# ‘LET ME BE MYSELF' 

The Life Story of<br>Anne Frank

## CARDS FOR GUIDES <br> historical section

## Card 1A

Panel 1-2-3
1929-1933

- Date of birth Anne: 12 June 1929 (Frankfurt am Main, Germany).
- The Frank family is Jewish.
- Edith and Otto Frank have two daughters: Margot and Anne.
- First World War (1914-1918).
- Economic crisis and unemployment in Germany in the 1930s.
- There are 550,000 Jews in Germany at the time, less than $1 \%$ of the population.
- Hitler and his political party (the NSDAP) come to power in 1933.
- Anti-Semitism increases.
- Jews are discriminated against: one by one, their civil rights are taken away
- Anne's parents decide to leave Frankfurt.
© Anne Frank Stichting / 2015


## Card 2A

Panel 4-5-6
1933-1938
1 The Frank family decided to leave Germany in 1933. Why was that?
2 Which problems did Germany face at the time?
3 In the lower picture on panel 1, the graffiti on the wall says 'Vote for Hitler'. Why did Hitler's supporters pick this particular wall?
4 Was it hard for Anne's parents to leave Germany? Why?

- The Frank family moves to Amsterdam in 1933.
- Otto Frank establishes a new firm, Opekta.
- Among the employees are Victor Kugler, Johannes Kleiman, Miep Gies and Bep Voskuijl.
- Anne attends a Montessori primary school.
- In Germany, the Nazis really come down on the Jews. In the night of 9 November 1938, they torch synagogues and Jewish shops (among other places). This is called the Kristallnacht, panel 6, lower picture.


## Card 2B

## QUESTIONS:

To which countries did the Frank family members move?
2 Which anti-Semitic measures were taken by the Nazis in Germany in this period?
3 What do you notice about the lower picture on panel 5, of a school class in Germany?
4 How did the Frank family react to the news of the Kristallnacht? What do you think?

## Card 3B

## QUESTIONS:

1 How did the anti-Jewish measures affect the company of Otto Frank?
2 What was the situation like for the Polish Jews in the first few months after the start of the war?
3 Watch the lower picture of panel 9. How did the bombardment of Rotterdam influence the fighting in the Netherlands?
4 There were many Jews from Germany in the neighbourhood where the Franks lived. How do you think they responded to the German invasion? (they didn't/ they fled/ they committed suicide)

## Card 3A

- On 1 September 1939 the German army invades Poland, this is the start of the Second World War.
- In May 1940, the Germans invade the Netherlands.
- The centre of Rotterdam is bombed, and from that moment on, the Netherlands are occupied by the Nazis
- Anne writes in her diary: 'After May 1940, the good times were few and far between: first there was the war, then the capitulation and then the arrival of the Germans, which is when the trouble started for the Jews.'
- The anti-Jewish measures are introduced in the Netherlands as well, and affect Otto Frank too.


## Card 4A

## Panel 10-11-12

1941-1942

- From the summer of 1941 onwards, Jewish students have to attend separate schools.
- Jews are banned from more and more places, such as parks, cinemas, libraries and even the beach.
- On 12 June 1942, Anne receives a diary for her thirteenth birthday.
- When Margot receives a call-up notice for deportation to a labour camp on 5 July 1942, they decide to go into hiding the very next day.
- Their hiding place is in the annex of Prinsengracht 263, where the Opekta office is located.


## Card 4B

## QUESTIONS

Why did Otto and Edith pick the annex as their hiding place?
2 Why were the anti-Jewish measures introduced? What was the Nazis' purpose with these measures?
3 Watch the lower picture on panel 11. All Jewish children of six years and older had to wear a star of David on their clothes. Which were the consequences of this anti-Jewish measure?
4 Do you think that Anne's parents told her about their plans to go into hiding? Why?/Why not?

## Card 5A

Panel 13-14-15
1942-1944

- The Frank family go into hiding in the annex, together with the Van Pels family: Hermann, Auguste and their son Peter.
- Four months later, they are joined by Fritz Pfeffer.
- He tells them of the pogroms. The lower picture on panel 13 is one of the rare pictures of an Amsterdam pogrom. It occurs on 26 May 1943, early in the morning. The centre of Amsterdam is surrounded. Three thousand Jews are taken from their homes. They are transported by train to camp Westerbork and from there on to the concentration and extermination camps.
- In the annex, Anne writes in her diary often. She misses her friends and pretends that her diary is a close friend: Kitty.
- Anne dreams of becoming a famous writer or journalist after the war
- She intends to publish a book about hiding in the Annex.


## Card 5B

## QUESTIONS:

What did Anne write in her diary about the world outside?
What is a pogrom?
On the lower picture on panel 15, you see D-Day. What happened on this day?
4 To what extent was writing in her diary important to Anne when she lived in the Annex?

## Card 6A

## Panel 13-14-15

## 1942-1944

Read the following quotes from the diary of Anne Frank. She writes about life in the Annex, her thoughts and about the outside world.
Quote from Anne on the panel:
'at the mercy of the cruellest monsters ever to stalk the earth.'

## Quotes

Friday, 9 October 1942
Dearest Kitty,
Today I have nothing but dismal and depressing news to report. Our many Jewish friends and acquaintances are being taken away in droves. The Gestapo is treating them very roughly and transporting them in cattle cars to Westerbork, the big camp in Drenthe to which they're sending all the Jews. Miep told us about someone who'd managed to escape from there. It must be terrible in Westerbork.

## Card 6B

## 28 September 1942 (added comment)

Not being able to go outside upsets me more than I can say, and I'm terrified our hiding place will be discovered and that we'll be shot. That, of course, is a fairly dismal prospect.

## 19 November 1942

We're so fortunate here, away from the turmoil. We wouldn't have to give a moment's thought to all this suffering if it weren't for the fact that we're so worried about those we hold dear, whom we can no longer help. I feel wicked sleeping in a warm bed, while somewhere out there my dearest friends are dropping from exhaustion or being knocked to the ground.

## Saturday, 12 February 1944

Dearest Kitty,
The sun is shining, the sky is deep blue, there's a magnificent breeze and I'm longing really longing - for everything: conversation, freedom, friends, being alone. I long ... to cry! I feel like I'm about to explode. I know crying would help, but I can't cry. I'm restless. I walk from one room to another, breathe through the crack in the window frame, feel my heart beating as if to say: "Fulfil my longing at last ..." Yours, Anne

## Card 7A

Panel 16-17-18

## 1944-1945

- The people in the Annex stay there for over two years.
- They are arrested on 4 August 1944. They have been betrayed.
- It has never become clear who betrayed the people in hiding.
- Anne's diaries are left behind in the hiding place, and are discovered by Miep and Bep. They hold on to them.
- The people from the Annex are put in prison and from there transported to the Westerbork transit camp.
- From the Westerbork prison barracks, they are deported to the Auschwitz Birkenau extermination camp.
- It is on the Auschwitz platform that Otto sees his wife and daughters for the last time.
- When the Soviet army pushes back the German army from the east, they are moved to Bergen-Belsen (another concentration camp) in October 1944.
- Anne and Margot die in Bergen-Belsen in February 1945, two months before the camp is liberated.


## Card 7 B

## QUEStions

1 Why were Anne and the other people from the Annex put in the prison barracks at camp Westerbork?
2 What are the differences between transit camps, concentration camps and extermination camps?
3 Look at the upper picture on panel 17. What was the purpose of the selection made on the platform at Auschwitz-Birkenau?
4 Other people in hiding were also betrayed during the Second World War. Why would people do something like that?

## Card 8A

## Panel 19-20-21

## 1945-today

- Otto Frank is the only one from the people in the Annex to survive the war.
- He returns to Amsterdam in June 1945.
- He gets to read the diary of his daughter Anne.
- He decides to comply with her wishes to become a writer, and has her diary published.
- ‘The Diary of a Young Girl' has been translated into more than 70 languages.
- The Nazis murdered six million Jews in all.
- Other groups fell victim to the Nazis too: Roma and Sinti, handicapped people, Jehovah's witnesses and homosexuals.
- The victims of the Second World War are remembered all over the world. Otto said:
'We cannot change what happened anymore. The only thing we can do is to learn from the past and to realise what discrimination and persecution of innocent people means. I believe that it's everyone's responsibility to fight prejudice.'


## Card 8B

## QUESTIONS:

1 In which camps were the people from the Annex murdered?
2 Were the Nazis punished for their crimes after the war?
3 Look at the top picture of panel 20. This is Otto Frank on the day the Anne Frank House was opened. Why do you think this was a hard day for Otto?
4 According to Otto Frank, everyone is under the moral obligation to fight prejudice. What is prejudice and how could you go about fighting it?

## Card 9

## Room inside (only large version) and outside room and panels ABC

In the room, you can read two quotes from Anne Frank's diary. Read them out loud to the group (only large version). On the panels on the outside of the room and ABC panels, you will see a cross-section of the secret annex. You also get to see the front part of the building, where the offices of Opekta (Otto Frank's firm) are. Where is the book case?
On the other panel, you will find short descriptions of the people in hiding and their helpers. What was the role of Jan Gies?

## Card 10

Pillars (only large version)
Star of David
In this glass case, you see a real Star of David. All Jews of over the age of five had
to wear this star on their outer clothes. Why do you think people disliked wearing these Stars of David?

2 The NSDAP political programme
In this pillar, you will find the political programme of the NSDAP, the Nazi party. What were the main lines of action of the Nazis?

3 Prinsengracht 263
This is the entire building at Prinsengracht 263. You see both the front part of the house and the annex. What did the helpers mean to the people in hiding?

4 Diary (facsimile)
This is a facsimile (copy) of the first diary that Anne completed.
What did writing mean to Anne in the secret annex?

