



### Task sheet for students - Looking at a historical picture

#### Step 1: Take time to look at a photo (5 min)

Either individually or in small groups [choose a historical picture](#) related to the theme that you are exploring. We are exploring the Lithuanian Independence Movement (Sąjūdis), a period that started in the late 1980 and led to the declaration of Lithuanian independence on 11 March 1990 (making Lithuania the first country to break off the Soviet Union). Thus, we invite you to choose one of these pictures below.

**Look at the picture in silence for 30 sec.**

#### Step 2: Analyse what you see (10 min)

**Discuss the following questions with your group:**

- What do you see in this picture?
- What do you notice first?
- Who are the characters in the photo? What are they doing? What can you tell about them?
- Can you recognize the locations? What photo details reveal it?
- Where and when did it happen?
- What kind of event could this be?
- Who are those people? For what purpose did they gather? How do you know this?
- Where do you think the photographer is standing?
- What mood or atmosphere do you sense? What details create that mood?

**Create a title for the photo based on your observations:**

Write it down. Share your title with other groups of students and explain why you chose it.

#### Step 3: Explore the historical context of the photos and the themes that they represent (15 min)

**Find the annotations and questions** for the photo you chose (see [Annex 1](#)).

**Look for additional information** and consider your own experiences. Discuss the questions within your group.

After the discussion, **write down 5 statements** about what you have discovered.



## Step 4. Create a visual statement on what a historical photo can communicate to contemporary people (60 min)

As all the four historical photos were taken at the Cathedral square in Vilnius, we invite you to go there and have a look at how it looks now. **Take five photos** that represent your 5 statements which you wrote down in step 3.

Using your statements and your photos (the ones you took as well as historical ones) **create a poster** expressing your position on the theme you have been exploring. We invite you to do it on a large sheet of paper card using markers, prints of the photos, writing and painting. Try to be expressive with the images you create as well as with the words.

Present your poster to other groups.

Take a picture of your poster and write a short summary about how it was made and what it is about.

Choose an „Insta-Admin“ who then has access to the channel (@shiftingwalls\_eu) and can upload all of the content produced (your posters and annotations).

## Step 5. Reflection (15 min.)

- How did it feel to look at a photo in silence for 30 seconds?
- What happened? What did you notice? How often do look at one image like that?
- How did your group manage to discuss about what you saw in that photo? What conclusions did you have?
- What were you able to see with the help of others? Did you manage to talk only about what you saw without interpreting the historical context of the photo?
- What changed when you found out what the historical context of the picture was?
- What did you learn from making connections between past and present?
- What did you find most challenging/interesting/inspiring in this whole task?



*Choose a historical picture*



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## ANNEX 1



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**PHOTO No. 1**

TOPIC: Freedom of assembly

Photo: Rally of the Independence movement in Gediminas Square by sending Lithuanian delegates to the 19th CPSU conference. 1988 06 24. Photographer: Raimondas Urbakavičius.

**Questions:**

- Why did such huge crowds gather in the Cathedral square in Vilnius June 24, 1988? What did you see about it in the show? What do you see from the photo?
- What do you know about your relatives' participation in independence movement rallies and other events?
- Have you attended a rally or another public meeting of civil resistance?
- Why do people take to the streets nowadays? (e.g. students gathered by Greta Thunberg, Lithuanian teachers and students, journalists, medics, Hong Kong residents, Belarusians)? Where do they gather? What do they express and how?
- For what issues and values would you like to organize a rally or protest?
- What state document guarantees the right of citizens to peaceful assembly? How does that sound?
- Discuss the concepts - rally, picket, strike, fasting action - what do they mean?



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## PHOTO No. 2

TOPIC: Ecology

Photo: The beginning of the ecological trip "Lithuania - my home" in Gediminas Square. Vilnius, July 20, 1988. Photographer: Raimondas Urbakavičius

### Questions:

- For what purposes was a bicycle trip organized during the Independence Movement (Sąjūdis)?
- Why did the participants of the Independence Movement raise ecological problems?
- What do you know about the ecological problems of that period?
- What ecological problems is our society facing now?
- What vivid recent environmental violations can you remember?
- If you were to organize an eco bike ride now, what problems would you set? What would be the route?
- What are the connections and differences between the Independence Movement period and today's ecological problems in Lithuania?
- What do you know about the global student movement initiated by Greta Thunberg? What do you know about the activities of ecological activists in Lithuania?
- Which state-level decisions should be addressed through mass civic participation initiatives? What can be addressed through daily actions and choices?



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### PHOTO No. 3

TOPIC: The Baltic Way

Photo: Participants of the Baltic Way on Gediminas Castle Hill. 1989 08 23. Photographer: Raimondas Urbakavičius

Using the information in the exhibition discuss in the group:

- What do you know about the Baltic Way - for what purposes and how was it organized? Who initiated it? How many people participated?
- Are there any witnesses to this event in your environment? What are they saying? How else do you know about the Baltic Way?
- What makes this event special? What message did it send to the world then? What does this event mean to us now?
- The Baltic Way is special in its form - people holding hands, a continuous chain through three countries, flowers being thrown from planes, people singing, etc. What other unexpected, exceptional forms of mass demonstrations and civic resistance have you noticed?
- Could the Baltic Way be virtual? What boundaries could you cross?
- What issue could unite so many people now?
- What opportunities do social networks create for civic resistance? What examples do you know?



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#### PHOTO No. 4

TOPIC: The flag as a symbol of nation

Photo: Raising of the Lithuanian national flag in the tower of Gediminas Castle. 1988 10 07.

Photographer: Marius Baranauskas

#### Questions:

- Why did the hoisting of the flag in the tower of Gediminas Castle attract such a mass of people?
- What are the essential moments of Lithuanian history that took place in the vicinity of Gediminas Castle and the Cathedral?
- What did the appearance of the national flag in public space mean during the Independent Movement (Sąjūdis)?
- What is the atmosphere of this fixed event? To what current experience of your life could that emotion be compared?
- Why was the flag such an important symbol back then?
- What does it mean to you? What values would you associate with the flag of your country today?



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