

Authors: Anne Frank

By Biography.com Editors and A+E Networks, adapted by Newsela staff on 07.27.16

Word Count **808**



Anne Frank in 1940, while at 6. Montessorischool, Niersstraat 41-43, Amsterdam, Netherlands. Dutch copyright law Art. 38: 1 (unknown photographer & pre-1943)

Synopsis: Anne Frank was a holocaust victim and famous diary writer. She was born on June 12, 1929, in Frankfurt, Germany, and lived in Amsterdam with her family during World War II. Because of the Nazis, the family went into hiding for two years. During this time, Frank wrote about her experiences and wishes. "The Diary of Anne Frank" has gone on to be read by millions of people.

Early Life

Anne Frank was born Annelies Marie Frank on June 12, 1929, in Germany. Her mother was Edith Frank, and her father was Otto Frank. She had an older sister, Margot.

The Franks were a normal, upper-middle-class German-Jewish family living in a quiet neighborhood of Frankfurt.

During the late 1920s and early 1930s, the Nazi political party became Germany's leading force when Adolf Hitler rose to power.

When Hitler became the leader of Germany, the Frank family quickly realized that it was time to leave. Otto said, "Though this did hurt me deeply, I realized that Germany was not the world, and I left my country forever."

The Franks moved to Amsterdam, Netherlands, in the fall of 1933. After years of enduring anti-Semitism in Germany, the Franks were relieved to once again enjoy freedom in their new hometown of Amsterdam.

Anne Frank began attending Amsterdam's Sixth Montessori School in 1934. Throughout the rest of the 1930s, she lived a mainly happy and normal childhood. Frank had many friends, Jewish and Christian, and she was a bright student.

Nazi Occupation

That would all change on September 1, 1939, when Nazi Germany invaded Poland. Then on May 10, 1940, the German army invaded the Netherlands. The Dutch surrendered, resulting in the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands.

Beginning in October 1940, the Nazi occupiers imposed anti-Jewish rules on the Netherlands. Jews were required to wear a yellow Star of David at all times. They were also forbidden from owning businesses. Otto Frank managed to keep running his company by officially signing it over to two of his Christian friends.

On June 12, 1942, Frank's parents gave her a diary for her 13th birthday. She wrote her first entry, addressed to an imaginary friend named Kitty, that same day.

Weeks later, Margot got a letter that said she was to report to a Nazi work camp in Germany. The next day, the Franks and another family quickly went into hiding in an empty space at the back of Otto Frank's company building.

The families spent two years in hiding where they did not see daylight at all. To pass the time, Frank wrote long daily entries in her diary. Some betrayed the depth of despair into which she occasionally sunk during the day after day of confinement. "I've reached the point where I hardly care whether I live or die," she wrote on February 3, 1944.

Captured By The Nazis

On August 4, 1944, a German secret police officer accompanied by four Dutch Nazis stormed into the hiding spot. Someone had told them the families were there. They were shipped off to Camp Westerbork, a concentration camp in the northeastern Netherlands. The Franks were transferred to the Auschwitz death camp in Poland in the middle of the night on September 3, 1944. Once at Auschwitz, the men and women were separated. This was the last time that Otto Frank ever saw his wife or daughters.

After months of hard work, Anne and Margot were transferred to another concentration camp in Germany. Their mother was not allowed to go with them, and she became very sick and died at Auschwitz shortly afterward.

At Bergen-Belsen, there was little food, it was dirty and people caught many diseases. Anne and Margot both died of typhus in the early spring in 1945, only a few weeks before British soldiers arrived to liberate the camp. Anne Frank was just 15 years old.

Otto Frank was the only member of his immediate family to live. At the end of the war, he returned home to Amsterdam. On July 18, 1945, he met two sisters who had been with Anne and Margot at Bergen-Belsen and delivered the sad news of their deaths.

"The Diary Of A Young Girl"

When Otto returned to Amsterdam, he found Anne's diary, which had been saved by a family friend. He eventually gathered the strength to read it and was awestruck by what he discovered. His daughter was an extremely talented and sensitive writer.

Otto wanted to have selections from Anne's diary published as a book. "The Diary of a Young Girl" was published on June 25, 1947.

Anne Frank's diary is important because of the historic events she described and for her great storytelling.

In 2009, the Anne Frank Center USA started the Sapling Project. They planted saplings from a 170-year-old chestnut tree, which was Anne's favorite tree, at 11 different sites nationwide.

Quiz

- 1 Fill in the blank. The author mainly explains the importance of Anne Frank's diary by...
(A) describing its important place in history.
(B) showing how it has affected readers.
(C) comparing it to other diaries from the Holocaust.
(D) explaining how it came to be published.

- 2 What is MOST LIKELY the reason why the author included the information about the concentration camps that the Franks were sent to?
(A) to show how most Nazis treated Jews in the camps
(B) to explain how Anne Frank's diary was published
(C) to show how the British eventually liberated the camps
(D) to explain what eventually happened to the Frank family

- 3 Read the following statement from the section "Captured By The Nazis."

Anne and Margot both died of typhus in the early spring in 1945, only a few weeks before British soldiers arrived to liberate the camp.

What is the purpose of this statement from the biography?

- (A) to show how dangerous typhus was during World War II
- (B) to highlight how close Anne came to surviving the war
- (C) to explain why Anne's diary became so famous
- (D) to describe how close Anne was with her sister Margot

- 4 Read the following paragraph from the section "The Diary Of A Young Girl."

In 2009, the Anne Frank Center USA started the Sapling Project. They planted saplings from a 170-year-old chestnut tree, which was Anne's favorite tree, at 11 different sites nationwide.

What is the author's MAIN purpose in including information about the Anne Frank Center in the paragraph above?

- (A) to explain why Anne Frank eventually became famous
- (B) to raise awareness about the center's Sapling Project
- (C) to show how Anne Frank's memory lives on today
- (D) to inform readers about Anne Frank's favorite tree

Answer Key

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