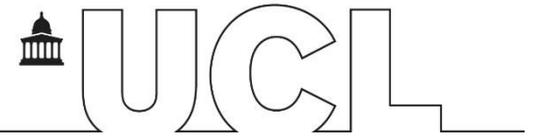


# You will need:

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- The 'Source Cards' and 'Conditions in the Warsaw Ghetto' .pdf documents.
- The 'Glossary' which will help you with difficult vocabulary – those words will be in bold throughout the lesson material.
- Pen and paper for a mind-map (or another way of recording the information, such as a tablet or computer.).

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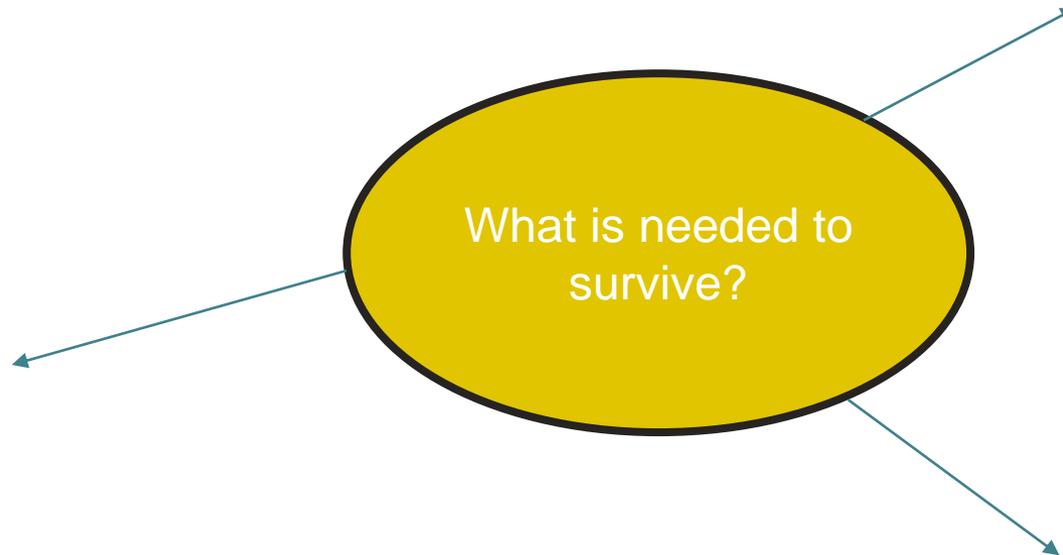
# **The Struggle to Survive.** Resilience and resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto.

# Learning objectives

- To develop an understanding of the conditions in the Warsaw Ghetto
- To develop an understanding of how victims in the Warsaw Ghetto struggled to survive

# What is needed to 'survive'?

On a mind-map, make of note of what is necessary for humans to 'survive'. What does a human being need to keep going?



We are also going to explore the concept of **resilience** – the ability to keep going in difficult situations. Why is **resilience** so important to survival?

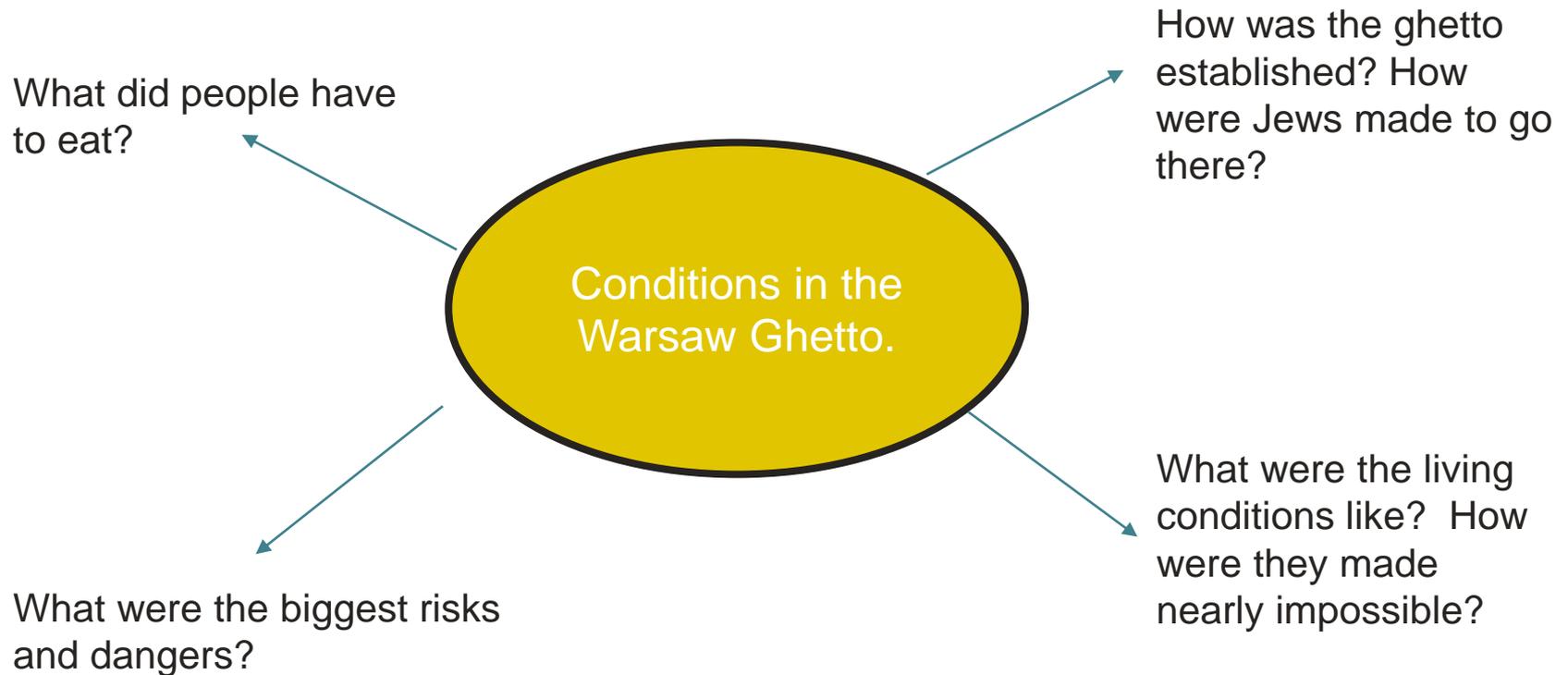
## So what was the Warsaw Ghetto?

During the Second World War, as Nazi Germany took over countries in Eastern Europe, they forced many of those people that they saw as Jewish to live in 'ghettos' in major cities. Ghettos were separated parts of cities where Jewish people were kept from mixing with non-Jewish neighbours, living in extremely poor conditions. Jewish people from outside the cities, and many from Germany itself, were 'deported' to countries like Poland to live in these ghettos.

In this lesson, you are going to learn about the ghetto that was established in the city of Warsaw, and how people struggled to survive in the extremely poor conditions they were forced to live in.

## How was survival made nearly impossible in the Warsaw Ghetto?

We are now going to find out why survival was so difficult in the Warsaw Ghetto. Create a mind-map of the conditions, focussing on why survival was so difficult. You may already have some knowledge of the Warsaw Ghetto, so use your own knowledge and the information sheet 'Conditions in the Warsaw Ghetto' to complete your mind-map. Some prompt questions have been added to help you.

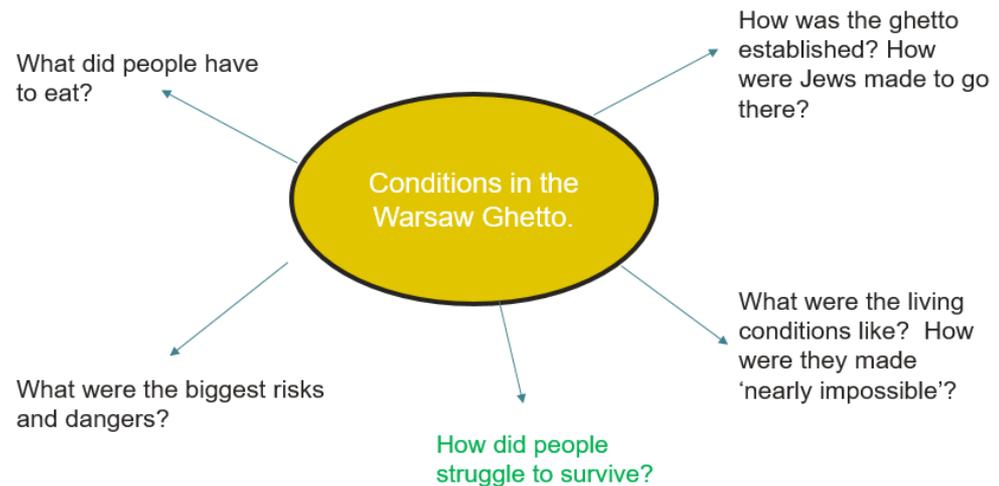


## So how did people struggle to survive?

Your work on the previous slide has shown just how difficult life was in the Warsaw Ghetto and the awful conditions imposed on the Jewish population by the Nazi authorities. The conditions imposed **impossible choices** on the Jewish population. This was part of a plan of deliberate murder – not in gas chambers or death camps but through starvation and disease. When we study people in such circumstances, it is important that we try to understand, **not to judge**. Many, despite the **resilience** they showed, knew that they would not survive.

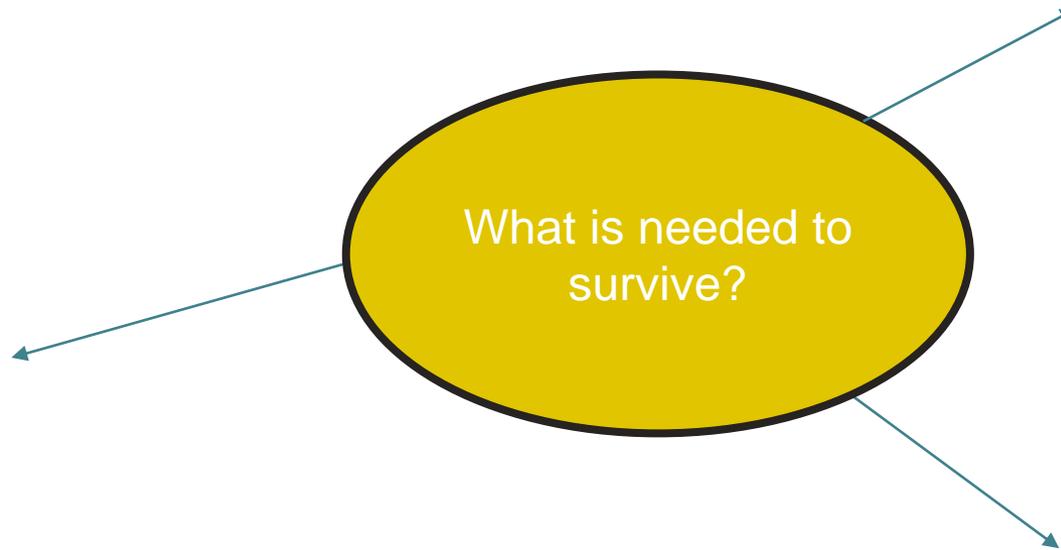
Our enquiry is ‘**How did people struggle to survive in the Warsaw Ghetto?**’ From now on, you’re going to look at a range of primary sources from the ghetto period to answer that question. If you open the ‘Source Cards’ document you will find the sources you will be working on.

Answer the prompt questions for each source by carefully studying it. As you go, add to your Conditions mind-map under the heading ‘**How did people struggle to survive?**’



# Survival

You will have noticed that some of the sources in the Source Cards do not relate to the basics of survival that you recorded in your mind-map at the start of the lesson. Sources were also included about **mutual aid**, religious life, education and humour in the Warsaw Ghetto. Many of these were examples of **resilience** – carrying on in extremely difficult circumstances.



What can we learn from the fact that, in the horrific conditions of the Warsaw Ghetto, people continued to take part in religion, learn, help one another and tell jokes? What meaning does that have?

# Questions to consider

- ❓ Some people believe that Jews in the ghettos did not resist the conditions forced upon them by the Nazis. What have you learnt in this lesson that contradicts this idea?
- ❓ You have learnt about examples of **resilience and the struggle to survive** by Jewish victims in the ghetto. Why is it important to learn about that today?
- ❓ You have learnt about examples of **mutual aid** by Jewish victims in the ghetto. Why is it important to learn about that today?
- ❓ If you were going to teach another student about the Warsaw Ghetto, what would be the most significant learning to include?

# Further questions

If you still have some questions and you wish to continue your enquiry into some of the topics covered in this lesson you will find the following websites useful:

<https://www.theholocaustexplained.org/>

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/daily-life-in-the-warsaw-ghetto>

<https://www.jhi.pl/en/ringelblum-archive>