowed more displaced people to enter. Survivors also settled in other countries. Each journey followed years of persecution and loss, and a new address did not erase those experiences.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Describe what Soviet troops found at Auschwitz and why many prisoners were missing.

2. Describe the liberation of Buchenwald and one urgent need survivors had.

3. Explain why some Jewish survivors lived in displaced persons camps after liberation.

4. Describe one barrier to immigration to Palestine and one change that opened a path to the United States.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 65 to 85 word museum label titled “After Liberation.” Connect the liberation of one camp, a problem survivors faced afterward, and a change that helped survivors immigrate; end by explaining why liberation did not mean a quick return home.

After the Gates

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details about camp liberation, circle two reasons survivors could not go home, and number two immigration destinations to trace what happened after liberation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Describe what Soviet troops found at Auschwitz and why many prisoners were missing.	**They found starving, ill survivors and evidence of mass murder. The Nazis had forced many prisoners on marches west before Soviet troops arrived.**
2	Describe the liberation of Buchenwald and one urgent need survivors had.	**American troops liberated Buchenwald in April 1945. Weakened survivors needed food or medical care.**
3	Explain why some Jewish survivors lived in displaced persons camps after liberation.	**Some could not safely return home because their families had been murdered, their property was gone, or antisemitism remained. They stayed in displaced persons camps while seeking a place to rebuild their lives.**
4	Describe one barrier to immigration to Palestine and one change that opened a path to the United States.	**British restrictions limited Jewish immigration to Palestine. A 1948 United States law and later changes allowed more displaced people to enter.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After Liberation: At Auschwitz, Soviet troops found starving survivors after the Nazis had marched many prisoners west. Liberation ended their captivity, not their losses. With family members murdered and homes gone, many survivors stayed in displaced persons camps. British restrictions limited entry to Palestine before Israel's establishment in 1948. Changes to United States law also opened paths to immigration. Leaving Europe offered safety and a new start, but it could not restore what survivors had lost.

Accept any accurate passage-based examples for the marking job and short answers. The museum label should connect liberation, displacement, and immigration rather than list facts separately.