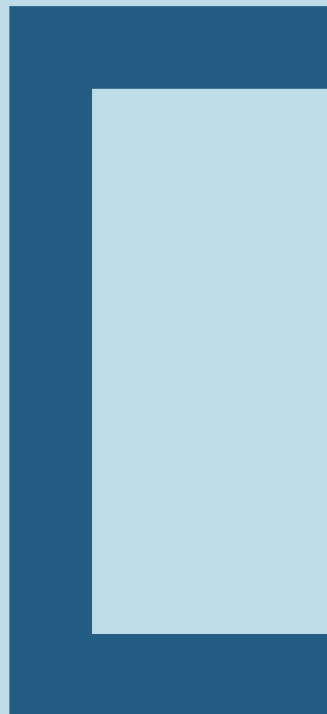




# CLAIRE BAUM



# RE:COLLECTION

Exploring the history of the Holocaust through  
first-hand accounts of survivors

## On Re:Collection, you will find:

- Video interviews
- Memoir excerpts
- Photos
- Artifacts



### ACCESS

[Re:Collection](#)



### EXPLORE

Re:Collection

#### BY SURVIVOR

- On the menu, select "Survivors."
- Select the name of a survivor.
- Click on a circle on the page to launch a recollection.

#### BY THEME

- On the menu, select "Themes."
- Select a theme.
- Click on a circle on the page to launch a recollection.



### TIP

- The [i] icon gives you access to further information (biography, glossary, etc.).
- The "My Collection" tab lets you register to collect recollections and view a personalized map and timeline.



VIDEO

### HOW TO USE

[Re:Collection](#)



# CLASSROOM INSTRUCTIONS

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**LENGTH**

1–2 class periods (90–120 minutes)

**AGE APPROPRIATENESS**

11+

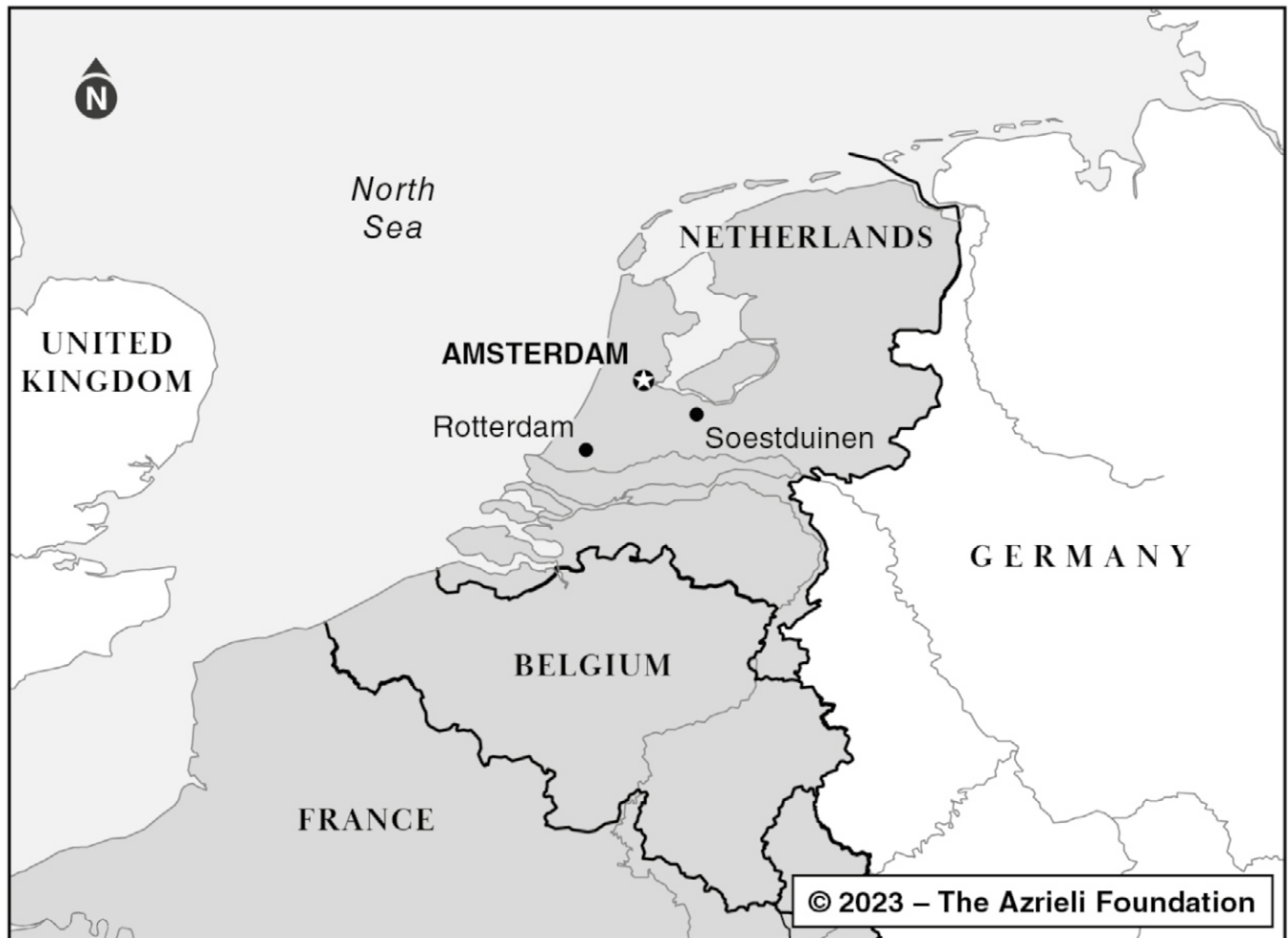
**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Students will engage with survivor testimony and develop media literacy by researching a survivor's story on the digital resource Re:Collection. They will learn about Claire Baum's Holocaust experience and understand its impact on her life.

**MATERIAL REQUIRED**

- An internet-enabled computer or tablet

# MAP



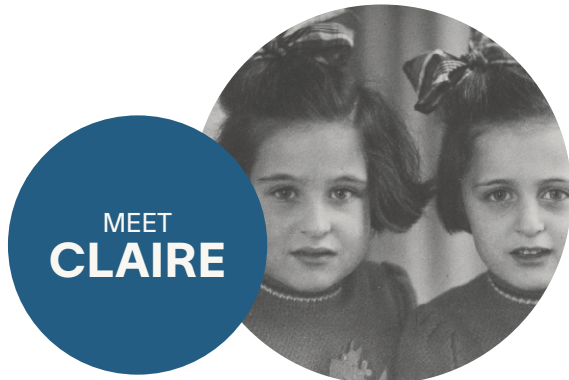
## Legend

— Borders in 1938



Occupied by Germany in 1940

# BACKGROUND READING



Claire (left) and her sister, Ollie. Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 1943.

Claire Baum is a Holocaust survivor who immigrated to Canada after the war and settled in Toronto. You can learn about her experiences by reading her memoir, *The Hidden Package*, or by accessing the digital resource Re:Collection.

Below is some background that will help you understand Claire's story.

## BIOGRAPHY:

Claire was born in 1936 in the city of Rotterdam, in the Netherlands. Her grandparents and extended family lived in Rotterdam and she spent lots of time visiting with relatives as a child. Her parents watched the increasing discrimination of Jews in neighbouring Germany under the Nazi regime and tried to get visas to immigrate to the United States, but their application was denied. After the German occupation of the Netherlands in 1940, persecution of Jews increased. In 1942 some of Claire's relatives were arrested and deported to Nazi camps, so her father decided that the family had to go into hiding. Claire and her younger sister, Ollie, first lived with a family in a little village by the sea, where they pretended to be Christians, but soon neighbours grew suspicious. For the rest of the war the girls lived in Rotterdam with a woman they called Tante Nel (Aunt Nel), the sister of a Resistance worker who knew their father. In May 1945 the Netherlands was liberated and the girls were reunited with their parents. Claire's family immigrated to Canada in 1951.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The Netherlands is a small country located in north-western Europe, just west of Germany. In the early 1930s, the country had a small Jewish population, though the number of Jews living there increased when Jews fled Nazi Germany to neighbouring countries. In May **1940**, the Germans invaded the Netherlands and installed a German **occupation** government, but many Dutch officials continued to work in the government. In **1942** mass arrests and deportations began: Jews were arrested and usually held in a transit camp called **Westerbork** in the Netherlands, and then sent to Nazi camps where most were killed. Although some Dutch people collaborated with the Germans, Resistance groups also sprung up to combat the German occupation and to help rescue Jews. Approximately **100,000** Dutch Jews were killed in the Holocaust.

**"For three years we lived a life of pretense and a constant lie. We realized our lives were in danger and knew we had to lie in order to protect each other, to survive."**

Claire Baum

# AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY ACTIVITY

- Read Claire's biography and historical context on page 4 of this booklet.
- Browse Claire's recollections. You'll find video interviews, excerpts, photographs and more.
- Use the information gathered to answer the following questions.

1. Claire's parents, Sophia and Rudolph, were married in 1934 in the city of \_\_\_\_\_, in the Netherlands. Claire was born in 1936, and her sister, \_\_\_\_\_, was born in 1937.

2. As Claire's father observed the rising threat from neighbouring Germany under Hitler's rule, he applied for \_\_\_\_\_ to immigrate to \_\_\_\_\_. What happened to his application?

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3. Name three anti-Jewish measures implemented in the Netherlands from January 1942 onwards:

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4. As Claire and her sister prepared to go into hiding in October 19\_\_\_\_, Claire was told never to talk to strangers, and to pretend to be \_\_\_\_\_ instead of Jewish.

5. How did Claire feel about celebrating Christmas in 1942?

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6. While the girls were living with Tante Kor, they found a \_\_\_\_\_ on the doorstep and realized they needed a safer place to hide. Why did their friend Peter report them to the Nazis?

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7. Claire remembers that the Hunger Winter was at its worst in January 1945. What was the Hunger Winter, and what kinds of food were available during this time?

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**HINT:** You can find additional information about each recollection, including location, date and glossary terms, by tapping or clicking More Info.

8. Claire and Ollie were liberated on May 5, 19\_\_\_\_, by soldiers from which country?

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9. After \_\_\_\_\_ years of separation, the girls were reunited with their parents in May 1945. What was their immediate reaction to seeing their parents?

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10. One of Claire's rescuers was named Nel. Explain how Claire honoured Nel many years after the war.

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