

Holocaust Studies Curriculum – Fifth Grade Science/Math Lesson Plan Measurement

Content/Theme: Time and Distance with Danish Refugees

Grade Level: Fifth

Textbook Connection: Harcourt Math, Grade 5, Chapter 24, Lesson 6 and 7 Problem Solving Skill Estimate or Actual Measurement. For use in conjunction with: Number the Stars, New York: Doubleday for Young Readers, 1986. (Available in your media center or through the FAU lending library).

Benchmark:

- MA.B.1.2.2 Solves real-world problems involving measurement of the following: Length, (e.g. kilometer, mile) or Temperature (comparing temperature changes within the same scale using either Fahrenheit or Celsius)

Report Card Connection M7: Measures to solve problems in the real world.

Time: one/two class period(s)

Objective:

- Students will understand how far Danish refugees had to travel to get to Sweden during the Holocaust.
- Students will analysis the number of people, time, and factors included in the rescue of refugees from Denmark to Sweden.

Materials:

- Math textbook, novel and video, Number the Stars, (from FAU lending library)
- Handouts: Map of Rescue of Danish Jews, paper, calculator, pencil, Use as reference: <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/denmark.html>

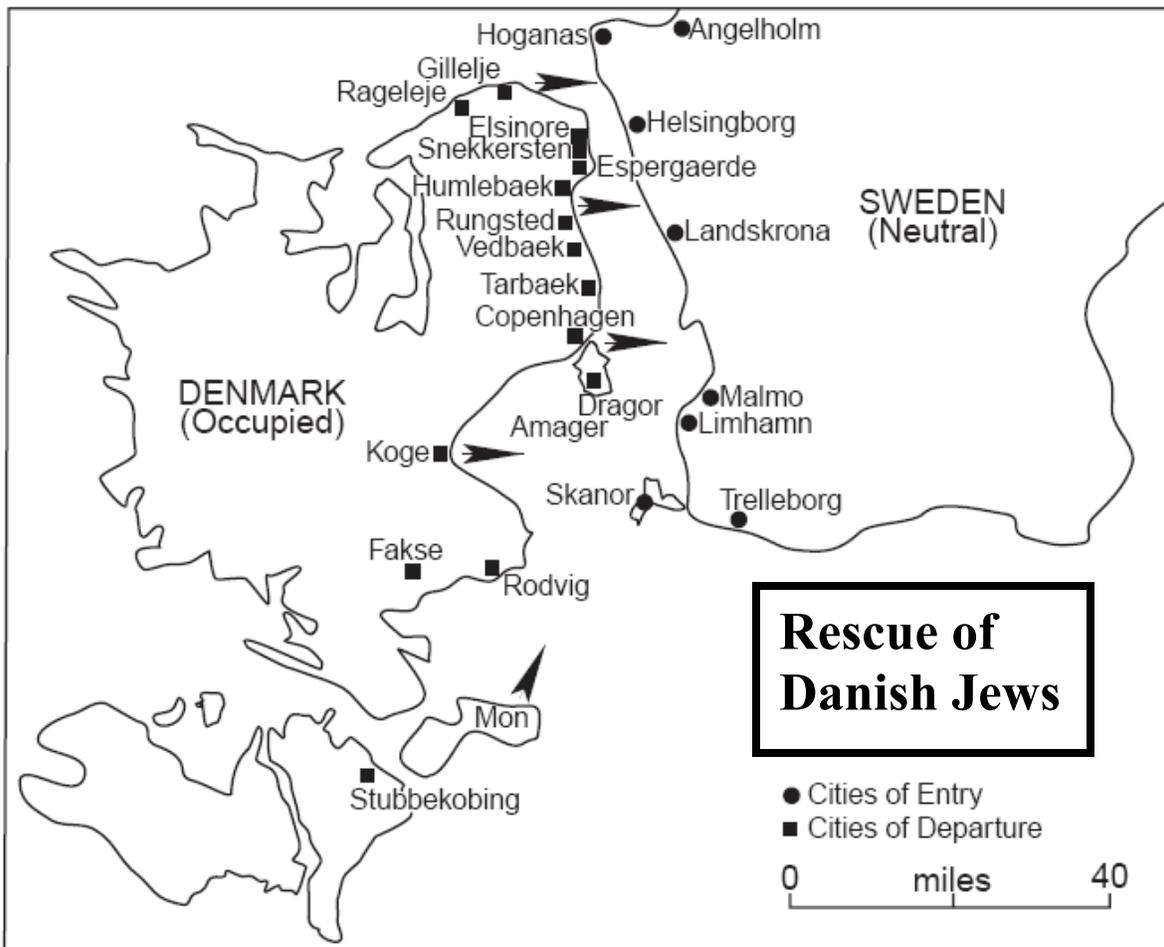
Pre-reading Activities:

- Remind students that in math, they have just studied measurement, and in reading they are reading (or have read) the book, Number the Stars. Tell students they will be using their math knowledge in order to answer some questions within the book.
- Ask students how they think they can use their math skills to answer some questions about the rescue of Danish refugees to Sweden in the book. Clarify the real-world problems faced by Danish Jews and those seeking to prevent them from being deported to concentration camps in Poland. These problems include: method of rescue, number of refugees, secrecy of mission, time of year, weather conditions, sea conditions, length of the voyage between Denmark and Sweden in terms of time and distance.
- Remind students about the facts that we have about Denmark: Write on board or on overhead:
 - Each boat would hold about 12-14 people. The amount of boats per port, per night, varied from one to fifty.
 - There were about 8,200 Jews and Jewish refugees in Denmark.

- A local fishing boat would travel approximately 5 knots per hour (1 Knot=1.15 Miles/hr)
- During the fall, in Northern Europe the sun is not out very long. There is an average of 14 hours of darkness in October in Northern Europe.
- Here are some of the questions we would like answered:
 - According to the places of departure and entry on the map, which points/cities from Denmark to Sweden provided the shortest route? How long? **Elsinore to Helsingborg (10 miles)**
 - According to the places of departure and entry on the map, which points/cities from Denmark to Sweden provided the longest route? How long? **Stubbekobing to Trelleborg (50-60 miles)**
 - How many hours would it take a single fishing boat to transport refugees there and back on the Elsinor route? How long? **2 hrs one-way, 4 hours round trip.**
 - In one October night, how many round trips could a fisherman make between Denmark and Sweden using the Elsinor route? **Possible of three round trips, which would take 12 hours.**
 - Using the Elsinor route, how many Jewish refugees could be transported by boat to Sweden during the first three weeks of October, 1943? **With 3 trips per night @ 14 people per trip (42 people per night times 21 nights = 882 people in three weeks, just on this one route)**
 - What factors need to be considered in order to figure out how many Jewish Refugees were transferred at all ports in three weeks? **How many boats at each port, how many people show up, weather, rain, wind, etc.**

Assessment: Handout/Worksheet

ESOL Strategies: Cooperative Learning, Visuals/Maps



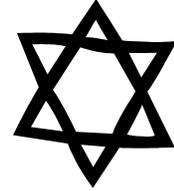
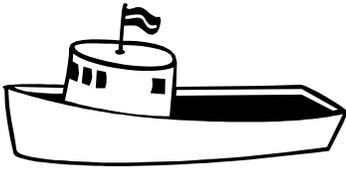
Germany took over Denmark in 1940 during World War II. Then, in August 1943, the Germans decided to take the Jewish people away from their homes in Denmark and put them in concentration camps. Many of the Danish people knew this was wrong. They quickly organized a rescue operation and helped Jewish people go to the coast of Denmark, get on a fishing boat, and be transported to Sweden, a country that was neutral in the war. They would be safer there. All kinds of people helped in this rescue mission, including fisherman, the police, and the government. In about three weeks, the Danes transported more than 7,000 Jews and about 700 non-Jewish relatives to Sweden. Unfortunately, the Germans were able to arrest and transport about 500 Danish Jews to concentration camps for no reason. The Danish government tried to gather information about them, and their questions may have helped save some of their lives. Overall, the Danish people are considered heroes in the war against Hitler and his terrible policies during World War II.

Map Source: Produced by the Florida Center for Instructional Technology, College of Education, University of South Florida © 2005.

NAME _____

DATE _____

PROBLEM SOLVING DANISH RESCUE



One boat would hold about 12-14 people. The amount of boats available at each port per night would vary.

There were about 8,200 Jewish refugees and their relatives living in Denmark.



WHAT
WE
KNOW



A local fishing boat would travel approximately 5 knots per hour (1 Knot = approx. 1 Mile/hr)

There is an average of 14 hours of darkness in October in Northern Europe.

QUESTIONS:

1. According to the map of places of departure and entry, which point/city from Denmark to Sweden provided the shortest direct route? Approximately how many miles was it?
2. According to the map of places of departure and entry, which point/city from Denmark to Sweden provided the longest direct route? Approximately how many miles was it?
3. How many hours would it take a single fishing boat to transport refugees there and *return* from Elsinor to Helsingborg?
4. In one October night, how many round trips could a fisherman make between Denmark and Sweden using the Elsinor route?
5. Using only the Elsinor route, how many Jewish refugees could be transported by boat to Sweden in the first three weeks of October, 1943?
6. What factors would need to be taken into consideration in order to figure out how many Jewish refugees were taken from all routes in a time period of three weeks?