

## Worksheet: Barbara Bandler Steinmetz

Answer the following questions. Answers do not need to be in complete sentences.

### Before the War

1. In what year was Barbara born? 1936
2. Where did Barbara's family live? Lussinpiccolo, Italy
3. Write one sentence about Barbara's mother and one sentence about Barbara's father using either the written summary or the video testimony.

**Mother: Grew up wealthy with assimilated Jewish parents in Győr, Hungary. She had to travel quite far to go to the synagogue. Her father was a well-known doctor. She completed medical training but was not allowed to practice as a woman.**

**Father: Grew up in Budapest in an Orthodox family. His father had a hard time earning a living because he would rather study Jewish texts. He felt patriotic fervor and tried to enlist for World War I as a teen, but his father pulled him out of line. He traveled through Europe and fell in love with Lussinpiccolo's island beauty. He pooled money with friends to buy the hotel there. He ended up buying it outright.**

**They met in Budapest and it was love at first sight.**

### Hotel Alhambra

4. Watch the video testimony. How old was Barbara when she left the Hotel? 3 years old
5. How did Italy's race laws impact the Bandlers?  
**As foreign Jews, they have to leave Hungary and surrender their business**
6. Watch the second video testimony (under the image of the letter from Barbara's father) and examine the images of the letters from Babara's father. What countries did her father write to? (There are 4, find 3).

**South Africa**

**England**

**New Zealand**

**Iceland**

### Antisemitism on the Rise

7. The keys in the image belong to what?  
**Their abandoned luggage, which they had to leave in Italy and were never able to return for.**

8. *Watch the first video testimony.* Write a two-sentence reflection.

**Mussolini has to comply with Hitler's request to rid Italy of Jews, so any Jewish person not born in Italy has to leave. Barbara's father was very aware of what was happening in Europe because of personal interest and from other guests. As the Nuremberg Laws came out and Kristallnacht happened, he began looking for somewhere for them to go, but where could they go?**

9. *Watch the second video testimony.* Why didn't Barbara's extended family leave Hungary?

**They had lived comfortably with non-Jews. They thought her father was an alarmist. They were very attached to their personal belongings.**

10. *Where do they go after they leave Hungary?* \_\_\_\_\_ **Nice, France** \_\_\_\_\_

11. What happens to Margit (Barbara's mother)?

**She is burned by a pot of boiling water in a bomb blast.**

### Search for Safety

12. Where do they move to next? \_\_\_\_\_ **Madrid, Spain** \_\_\_\_\_ then \_\_\_\_\_ **Portugal** \_\_\_\_\_

### Evian Conference and Hispaniola

13. Who is the only country at the Evian Conference that agrees to provide sanctuary for a large number of Jewish refugees? \_\_\_\_\_ **Dominican Republic** \_\_\_\_\_

14. Why is Rafael Trujillo willing to accept up to 100,000 Jewish refugees?

**He is trying to deflect attention from his human rights abuses in Haiti. He also wants to develop his country's economy. He also is racist and wants to "whiten" the population of the Dominican Republic.**

### A Brush with Ellis Island

15. *Watch the first video testimony.* Write a one-sentence reflection.

**The Bandlers board a ship out of Europe and travel in steerage. They arrive at Ellis Island. They were there for a time (she can't remember exactly how long, but about two weeks). She remembers that it smelled very strange. The families were separated by gender. They had a playground that they could go to for about an hour or two every day. The conditions were very crowded.**

16. *Watch the second video testimony.* Write a one-sentence reflection.

**Her father had a brother living in the US. Her mother had very wealthy second or third cousins. They came to visit them at Ellis Island and brought each of the girls a doll. The dolls became the most important things in the world to the girls. Cockroaches ate around the doll's eyes in the Dominican Republic.**

### Life in Sosúa

17. *Watch the first video testimony or read the passages.* Describe the land in Sosúa in three sentences.

**It is an abandoned banana plantation. There is some access to fresh water. The soil is poor and rocky and there is no sewage system. There was no grocery store. They had to build their houses. It was incredibly hot and very different from what they were used to. A lot of their crops failed. They had a communal kitchen where women took turns cooking.**

18. Describe the school.

**Young children were taught German. Older children were taught German and Spanish. They went to school with the local Dominican children. It has since been named after a dedicated teacher there (Kurt Luis Hess) who left Europe before World War II.**

### Jarabacoa: Mountain Refuge

19. *Watch the video testimony.* Why do the Bandlers leave Sosúa?

**Barbara's mother is sick with heart disease. They are given permission to open a resort on a mountain to get her mother out of the climate.**

20. *Watch the second video testimony.* Write a two-sentence reflection.

**She gets water via donkey. Their only mode of transportation is horses. They take care of animals. Her mother makes cheese. They slaughter their own chickens. It is a life of hard work but it is a life of peace.**

### A Catholic Education

21. *Watch the video testimony.* Write a two-sentence reflection.

**They attend an all-girls Catholic boarding school. The nuns frighten Barbara because she has never seen nuns in full habits before. They are from Spain. They have to go to Mass every day but not take communion. They are the only Jewish girls there. Her parents leave her at the school as boarders. This is really hard for her because her parents had always been there.**

## Letter from Boston

22. How do the Bandlers connect with Barbara's parents' friend in Boston?

**Her mom wants to start a side business with cosmetics and puts an ad in a Jewish newspaper in Boston. Her parents' friend was wrapping items to send to Europe in newspaper and saw the ad. They connect and the friend and they work to get them to the US.**

## Boston: New Challenges

23. *Watch the two video testimonies.* Write a three-sentence reflection.

**They go to Miami and stay at a hotel and swim in the ocean. They then go to Boston and her parents get a job at a resort, but they can't take their children. Social services want to put the girls in foster care but her mother won't let them. The girls are then sent to a summer camp that is very traumatic because they don't speak a word of English.**

24. What was challenging about living in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood?

**It was home to the Christian Front (a nationwide antisemitic Catholic organization).**

## Old Dreams, New Lessons

25. Explain Panni's experience in a few sentences.

**Panni survived the Holocaust in Hungary but her mother did not. She came to the US with nothing. Barbara's mother gave Panni a new sweater for her birthday, and it was the first new thing she had had in a long time. She had to go to work instead of school in the US.**

26. How did the Bandlers support their family members who survived the Holocaust?

**They bought all they could with what little money they had and sent it to Europe for their relatives to sell.**

27. *Watch the second video testimony.* Write a two-sentence reflection.

**The Bandlers lose a significant amount of family members in the Holocaust. Barbara sees her father cry for the first time when he receives a telegram reporting back that most of his family has been killed.**

## Eyes Forward

28. What city do they move to next?         Detroit        

29. What happens to Trujilo in the Dominican Republic?

**He is assassinated.**

### **An American Teen**

30. What new job does Barbara's father take on despite having no experience?

salesman

31. Why does her father object to her marriage?

**He wants her to go to college.**

### **Know Where You Came From**

32. What career does Barbara have?

**Speech pathologist**

33. How do Barbara and her husband end up in Colorado?

**They vacationed there and loved it.**

### **Use the Map feature on the website.**

34. Filter the map to just Barbara. Write a one-sentence reflection on what stands out to you in using this tool.

**Answers will vary.**