

Task Card 1: Creating a timeline

Look at the three Photo Cards labelled:

- Community building and synagogue, Plauen, Germany
- History of the Jewish community in Plauen
- Industry and population in Plauen

1. Read through all the evidence you have about Plauen. Much of the information focuses on the time period 1870 – 1930.

2. Create a timeline for the period 1870 - 1939 that includes details about:

- The total population (this means everyone)
- Number of Jewish people in the city
- Building of the new synagogue
- Lace industry
- The start and end of the First World War

If you do not have exact figures you may want to write in extra detail, for instance *'population goes down'*.

3. Research and add other events you think should be included on the timeline. You could include events such as the Treaty of Versailles and the Wall Street Crash.



Task 1: Creating a timeline – continued

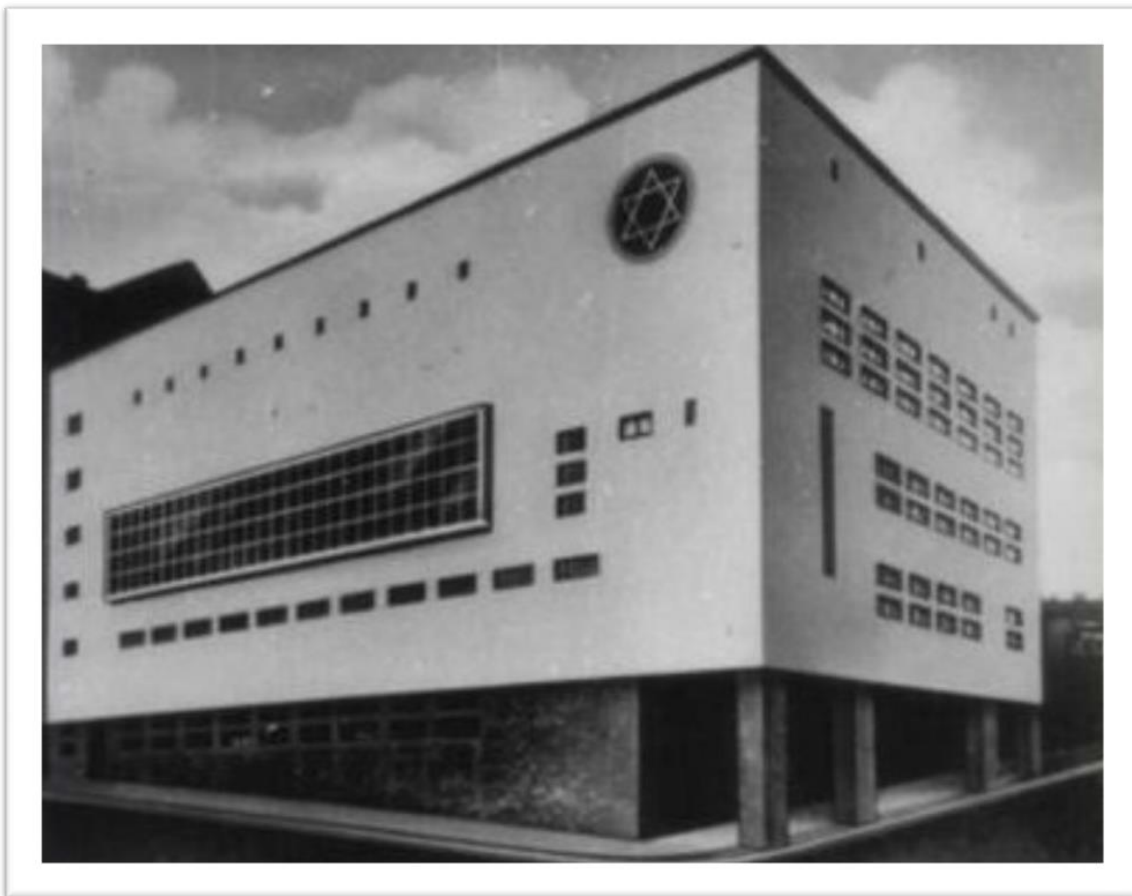
4. As historians we need to ask questions about the evidence we have and how we interpret it. Answer the following questions:
- What do you know about the city of Plauen?
 - What do you know of the Jewish community there?
 - What other events in Germany were happening?
 - Can you draw any conclusions about how the First World War relates to the decline of the Jewish and non-Jewish population?
 - How important is the changing political and economic situation for life in Plauen?

Before the next lesson consider this question:

- What events on the timeline do you find strange?

Photo card 1:

Community building and synagogue, Plauen, Germany



This is the last synagogue to be built in Plauen. This Reform Synagogue was built between 1928 and 1930 and as well as housing a synagogue it also had rooms that could be used by the community. It was designed by the architect Fritz Landauer.

Make sure these dates are added to your timeline.

Photo card 2:

History of the Jewish community in Plauen

There had been Jewish people living in Plauen since 1308. The Jewish community was sent away in 1543 but it later returned and began to grow again in the 1870s. People began to move from other areas to live here.

Before the First World War in 1914 the Jewish population was 800. Some Jewish people had moved to Plauen from Poland and the surrounding towns because of the success of the lace industry. In 1925 there were 623 Jewish people living in Plauen and by 1933 the Jewish population had fallen to 519. By 1938 the Jewish community numbered 300.

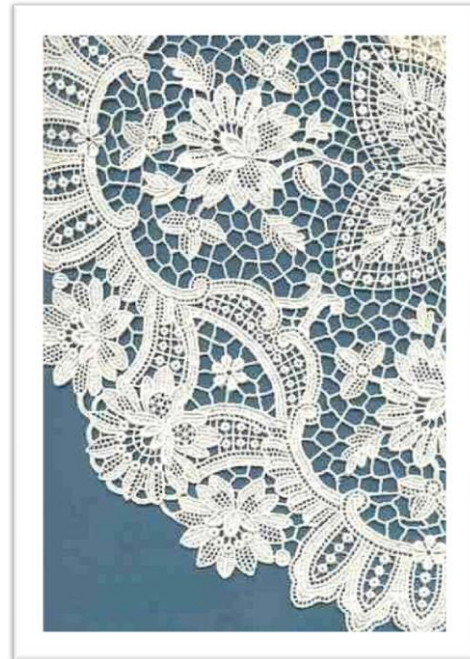


Photo card 3

Industry and population in Plauen

Plauen's lace industry dated back to the 15th Century. With new machinery and lace factories it began to develop further in the 1800s.

In 1900 the Plauen lace industry won a gold medal at the Paris Exhibition. Making and selling lace trade began to decline after the First World War which ended in 1918.



Plauen is situated in South East Germany in the region of Saxony. It is not far from the Czech border. (Plauen is marked on the map here as a red dot, Saxony is shaded pink).

In the early years of the 20th Century the total population peaked at 128,000. The population began to decline after the First World War.