

All about Anne

The Exhibition
of the Anne Frank Zentrum
in Berlin

Introduction texts
of the Exhibition

Welcome!

This exhibition is presented
in memory of Anne Frank.
She is a victim of the Holocaust.
The exhibition aims to be accessible to all.

It consists of 3 parts:

Frequently Asked Questions

are answered in the entrance hall.
It is here that you can find information
on the history of this place
and the work done by the Anne Frank Zentrum.

Who is Anne?

This part tells the story of Anne's life,
of her family and her friends*.
6 sections each present one phase of her life.

What connects Anne with today?

This part explores
the significance of her story for today.
6 sections provide different approaches.
Here the exhibition can be extended
with personal contributions.

*Holocaust is a word for the extermination
of millions of people by the Nazis.*

For example:

*people whom the Nazis persecuted as »Jews«
or »Gypsies«.*

The word Holocaust comes from Greek.

It literally means »completely burnt«.

Accessible means:

*Everyone should be able to visit
and understand this exhibition.*

Difficult words are underlined and explained.

Some explanations are right next to the exhibition texts.

*All explanations are in a small booklet
that can be taken along.*

Who is Anne?

Annelies Marie Frank is a jewish girl.
She is born in Frankfurt am Main in 1929.
Her family calls her »Anne«.
They leave Germany at the end of 1933.
A reason for this is:
they want to escape the Nazis.
From February 1934 onwards,
they live in the Netherlands.
In 1942, they go into hiding with
4 other persecutees.
After almost 2 years
they are discovered and arrested.
The Nazis imprison them
in concentration camps.
Only Anne's father, Otto Frank,
survives the Shoah.
Anne keeps a diary while in hiding.
After her death, her diary
makes her known worldwide.

*Jewish means associated with Judaism.
Judaism is a religion with various traditions,
philosophies and cultures.
Jewesses* follow their faith in different ways.
The Nazis use the word »Jew« as an insult.
They use it to refer to the people they persecute.
It does not matter to the Nazis
whether the people they are persecuting
think of themselves as Jewish or not.*

*Nazis are members of Adolf Hitler's
»Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei«
(National Socialist German Workers' Party) (NSDAP).
The Party is founded in 1919.
The Nazis are in power in Germany from 1933 to 1945.
The Nazis claim: they are superior to other people
and are threatened by them.
With this conviction, they persecute, mistreat
and murder people
whom they have declared their enemies.*

*Concentration camps:
The German abbreviation is »KZ«.
From 1933 onwards, the Germans construct
so-called concentration camps.
They imprison the people
they persecute in these camps.
The prisoners have to work very hard
and are treated badly.
The Nazis ill-treat and kill many of them.
From 1941, the Nazis build camps
in which they murder the prisoners immediately
after their arrival.
These camps are called extermination camps.*

Shoah is a word used to refer to the murder
of approximately 6 million people
the Nazis persecuted as Jews.
It is a Hebrew word and means »catastrophe«.
Another word for the Nazi crimes is »Holocaust«.

What connects Anne with today?

Anne Frank's name and picture are known all over the world today. Millions of people know her diary. A close look at Anne's biography is a way to deal with the history of the Holocaust, to understand the present and to reflect on the future.

There are 6 sections for this:

In the **library** it is possible to read and write. Here are diaries of Anne and other people.

On **stage** you can play theatre and watch movies. Here different people talk about their lives.

The **workshop** is the place to draw and be creative. Different forms of remembrance can be seen here.

In the **archive** one can examine and document. Reports of antisemitic incidents can be seen here.

There are **computers** for research.

On **Anne's chestnut tree** one can attach one's own thoughts.

*Biography is another word for someone's lifestory.
The study of one biography makes it easier
to understand the historical context.
And how people have acted in it.
In this process one always deals with one's own biography,
that is: with oneself.*

*Holocaust is a word for the extermination
of millions of people by the Nazis.
For example: people whom the Nazis
persecuted as »Jews« or »Gypsies«.
The word Holocaust comes from Greek.
It literally means »completely burnt«.*

*Antisemitic is another word
relating to hostility towards Jews.
It describes someone who hates Jews.
Antisemitism can express itself in words or deeds:
as exclusion, insults, threats or attacks
against people and institutions
that are considered Jewish.
Antisemitism can also be directed
against Israel as a Jewish state.
Antisemitism can be practised by individuals,
groups or structures.*

Anne's Childhood Years in Germany 1929 – 1933

Margot Frank is 3 years old.

She is very happy.

On 12th June 1929, a baby sister
comes into her life: Anne.

The two girls grow up in a beautiful house with a garden.

They have many friends* in the neighbourhood.

The family lives in Frankfurt am Main.

However, their parents Edith and Otto Frank
grow very worried.

In 1929, a worldwide economic crisis breaks out.

The crisis also affects the family's banking business.

In 1933, an antisemitic party comes into power.

Its members are called Nazis.

And the new Mayor of Frankfurt,
in office since March, is a Nazi.

Otto and Edith feel threatened.

They decide to leave their country.

In 1934, they begin a new life with their daughters
in the Netherlands.

*Economic crisis means that
for the majority of companies,
business is no longer profitable.
Many people lose their jobs as a result.
And they cannot find new jobs.
So they have very little money.
Or the money suddenly becomes worthless.
This happens across the world in 1929.*

*Antisemitic is another word
for hostility towards Jews.
It means: Someone who hates Jews.
Antisemitism can express itself in words or deeds:
as exclusion, insults, threats or attacks
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Anne's New Home in the Netherlands 1933 – 1940

Edith finds a flat for her family in Amsterdam.
Margot and Anne go to school.
They learn Dutch very quickly.
Edith takes care of the household.
Otto works very hard in his new company.
But the business does not do very well.
They try to emigrate to England or the USA.
Anne's parents fear for Edith's relatives in Germany.
The Nazis are enacting more and more
anti-Jewish laws there.
Anne's grandma Rosa and her uncles Julius and Walter
survive the November 1938 Pogrom.
They escape Germany.
On 1st September 1939, German soldiers
invade Poland.
The Second World War begins.
Edith and Otto ask themselves:
Will the Nazis also attack the Netherlands?

*Anti-Jewish laws are laws
whose purpose is to discriminate and persecute
people considered Jews
and take away their rights.*

*November 1938 Pogrom
refers to the Nazi attacks on Jews
during the night of 9th to 10th November 1938
(also known as »Kristallnacht«)
and over the following days.
The word »pogrom« is Russian
and means »destruction«.
The Nazis imprison 30,000 people
and murder around 400.
They destroy Jewish institutions
and more than 1,400 synagogues.*

*Second World War refers to the war
which is waged all over the world
by Germany and its allied countries
between 1939 and 1945.
The war begins with the German attack
on Poland.
The Nazis wage a war of extermination.
This means the Nazis want
to kill a part of humanity completely.*

Anne's Life in Danger 1940–1942

On 10th May 1940 Otto and Edith's
greatest fear comes true:
German soldiers occupy the Netherlands.
The Nazis enact anti-Jewish laws there too.
In January 1941, all Jews
have to inform the Nazis of their addresses.
In June, the Nazis arrest more than 300 Jewish men
in Amsterdam.
They imprison them in concentration camps.
Among them are people known to the Franks.
The Nazis forbid Jewish children
from attending state schools.
After the summer holidays,
Margot and Anne have to leave their schools.
On 12th June 1942, on her 13th birthday,
Anne begins to write her diary.
One Sunday in July, Margot, like many others,
receives a call-up notice from the Nazis.
She has to report for forced labour in Germany.
Anne's parents fear for Margot's life.
But they have a plan.

*Forced labour is important for the Nazi war.
Over 12 million adults and children
have to work very hard for the Nazis,
in Germany and in occupied countries.
They are not given enough to eat.
And they receive very little pay or nothing at all.
Many fall ill or die from the work.*

Anne's Time in Hiding 1942 – 1944

On the morning of the 6th July 1942,
the Franks go into hiding.
Anne's parents set up a flat in the annexe
of Otto's company.
His closest employees are ready to help.
The Nazis are hunting down all those
who did not report for forced labor.
They arrest those they find and take them to
the Westerbork transit camp.
The first deportation from there to Eastern Europe
begins on 15th July.
2 days before, the van Pels family finds shelter
in the annex as well.
In November, the families take in another persecutee:
Fritz Pfeffer.
For more than 2 years, these 8 people live together
in a confined space.
They are poorly nourished and continuously afraid
of being discovered and deported.
But the defeat of the German soldiers in Stalingrad
gives them courage.
And in 1944, Allied soldiers land in the north of France.
Liberation appears closer.

*The Westerbork Transit Camp is built in 1939
by the Dutch Government
as a camp for Jewish refugees.
From July 1942 onwards it is used by the Nazis
as a concentration camp.
They call the camp »Polizeiliches Durchgangslager«
(Police Transit Camp).
They imprison the people they are persecuting.
The Nazis deport prisoners in a total of 93 trains
to Eastern Europe.*

*Deportation refers to
state-organised transport of people
to other places against their will.
The Nazis deport people
whom they have declared enemies
to concentration and extermination camps.*

Anne's last 6 months 1944 – 1945

On 4th August 1944, the 8 people in the annexe are discovered.

Possibly somebody betrayed them.

Armed Nazis enter the hiding place.

They arrest and deport the 8 persecutees and 2 of their helpers.

Miep and Bep find Anne's diary.

Miep keeps it safe.

In Westerbork, the 8 prisoners have to disassemble batteries.

On 3rd September 1944, the Nazis lock them up in cattle wagons.

The train journey lasts 3 days and 3 nights.

The train finally stops at Auschwitz-Birkenau during the night.

The Nazis separate the deportees into men and women.

Initially, Margot and Anne remain with their mother Edith.

At the end of October the Nazis deport the sisters again.

They are taken by train to Bergen-Belsen.

They also suffer from the terrible conditions in this concentration camp.

They believe their parents are no longer alive.

In winter, they get sick with typhus.

Anne dies soon after Margot in February 1945.

Auschwitz is the largest German concentration and extermination camp.

It has been in existence in occupied Poland since 1940.

One part of the camp is called »Birkenau«.

Most people there are killed in gas chambers immediately on arrival.

The Nazis massacre more than 1,1 million people in Auschwitz, most of them in gas chambers.

Bergen-Belsen is a concentration camp located between Hamburg and Hanover.

It is built in April 1943.

From the end of 1944,

Bergen-Belsen is the destination point for deportations from other concentration camps.

The Nazis murder more than 52,000 people there.

Many prisoners die of disease and hunger or are killed by the concentration camp staff.

Typhus is an infectious disease:

Typhus causes severe headaches, rashes, constipation and high fever.

The disease spreads quickly under concentration camp conditions and is fatal for many prisoners.

Otto's Return and Anne's Diary 1945 – 1947

On 27th January 1945, the Red Army
liberates Auschwitz.

Otto is still alive.

He knows nothing of the fate of his family.

His return to the Netherlands

takes several months.

Because the war is not yet over.

He travels with other survivors.

Rosa de Winter-Levy tells him

about Edith's death.

On 3rd June 1945 he is back in Amsterdam.

Otto makes every effort to find his daughters.

In July, he learns that Anne and Margot
have not survived.

Miep gives him Anne's diary.

In it Otto reads:

Anne wanted to publish her notes.

He fulfils her wish:

In 1947, a book is published under the title

»Het Achterhuis« (The Annexe).

*The Red Army is the name
for the Soviet Union's soldiers*.*

*The Soviet Union is one of the Allies
and largely responsible for the military victory
against the Nazis.*

*The Red Army also suffers the biggest losses
in the Second World War:*

of a total of around 34 million soldiers,
more than 8.5 million die.*

A further 3 million soldiers are murdered
by the Nazis in German war captivity.*

Library

Why are diaries important?

Many people record
what they experience, think and feel.
Some write this in a diary.
Most diaries remain secret.
Others are published.
Reading diaries helps to understand the past.
Anne keeps a diary
because she lacks a close friend.
Writing helps her endure the hiding better.
Margot kept a diary too, but it is lost.
Today, Anne's diary is known all over the world.
What most people do not know:
Anne wrote various texts.
And she revised her diary entries for publication.
With this she begins shortly before her arrest.
Otto compiles a text from Anne's diary
and her revised version.
He publishes it as a book in 1947.

Version is another word for »edition«.

Theatre

Who determines who I am?

This is not an easy question to answer.
But it concerns everyone, today and then.
In her diary, Anne describes herself:
She is a confident young woman,
who wants to become a writer.
She is also a stateless Jewess,
who wants to be Dutch.
In primary school, Anne likes to try out new roles in plays.
She calls herself »a bundle of contradictions«.
By that she means:
She is superficial and funny in company
but serious and thoughtful when alone.
For the Nazis, Anne was only one thing: Jewish.
Antisemitism, racism and discrimination
are still around today.
People who have been affected by this
can recount their experience.
And how it feels.
Everyone can turn to organisations
which work against discrimination.

*Stateless are people who do not hold any recognised passport.
Someone can become stateless because of expatriation,
displacement or the dissolution of a state.
In November 1941, the Nazis take away
the citizenship of all German Jews
living outside Germany.*

*Racism claims that there is a difference
between people, in order to justify unequal treatment.
Racists divide people into two groups:
»us« and »them«.
They use real and imaginary characteristics –
such as origin, skin colour, religion or language –
as a basis for division.
Racism has been around for a long time:
»White« people have used racism to justify
the enslavement and exploitation of »black« people.
People affected by racism today face it every day:
when they deal with other people but also in structures
and institutions.*

*Discrimination means disadvantaging people,
for example, because of age, sex, origin, skin colour,
disability, sexual orientation, class or religion.
These characteristics can be real or just assumed.
Most people experience discrimination
on the basis of multiple characteristics.
Then the discrimination increases.*

Workshop

What does commemoration look like?

Commemoration is a way of interacting with the past.

Usually it involves an acknowledgement of pain and the affirmation that the story is important.

There are many memorials in public places.

Where exactly they are to be seen is important.

They remind us of something that should not be forgotten.

Anne and her murder are thus remembered:

through memorials in places connected with her life, through the naming of schools, streets and places.

These questions help us understand a memorial:

- What does it recall?
- When was it inaugurated?
- Who arranged for it to be erected?
- How does it strike viewers?

Commemoration is politically contested.

People fight about this in public:

What should be remembered?

And: What not?

Memorials point to the past.

They can be of different types.

For example,

memorials can be signs,

statues or sculptures.

Archive

How does antisemitism manifest itself?

Antisemitism is another word for hostility towards Jews.

It still exists today in various forms:

In language and physical threats, as damage to property or extreme violence.

The end of the war is by no means the end of antisemitic attitudes.

After 1945, few Nazis are sentenced.

Many return to their old professions, for example, in schools, politics, medicine, law and the police.

To this day, Anne's diary is also the target of attacks.

Antisemites claim that the diary is a forgery.

Otto Frank took legal action against them.

In these cases, researchers* have confirmed:

Anne's diary is real.

Anyone who has experienced antisemitic incidents can report them.

This is important to take action against antisemitism.



»All about Anne«

The exhibition of the Anne Frank Zentrum in Berlin

Opening hours:

Tuesday to Sunday 10am – 6pm

Rosenthaler Str. 39, 10178 Berlin

Entrance on the right side of the 1st courtyard,
2nd floor, elevator available

Accessibility:



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www.annefrank.de

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