

Oskar Schindler's Leadership and Legacy

Senior Division

Group Website

Travis Keller
Sean Norman

We selected Oskar Schindler as our topic for this year's National History Day project on leadership and legacy. We already knew that Schindler had saved many Jews during the Holocaust, which meant that he was a leader who created a legacy through his actions, but we didn't know a lot more about him than that. We thought this would be an interesting topic that would let us learn more about the life and actions of someone who saved so many people.

The majority of our research was done on the internet and in books. There is a lot of research available about Schindler through the Holocaust Museum and the Jewish Virtual Library. There are many videos online made by the Jewish workers who were saved by Schindler, as well as books written by survivors. This gave us a lot of primary sources to work with. There is also a movie called Schindler's List that was made in 1993 by Steven Spielberg. We chose not to watch this movie while working on the project because it would be hard to tell what was fiction versus what really happened.

We chose to present our project with a website. Our team had built a website before, so we had some experience with it. Most research today is done online. We thought it was more interesting for us to make a website that write a standard paper. We were able to do things with a website that we couldn't do in other categories, like add links or video files from survivors.

Our project on Oskar Schindler relates to the National History Day theme of "Leadership and Legacy in History" in many ways. Oskar Schindler began World War II as a greedy Nazi spy, but by the end of the war, he had risked his own life, spent most of his fortune, and created a living legacy, saving over 1,200 Jews from death in concentration camps. Today there are more than 8,500 descendants of the Schindler Jews. He became a leader who did whatever he could do to protect innocent people during a war against them, and he became a ray of hope to a people who had lost everything. Oskar Schindler is a true example of leadership and legacy in history.