

Stephen Adler's Passport -- Changing World

Key Holocaust lessons for this artifact:

- Passport used to **identify and exclude** Jews
- **Global tightening of borders**; difficult for Jews to escape Germany
- **Kristallnacht** was a turning point in the Holocaust
- **Kindertransport**: England agreed to accept 10,000 children from Nazi-occupied territories.

Suggestions for generating discussions with students:

- I. How many of you have passports? What information is listed on them? What do you use it for? What does it allow you to do?
- II. Do we specify your religion on those passports in America? Why not?
- III. Show passport to students. Take note of the enormous "J" stamp
- IV. **Kristallnacht** – November, 1938
 - a. Show images of this event
 - b. Stephen's father is 1 of 30,000 Jewish men arrested
 - c. Turning point event: people realized increased danger and violence and tried to leave
 - d. Could not turn to usual authorities to protect their rights
 - e. Stephen's parents, like many others, looked for ways to get their children out of Germany
- V. Look at passport again and notice the middle name "Israel" as was the law in 1939
- VI. Parents sent Stephen on **Kindertransport** to England at 8 ½ by himself-
 - a. Ask students if they can imagine traveling by themselves at such a young age—must have been desperate times to send a child alone.
 - b. Discuss his arrival in England and lodgings with his "new" family that took him in after he arrived.
 - c. Tell them how this family was reunited and made it to America, but unfortunately, very few children were reunited with family.