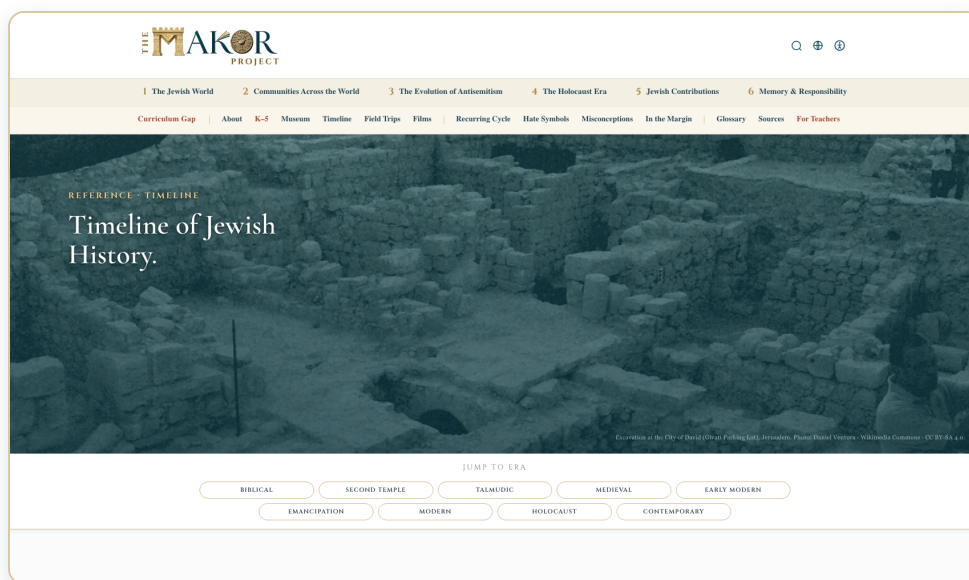


A TEACHING COMPANION

In most classrooms, Jews appear as ancient Israelites, then vanish until they reappear as victims of the Holocaust, with nothing in between.

The Makor Project covers the whole history. Free, source-based, and ready for the courses you already teach.



The site at makorproject.org: the whole arc of Jewish history, from the Biblical era to the present.

What it is

The Makor Project is a free online textbook and teaching companion for Jewish history, civilization, and the evolution of antisemitism, from antiquity through the Holocaust to the present. Six Units and 34 classroom-ready Topics, each with primary sources, discussion questions, curated readings, and a printable PDF, mapped to the standards you already work from. No login, no cost.

Why it exists

A growing number of states require students to learn this history. Almost none supply a curriculum. Most students reach the Holocaust having met the civilization that was destroyed only in passing, with little sense of how the hatred behind it was built over centuries, or what came after. Makor covers the whole arc, before, during, and after, so students meet the Holocaust as the culmination of a history, not its origin. The full case is on The Curriculum Gap.

How to use it, by grade

Makor serves three levels from the same body of work. For the **early grades**, the K to 5 program adapts the material into guided modules, projected slideshows, handouts, and vocabulary cards. For **grades 6 to 12**, the 34 Topics work as textbook chapters: each has a readable history, primary sources and images with full credits, discussion questions, Classroom Connections, and a printable PDF. For **college survey courses**, the same Topics carry the primary-source depth and bibliographies to assign directly. Critical-thinking lessons add source-literacy exercises for any level. Everything is a link or a PDF, so you can hand it out on paper, email it, or post it in Google Classroom or any learning platform, with no student login.

Where Makor fits the courses you already teach

Every Topic is mapped to a course and a standard. Find the course you teach, and here are the Topics to pull. The codes follow the New York State Framework as a worked example, with Common Core close reading and C3 inquiry supported throughout. For a version mapped to your own state or country, register on the site or write to education@makorproject.org.

Ancient Civilizations

GRADES 6–12 AND COLLEGE · NYS 9.1, 9.2, 9.3

Who Are the Jews? · The Land of Israel · A Connected People · The First and Second Temples · The Synagogue · Ritual Objects and Material Culture · The Continuous Jewish Presence · plus the printable chapters *Ancient Israel and Judah* (9.1) and *Judea in the Classical World* (9.3).

World Religions and Belief Systems

GRADES 6–12 AND COLLEGE · NYS 9.2

Who Are the Jews? · Sacred Texts · The Synagogue · The Calendar · The Jewish Life Cycle · The First and Second Temples · Ritual Objects · Nostra Aetate.

Teach Judaism here as a religion in its own right, not only as the root of what came after. It is a continuous people and faith that does not seek converts, did not spread by conquest, and has no central authority or governing hierarchy the way a church does.

Medieval Europe

GRADES 7–12 AND COLLEGE · NYS 9.6, 9.7

Adversus Judaeos · The Blood Libel · The Expulsions · The Ghetto System · Rashi · Maimonides · Joseph Karo · The Diaspora.

Modern and World History, nineteenth and twentieth centuries

GRADES 9–12 AND COLLEGE · NYS 10.2 THROUGH 10.10

The Racial Turn · The Russian Pogroms · The Protocols Forgery · The Nazi Synthesis · Theodor Herzl · The Modern State of Israel · Soviet Jewry · The Departure from MENA · Contemporary Antisemitism · and the community Topics: North Africa, Iraq, Iran, and Ethiopian Jewry (Beta Israel).

The Holocaust

GRADES 8–12 AND COLLEGE · NYS 10.5 · EDUCATION LAW §801

The Years Before the Killing, 1933 to 1939 · Aktion T-4 · The Camp System · The Einsatzgruppen · The Nazi Ghettos · The Holocaust in the Middle East and North Africa · Jewish Resistance and Rescue.

Postwar, Memory, and Human Rights

GRADES 9–12 AND COLLEGE · NYS 10.10 · EDUCATION LAW §801

Liberation and the Displaced Persons · The Postwar Trials · Hannah Arendt · Postwar Restitution · The Memory Architecture · Holocaust Denial and the Response · It Didn't End · The Afterlife of the Image.

United States History

GRADES 8–12 AND COLLEGE · NYS US HISTORY 11.X, GRADE 8 US 8.5

American Jewry (11.5, 11.9) · The Synagogue (11.1, 11.5) · The Modern State of Israel (11.9) · Soviet Jewry (11.10) · Contemporary Antisemitism (11.10).

English and ELA

ALL GRADES · COMMON CORE READING IN HISTORY AND SOCIAL STUDIES

Every Topic supports the close reading of primary sources. Strongest fits for media and information literacy: The Protocols Forgery and Contemporary Antisemitism, plus the critical-thinking lesson *The Primary Source vs. the Headline*.

Jewish Contributions to science, thought, and law

GRADES 6–12 AND COLLEGE · UNIT 5

Albert Einstein · Across the Fields · with Theodor Herzl, Rashi, Maimonides, and Joseph Karo listed above.

Threads that run across the curriculum

Some themes teach best as a continuous thread. Two that Makor draws out in full:

The evolution of antisemitism

HOW A HATRED WAS BUILT OVER CENTURIES, AND HOW TO RECOGNIZE IT

Adversus Judaeos · The Blood Libel · The Expulsions · The Ghetto System · The Racial Turn · The Russian Pogroms · The Protocols Forgery · The Nazi Synthesis · Contemporary Antisemitism. The full arc of Unit 3: religious, then racial, then political, and into the present.

The Middle East, from the Holocaust to today

THE HOLOCAUST'S REACH INTO THE REGION, AND THE AFTERMATH THAT CONTINUES NOW

The Holocaust in the Middle East and North Africa · The Departure from MENA, the flight of some 850,000 Jews from Arab and Muslim lands · the community Topics (North Africa, Iraq, Iran) · The Modern State of Israel · Contemporary Antisemitism. Firsthand testimony of that world, before and after: Sephardi Voices and JIMENA.

Other ways to weave in the materials

Beyond the core lesson, the materials fit naturally into the rest of classroom life.

- **Current-event assignments.**
Pair a story in today's news with the critical-thinking lesson *The Primary Source vs. the Headline*, or with the Contemporary Antisemitism Topic, to build media literacy.
- **Readings.**
Assign a Topic page, or a printable chapter from Makor Originals, with its discussion questions, as a reading.
- **Films.**
The Films collection gathers documentary viewing for the classroom.
- **Field trips.**
Virtual Field Trips visit sites and memorials online, and Topics also point to local museums and historic synagogues for in-person visits.
- **Symbols and misconceptions.**
When they come up, bring in the guide to recognizing Hate Symbols and the Misconceptions reference.
- **Explore and reference.**
The online Museum of objects and manuscripts, the interactive Timeline, the Recurring Cycle, and the Glossary support projects, warm-ups, and independent study.
- **Extra credit and independent work.**
Any Topic, with its sources and questions, stands alone as a research or writing assignment.

Professional development

A free, self-paced course, Teaching Jewish History and the Roots of Antisemitism, built entirely from the site. About six hours, taken in any order, ending with a classroom plan you build as you go and a certificate of completion. It follows the guidelines of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the IHRA.

How to help

Read it. Use it in your classroom. Then tell another teacher. The Makor Project grows by word of mouth among educators who care about teaching this history well. Share it with a colleague, a department, or a district, and help put this history where it belongs.

A note on standards

The codes in this guide follow the New York State Framework as a worked example, verified in 2026. Frameworks vary by state and country and are revised periodically, so confirm the current codes against your own standards, or ask us for a version mapped to them. The Makor Project is free. It curates the strongest existing material and points to the institutions behind it, and it adds original chapters and lessons of its own.

The Makor Project · makorproject.org · education@makorproject.org · New York

"MAKOR" IS THE HEBREW WORD FOR SOURCE.