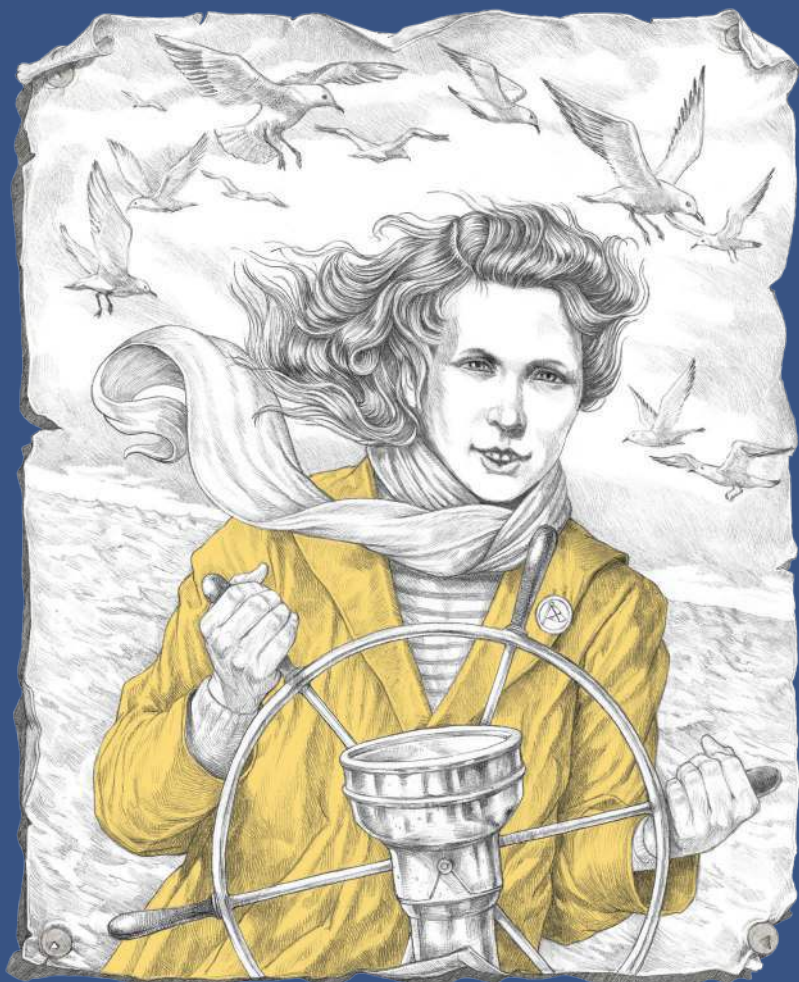


Courage **Rescue in** to Act: **Denmark**

Youth & Family Guide



Glossary

There are a lot of words in here that may be new! Use this corner of the guide to learn these new terms.

Censorship: When someone or a group in power decides to hide or block certain information or things from other people.

Talmud: An ancient and important set of books that contain the teachings of many rabbis about their Jewish religion, traditions, and practices.

Synagogue: A special place where Jewish people pray, learn about their faith, and come together as a community.

Refugee: A person who had to leave their home because it wasn't safe there anymore, who is looking for a new and safer place to live.

Discrimination: When people treat others unfairly because of something that is perceived to make them different in some way.

Find a glossary of more terms related to *Courage to Act* at mjhnyc.org/ctaglossary.



Courage to Act: Rescue in Denmark at the Museum of Jewish Heritage

Youth & Family Guide

Calling the young and young at heart:



Use this guide to explore the exhibition.
Wherever you see this symbol, dive into our
prompts to share the experience and build
meaningful conversations.



**MUSEUM OF
JEWISH HERITAGE**
A LIVING MEMORIAL
TO THE HOLOCAUST

Welcome to the Exhibition



Welcome to the Museum of Jewish Heritage! We're honored to have you visit *Courage to Act: Rescue in Denmark*, our first exhibition especially for kids ages 9 and up and their families.

Let's start by looking at this drawing as we head into the exhibition.



When you look at this image, what do you think this story is about?

Do the people seem calm or in a hurry?

Is anyone in the image helping someone else?

Do you see any animals?

The woman on the boat is lending the man a helping hand so he can get onboard. A lot of people help in this story. Everyone works together to be a good neighbor during a difficult time.



What does being a good neighbor mean to you?

Notes:



There are many ways — big and small — to be a good neighbor. Some require a lot of courage, and some are simple acts of kindness that still make a big difference.



Maybe you . . .

Clean up trash in a local park.

Invite a new student to sit with you at lunch.

Help bring in groceries.



Introduction to the Holocaust

In the late 1930s and early 1940s, during World War II, Nazi Germany occupied much of Europe. Nazis hated anyone who thought they were different from them, especially Jews, and tried to destroy the continent's entire Jewish population. Known as the Holocaust, this was one of the darkest times in history. Today, Holocaust survivors share their stories to educate others and build a better world for all.

In this first room of the exhibition, we see a map of Europe.



Find the drawing of a child celebrating his bar mitzvah (a Jewish coming-of-age ceremony that takes place when you turn 13).

Think about your own family heritage and culture. How do you celebrate important lifecycle events?



Now, there's a special photograph to see. Can you spot the group of children creating a Jewish star? Jewish people have long been bullied and discriminated against, but there's also so much joy that comes with being Jewish. The holidays, food, and songs are just a few of the things that unite Jewish people around the world.

 *Think about your own family heritage and culture. What makes you feel special?*

Thoughts:



Above: Gift of the Sugar siblings in memory of the Rosenfeld and Schwartz families, 2000.A.105.

Copenhagen Fish Market



Welcome to the Copenhagen Fish Market! It's Spring, 1942 — two years into the Nazi occupation of Denmark. Take a walk around and explore — you'll meet inspiring people of all ages and learn about the difficulties of life under Nazi rule.


First, we have some furry friends here that you should meet.



*Find an image of a woman with animals.
What are they all doing?*



Once you've met all our characters, think about what you learned about each one.

 *Which of these five people is the most like you? Why?*



You'll be getting to know these characters more throughout the exhibition. Keep an eye out for what their goals are and what happens to them.

Copenhagen Streetscape

Check out the apartment building. Many people (and animals!) live inside.

Since the Nazis censored the media, these underground newspapers were the only way for the people of Denmark to share information without the Nazis controlling what they could say.



*How do you get your information?
Find something in the windows in the
green and beige buildings that relates
to newspapers.*



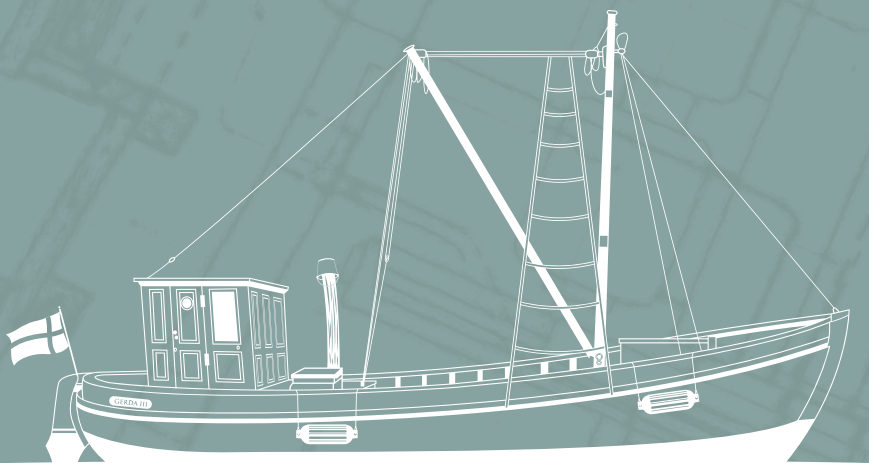
The Synagogue

Earlier, we saw an illustration of an example of Jewish life that takes place in a synagogue. Now, as we listen to this audio, a different kind of Jewish life is shown. The rabbi has told the Jewish community that it's time to go into hiding. Suddenly, the question of where to go raced through everyone's minds. While their answers and plans varied, one thing was certain: everyone needed the help of their community.



What are two ways you've seen our five real people be good neighbors?

The Journey




GERDA III

Danish Rescue Boat



For Jews and non-Jews in the small nation of Denmark, being a good neighbor meant working together to create one of the greatest rescue operations of all time. It was a big risk, but ordinary people united to save nearly 95% of Denmark's Jewish population. That's about 7,220 Jews — roughly 48 New York City Subway cars full!

In this room, you'll get to know *Gerda III*, one of the boats used to bring Jews from Denmark to safety in Sweden. This film shows the journey from being in hiding all the way to making it to Sweden by boat. Jews in Denmark like the ones here had very little control of their future, even as they took action to escape. All they could do was trust that the potential of safety across the sea was greater than the Nazi discrimination back home.

-  *What are things you need to feel safe?*
How do you remind yourself that you can get through hard things?
For example, do you lean on your community?
Do you say something kind to yourself?

Notes:

Life in Sweden/Theresienstadt

In this area, we first learn about being refugees in Sweden.



Can you find the award David got that praised him for being a hero?

Fill in the blank: If I were given an award for bravery, it would be for

.....



Thoughts:

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Above: Reproduction of *chaver* certificate, 1944, Sweden. Courtesy of the Sompolinsky family.

Next, we learn about the experiences of those who were deported to Theresienstadt, a ghetto camp in what is now the Czech Republic, where many Jewish people were forced to live.

** Have you ever donated food or clothing to people in need?*

Danish leaders fought for the right to send care packages full of letters, food, and supplies to Danish Jews in Theresienstadt. This helped, but it was still a scary place to be. At the end, we see a tree. This reminds us that even when things are hard, growth still happens.

** What is something that helps you have hope during a hard time?*

Photograph by Vermehren. Packing Red Cross packages, Denmark, ca. 1943.
Courtesy of The National Museum of Denmark/The Danish Resistance Museum.



The War Ends

In May of 1945, the war in Europe ended. The Nazis surrendered, and people were freed from concentration camps. Now, it was time for celebration!





See the flags hanging overhead and throughout the exhibition. Can you try to match these countries with their flags?

Denmark



United States



Sweden



Great Britain




Soviet Union




How do you and your family celebrate special events?

Returning Home

After the war, Jews were welcomed back to Denmark with open arms. Here in the last room of the exhibition you can watch video of them talking, many years later, about their experiences of liberation and life after the war.

 *Think of the person you said is most like you at the beginning of the exhibition. What happened to them?*

Now, let's look at the Save a Life wall.

 *The Talmud says, "To save a life is to save the world." What do you think that means?*

Just like it was for the people of Denmark, you and your actions — big and small — make a difference.

Notes:

Reflection

As you and your family leave the exhibition, you'll find a room overlooking the New York Harbor, where immigrants from many countries and religions have arrived to start a new life in the United States. To this day, refugees still seek a better life by boat, bravely leaving everything they know for the hope of something better.



Fill out the cards to share your thoughts.

What are you thinking about after
visiting the exhibition?

What does courage mean to you?

What does it mean to you to be a
good neighbor?

Draw something here that you saw
in the exhibition and liked!

What can you do next?

Head to mjhny.org/couragetoact for more resources on how to talk with your children about the Holocaust.

Share what courage means to you with #CourageToAct on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

To become a member of the Museum, head to mjhny.org/membership or email membership@mjhny.org.

To organize a school field trip to the Museum, head to mjhny.org/grouptours.

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