

NAME: _____



Activity One



During World War Two, the German army occupied a number of countries, including Denmark, for several years. In her novel, Number the Stars, author Lois Lowry creates a vivid picture how difficult life was for the Danish people under German occupation, and how brave were the people of the Resistance.

There were, indeed, many remarkable heroes of the Resistance - men and women who risked (and sometimes sacrificed) their lives for the freedom of their country. Without these brave patriots, perhaps the war would have ended very differently than it eventually did.

Your task is to **INVESTIGATE** the role of the Resistance Fighters in Denmark, who were very active during this time.

Here are some SUBTOPICS that you may write about:

- Illegal (underground) newspapers
- Sabotage
- Spying
- Misinformation
- Heroes of the Resistance
- The penalty for being caught
- Getting the information into the proper hands

Use the space below to record jot notes as you gather your information.

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Activity Two

King Christian X of Denmark is one of the most beloved figure heads in the history of the country.

As is mentioned in the novel, Number the Stars, the king made it his practice to ride his horse alone through Copenhagen every morning, unarmed and without escort.

This he did to emphasize his continuing claims for Danish sovereignty.

The brave king also made speeches against the occupying German forces and became known as a protector of the Jews.

Your assignment is to write a brief **BIOGRAPHY** of this heroic monarch.

Make sure that your facts are relevant and interesting.

They should encompass his private life and public duties and accomplishments. Be sure to include the dates of his birth and death, as well as the years that he ruled as king.

Use the space below to record jot notes as you conduct your research.

Remember to proofread your work and make any edits needed to improve it.



Activity Three

The nation of Denmark is one of the Scandinavian countries of northern Europe. Although it is smaller than the state of Ohio, it has a distinguished history dating back to 800 A.D. Denmark is one of the few countries in the world that is a monarchy; in fact it is the oldest continuously ruled kingdom in the world. A number of distinguished people have hailed from Denmark, including the famous author of fairy tales, Hans Christian Anderson. The Danes are also responsible for many excellent products (Lego toys, for example), sought after by people all over the world.

How much do you know about Denmark?

Your task is to **INVESTIGATE** one of the topics listed below and gather essential information about the topic.

Present your findings on a display board including as much information as you can, along with relevant illustrations and photographs. Make sure your information is well organized into subtopics with subheadings so that other students can learn from your research.

Topics

Select One:

1. Hans Christian Anderson
2. Lego toys
3. The Vikings
4. Danish Pastry
5. Danish Bacon
6. The Danish **hygge** ("hygge" is a Danish word that means spending important time, relaxing, with friends and family)



Activity Four

For many years Denmark has prided itself in being one of the most civilized, peace-loving countries in the world. This changed dramatically with the invasion of the German armies during World War Two. In Number the Stars, the Danish desire for peace can be seen in the resistance to the German occupation, and the widespread efforts of the Danish people to transport thousands of their Jewish neighbors to safety in Sweden. In Denmark today, peace and equality of all citizens are still very important parts of Danish culture.

Think about what it would take for a government and the people of a nation to maintain a peaceful country.

What are YOUR VIEWS about this topic?

Describe YOUR VIEWS and GIVE REASONS to support your opinions.

You might consider such points as:

- **The equality of all citizens**
- **Protecting minority peoples**
- **Democracy (one vote per person)**
- **Fair laws**
- **Access to education**
- **Freedom of speech and assembly**
- **Freedom of religion**
- **Other points of interest to you**



Activity Five



Lois Lowry titles her book, Number the Stars, from a passage in the Bible read by Peter in Chapter Ten. It is a passage from the Psalms and refers to God as one who “numbers the stars one by one . . .”

This passage was probably meaningful to both the Jewish people present when Peter read it, as well as Annemarie’s family, for both Jews and Christians regard the books of the Old Testament (including the Psalms) as sacred.

The Jewish and Christian faiths have many important similarities, but also key differences. Your task is to do a brief **INVESTIGATION** of the **JEWISH FAITH**.

You are to report on **FIVE IMPORTANT FACTS** regarding the Jewish faith that would be of interest to other students.

If you are of the Jewish faith, why not report on facts that you think are important for non-Jewish people to know?

Investigate

To gather these facts you may wish to investigate:

- The origins of the Jewish faith
- Important holidays
- Ceremonies
- Leaders and historical figures
- Other important subtopics of your choice

Each point should be no more than one or two sentences in length.



Activity Six

The HOLOCAUST is remembered as one of the very darkest chapters in the history of the world.

During these dark years in Europe millions of Jewish people perished at the hands of the Nazis, and countless lives were scarred beyond imagination.

INVESTIGATE this tragic episode and report back on the important facts of the Holocaust, most especially as it pertained to **Denmark** and the **Danish people**.

Be sure to consider the following questions:

- With what kind of persecution were the Jewish people faced?
- Why were they the subject of such brutal oppression?
- Who were the guilty parties?
- How did the non-Jewish people of Europe respond to this persecution?
- Were the people of North America able to do anything to help?
- What was done after the war to bring the guilty parties to justice?

Your report should contain at least TEN important facts.
