

A Virtual Field Trip to Copenhagen, Denmark

We will be taking a trip this morning to visit Copenhagen, Denmark! We will be reading the novel, Number the Stars, by Lois Lowery. The novel is set in the Scandinavian country of Denmark in 1943. To build background knowledge you will virtually tour areas of interest in the city described in the novel and learn more about the history of the Danish Jews.

The story you are about to read takes place in Denmark, a country 16,639 square miles in size; 20th Century Denmark has been a peaceful land whose economy is based on farming and fishing. Its government is a constitutional Monarchy in which there is a ceremonial head of state. During World War II, when the story takes place, Christian X was the king. This is a country of little disharmony because all people can vote, have guaranteed political rights, and are entitled to practice any religion. Anti-semitism (hatred of Jews) has never been a problem here. On April 9, 1940, the German army overran Denmark. The government agreed to surrender provided that among other things there was no discrimination against Jews. Of a population of 4.5 million people, 8,000 were Jews, most of whom lived in Copenhagen and had been fully absorbed into Danish life. The Germans tried to poison Danish minds by producing anti-Semitic newspapers, films, and pamphlets. When they tried to burn down a synagogue, the Danish police stopped them. A resistance movement engaged in sabotage against the Nazi occupiers and harassed soldiers. Angered by their actions in early 1942, the German government ordered Jews to wear a yellow star on their clothes, but the Danish government refused to cooperate with this order. Finally, in August 1942 Germany declared martial law and took direct control of the government.

Target: Through the use of this virtual field trip, I will be able to build background knowledge of the lives of the Jews in Denmark at the start of World War II, and understand why the characters act as they do.

Objective: The learner will be able to better understand and identify character motivation of the novel by completing the virtual field trip. The student will become familiarized with and locate the geography of Denmark. In addition, they will virtually explore the city and sights of Copenhagen and Gillejete. Finally, they will learn more about the Danes and specifically the plight of the Danish Jews by visiting the museum of Danish resistance and reading the internet essay, "Rescue of the Danish Jews".



We will be flying SAS, the Scandinavian Airlines Systems, and depart from Newark Liberty National Airport at 5:40 PM and arrive the next morning at 7:15 AM, local time in Copenhagen Denmark.

Since we will have time on our flight, we will be able to access the Internet and examine a map of Denmark to familiarize ourselves with the geography.

<http://www.infoplease.com/atlas/country/denmark.html>

HOW TO OPEN HYPERLINK: CLICK ON THE BLUE LETTERS, THEN, PRESS CONTROL AND RIGHT CLICK.

At 9:00 AM when we arrive a bus will take us to the Copenhagen Information Center. They will provide us with an overview of the City of Copenhagen and the country of Denmark.

<http://www.denmark.dk/en/menu/AboutDenmark/History/>

At this time we will also visit the Tourist Information Center at Vesterbrogade 4A. They will be able to provide us with a survey of what's going on in Copenhagen during our stay: concerts, events, exhibitions etc. Copenhagen right now, with current tourist information will guide us to experience the life of the Copenhageners.

<http://www.visitcopenhagen.com/copenhagen/sightseeing/attractions>

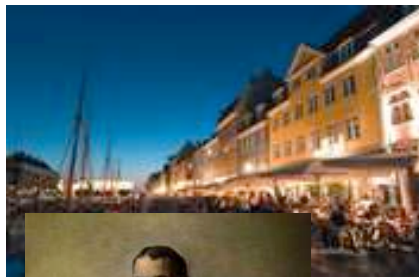
At 11:00 AM our next stop is perhaps the most famous in Copenhagen, Tivoli Gardens. This beloved amusement park/ garden was closed during the German occupation, and much missed by the children of Copenhagen.

<http://www.tivoli.dk/composite-3351.htm>

At 12:00 PM we will begin the next leg of our trip with two virtual tours of Copenhagen, this will allow us to familiarize themselves with the sites of the city of Copenhagen.

<http://www.fullscreen360.com/copenhagen>

<http://copenhagen.arounder.com/>



Not included in the virtual tour, this is a modern day picture of Østerbrogade, the Copenhagen street that Annemarie, Ellen and Kirsti (characters in the novel) run down in the beginning of the book.



King Christian was the King at the time of the German occupation. He was a well-loved ruler of Denmark, to learn more about him, click on the following link.

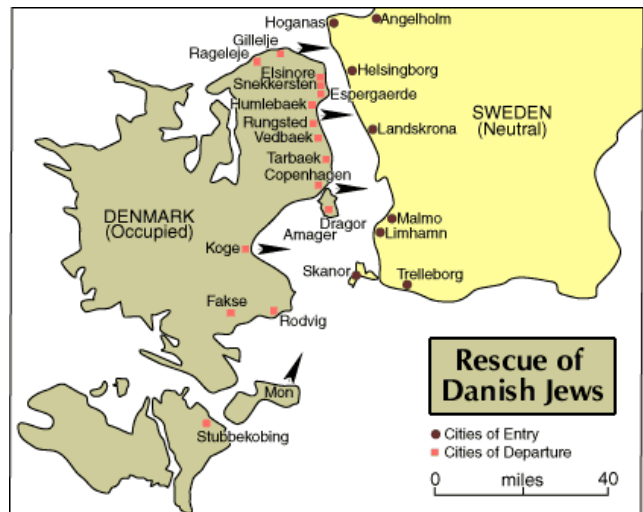
http://kongehuset.dk/publish.php?dogtag=k_en_his_chrx

1:30 PM Our next stop is the Museum of Danish resistance. This will show us pictures and help us understand the mindset of all Danes during World War II.

<http://natmus.dk/en/start/>

3:00 PM

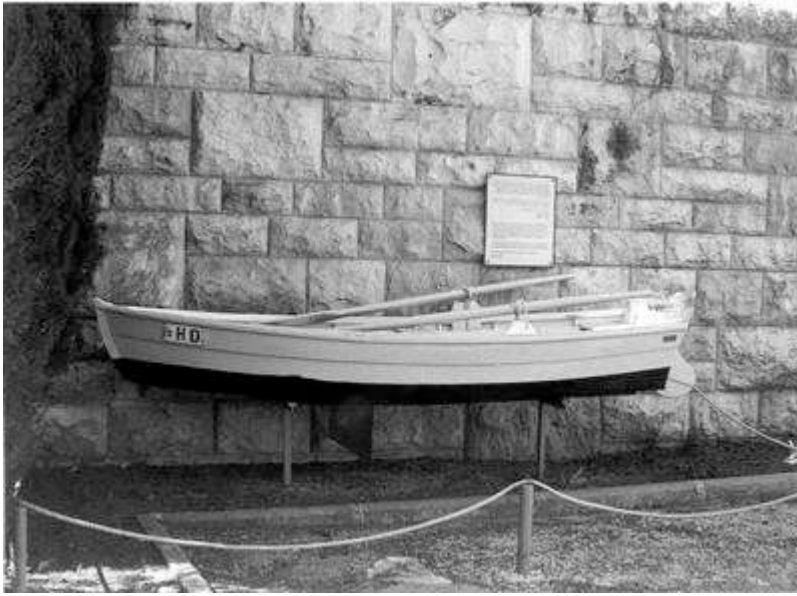
Our next stop is a fishing village north of Copenhagen, Gilleleje. As located on the map to the right.



During World War II, Gilleleje was a significant transfer point of Jewish fugitives, trying to escape Nazi persecution in an occupied Denmark. Many refugees were transported by ship from Gilleleje to Höganäs in Sweden as part of a much-used underground railway.

This memorial, located in Gilleleje, commemorates this, and the Israeli ambassador to Denmark was present at its inauguration to once again thank the Danes for their help in a time of need.





A Danish Boat
Used in October
1943 to Ferry
Jews from
Gilleleje, and
eventually bring
them to Sweden.

4:00 PM - Our final stop on our tour will help us learn more about the history of the story of the Danish Jews, which will in turn help us understand the characters in the novel, Number the Stars.
<http://www.auschwitz.dk/Denmark.htm>

5:00 PM – Departure to the airport

Assessment: Now that you have returned from your virtual field trip, complete the following:

1. Label Denmark and label various areas/cities, mark Copenhagen with a star.

<http://www.mapsofworld.com/denmark/maps/denmark-outline-map.jpg>

2. If you were going to Denmark today what sights would you like to visit? Why?
Attach a picture of the location and your reasoning.

3. King Christian did something every day before and during the German occupation that won him the hearts of his people. What was it?

Attach a picture of the palace where King Christian X lived.

4. About how many Jews lived in Denmark before World War II? How many were the Germans able to capture? How did most escape the Nazis?

Draw an arrow and lines on the map in question #1, of a route the Jews took to escape Denmark.