

Our United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Experience



By: Kobi and Ari

Expectations

When we first went into the Museum we did not expect how powerful the experience would be. What we got out of it was touching, in a good powerful way that we did not expect.

What impacted me?

Ari

What impacted me the most was when I saw a clay model of what a concentration camp would look like with people inside. There was horrible living conditions because of the crowding and sickness, the barracks where the prisoners would sleep, was less than **10x20** feet and housed up to **400** people inside. Even just imagining myself in the people's shoes for just one day makes me feel terrible. Also the real train car salvaged from the Holocaust impacted me. These cars had up to **100** people inside in conditions of **100 F** and about **10-20** below. These things painted the severity of the Holocaust for me.

What touched me?

Kobi

What touched me at the museum was not the teaching of the Holocaust but it was the things from the Holocaust itself. The reason for this is because for almost the whole year at Talmud Torah we learned about what had happened. But we had never seen things from the Holocaust. At the museum seeing the actual things like a train car, or the stones from the street in the ghetto, and knowing someone was there and what happened to them when they were there is really what touched me. Also walking on the bricks from a ghetto in Poland, a place where my Grandpa grew up as a child, is what really moved me.

What we learned

- The severity of the Holocaust.
- How Hitler and the Nazi party rose to power.
- The similarities of the kids who suffered the Holocaust and us.

Pre- D.C.

Before we went to D.C. in class we had a unit about the Holocaust. We learned a lot of information about it and how everything had happened. This way before we went to the Holocaust Museum we knew quite a lot about the Holocaust going in. We even watched a few movies about the Holocaust.

Later that Night...

After we went to the Holocaust Museum we were asked to put 16,000 toothpicks into the center of a circle. In total there were roughly that many synagogues burned to the ground in one day because of the Nazis. This activity really put every number thrown at us about the Holocaust into perspective. This was quite eye opening for us.

Thanks for listening!

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