

Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day / Family History Month Packet

Designed & Presented by
Ariana Kabodian

Author of
Forget Me Not: Armenian Genocide Recollections



Lesson Packet Information & CCSS Standards

(This page is specifically for teachers.)

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- **Grade Levels:** 9th-12th, Higher Education, & Adult Education
 - **Subjects:** World History, Armenian History, Literature, & Writing
 - **Resource Type:** Worksheets, Assignment, Lessons
 - **Format:** PDF
 - **Pages:** 18

This lesson packet falls under the following CCSS Standards:

- Historical Sources & Evidence (D2. His. 11.9-12) & (D2. His. 12.9-12)
- Perspectives (D2. His. 5.9-12), (D2. His. 7.9-12), & (D2. His. 8.9-12)
- Historical Sources & Evidence (D2. His. 12.9-12)
- Causation & Argumentation (D2. His.16.9-12)
- CCSS RL.9-10.2
- CCSS W.11-12.1b
- CCSS CCRA.W.4
- CCSS RH.9-10.2

Lesson Overview

Forget Me Not: Armenian Genocide Recollections (Page 3)

- Non Profit Book Partnership: Paros Foundation

About the Author (Page 4)

- Mission (promote education about Armenia/Armenian Genocide & motivate students to learn about their family history) with Teachers Pay Teachers
 - April: Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day is on 4/24
 - October: Family History Month

Book Excerpts

- Book Excerpt: Rose Aprahamian / Mooradian) Sherinian (Pages 5-8)
- Book Excerpt: Stephan Karakashian (Pages 9-12)

Exploring Your Family History Report (Page 13)

- Historical Sources & Evidence
 - (D2. His. 11. 9-12 & D2. His. 12. 9-12)

Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day Assignment (Page 14)

- Perspectives
 - (D2. His. 5.9-12, D2. His. 7.9-12, & D2. His. 8.9-12)

Armenian Genocide Report (Pages 15 -16)

- Historical Sources & Evidence
 - (D2. His. 12. 9-12)

5 Ways You Can Change the World Worksheet (Page 17)

- Causation & Argumentation
 - (D2. His. 16. 9-12)

Book Information (Page 18)

Forget Me Not: Armenian Genocide Recollections

Forget Me Not: Armenian Genocide Recollections consists of recollections of the author, Ariana Kabodian's relative's experiences /stories of survival from the Armenian Genocide and Istanbul Pogrom, recalled by her ancestor's direct descendants.

Ariana Kabodian is 100% Armenian, and wrote this book to preserve her family's history and to spread awareness about Armenia and the Armenian Genocide.

The official symbol of the Armenian Genocide is the Forget-Me-Not Flower.

Ariana has partnered with The Paros Foundation, a humanitarian nonprofit, where book / TPT profits will be donated to provide children snow boots at the Debi Arach Children's Center in Gyumri, Armenia.



Ariana has also created this lesson overview to provide teachers opportunities to include Armenian history within classrooms through Teachers Pay Teachers.



About The Author

Ariana Kabodian

Ariana Kabodian currently resides in Michigan where she attended Mercy High School. She received her B.S. in Sustainable Business from Aquinas College, where she played on the Women's Collegiate Tennis Team. Ariana is currently a Digital Account Manager for a private company and is also nearing completion of her M.B.A. in Business Administration with a dual concentration in Entrepreneurship / Innovation and Global Supply Chain Management at The Mike Ilitch School of Business at Wayne State University. This book was written to preserve her families history and to spread awareness about the Armenian Genocide.



Rose (Aprahamian / Mooradian) Sherinian

Rose (Aprahamian Mooradian) Sherinian's story was told by her niece, Barbara (Dourjalian) Widener. Rose was born on November 11th, 1911, in Samsun, Turkey, on the Black Sea's coast, in the Mediterranean. Her Father, Sirigan Aprahamian, owned a barbershop, and was a young widow; his wife passed away when Rose was very young. Sirigan remarried to Ardem Serijanlian in 1913, and raised Rose as her own. Sirigan and Ardem had two daughters: Mary (Aprahamian) Minoogian and Alice (Aprahamian) Gedikian. Ardem was a school teacher who graduated from Marsivan College and was well respected.

In June 1915, right before the Armenian Genocide began, the Turkish soldiers came into Samsun to gather all the Armenian men and to enlist in the Turkish Army. Her Mother and Father were informed that if they converted to Islam, Sirigan would not have to enlist. However, because they were devout Christian Armenians, they would not consider changing their religion. The last time Rose saw her Father was when he was being taken by the Turkish soldiers and was killed.

Afterwards, her Mother, Ardem, was suddenly left alone to care for three girls at the beginning of a Genocide.

For her daughters to survive, she temporarily give her children to live with three different Grecians families. Rose's six month old sister, Mary, went to live with a Grecian family on a farm. Rose and her two year old sister, Alice, went to separate Grecian families. These families took great care of the girls, and were very kind people; and Ardem would occasionally safely visit.

Soon afterward, the Samsun town caller announced that they would hang anyone hiding Armenians. Upon hearing this, her Mother gathered her three daughters out of fear that the Grecian families would be killed. A Grecian man helped them get to a safe government building. There, the mayor of Samsun spared them because they were women and children. They then had to live in a Church's basement for a couple of years because the Turkish soldiers took their home. The living conditions were very poor; they were constantly sick because of the freezing basement temperature; they also had lice, sores, were dirty, and had limited amounts of clothing and food. Every night they would fall asleep to the noise of bombings in the distance. Unfortunately, this was something that Rose carried with her throughout the rest of her life; she could never forget the sounds of the Genocide.

Through The American Red Cross, Ardem was able to get in contact with her sister, Aznive (Serijanian) Serunian, and her brother-in-law, Moses Serunian, who lived in The United States, and offered their monetary assistance so they could immigrate there. Ardem and her daughters then traveled to Carsamba, Turkey, where they stayed for a couple of months. In August 1920, they boarded onto a ship named The Gul Djemal and set sail.⁶⁸ While they were in the Atlantic Ocean, many people got sick and died, and it was a frightful ordeal.

When Rose was eight, Alice was five, and Mary was four years old, they arrived to Ellis Island, New York, on October, 31st, 1920. Aznive and Moses Serunian greeted Ardem and her girls and brought them to their house in Portland, Maine, where they lived there for a few years. Rose recalled loving her time in Portland; she was thankful she was never afraid or hungry.

A couple of years later, in Portland, Ardem was set up with Pilos Mooradian. They fell in love and got married in 1922 in Portland, Maine, and had two children, Stephen Mooradian and Aznive "Agnes" (Mooradian) Dourjalian.

⁶⁸ Gul Djemal, 31 October 1920; image, "Passenger Steam," Statue of Liberty—Ellis Island Foundation. Accessed on 10/1/2022. Retrieved from: <https://www.ellis-island.org/immigration-photos>

When Rose was 20, she met the Sherinian family and married their oldest son, Hess Sherinian, in Portland, Maine before moving together to Detroit, Michigan. Ironically, Rose and Hess knew each other when they were young; Hess would go to The American Red Cross for soup and bring it to her family when they lived in the Church's basement. Rose and Hess settled in Detroit, Michigan, and two had children, Donald Sherinian and Robert Sherinian.

Ardem and Pilos Mooradian had a very happy marriage; they both died in their 80s in California.

Rose and Hess Sherinian lived a good life together until Hess passed away in 1988; Rose lived well until the age of 89 and passed away on March 27th, 2000.



From Left: Rose
(Aprahamian) Sherinian,
& Sirigan Aprahamian



The Gul Djemal

¹⁹ Image provided by Sarkis (Draparian) Ghazian
²⁰ Gul Djemal, 21 October 1900; images, "Passenger Search," Statue of Liberty—Ellis Island Foundation. Accessed on 10/2/2022. Retrieved from: <https://www.elliis-island.org/elliis-island/passenger-search/>

Stephan Karakashian

Stephan "Steve" Karakashian was born in 1905 in Evereg, Turkey, and was the middle child of five children. When the Armenian Genocide began, he was ten years old; the Genocide caused his family to be displaced. As a result, his two younger twin sisters died, and he was placed in an orphanage full of other Armenian children orphaned at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

Stephan was an extremely resourceful child. At night, he would crawl over the orphanage fence and sell eggs to the Turkish soldiers. From his earnings, he would then get food and bring it to the fellow Armenian orphans. The Turkish soldiers only bought the eggs because they assumed he was Turkish. Stephan saved some gold coins from his earnings and was able to locate the whereabouts of his brother and Father. Unfortunately, both of them were in one of the Armenian concentration camps controlled by Turkish soldiers. Utilizing his resourcefulness, Stephan bribed the soldiers with the gold he had accumulated to free his brother and Father. It was a miracle they survived because the very next morning, all the Armenians at the concentration camp were ordered into the desert, where they were shot and

killed. His resourcefulness saved both his brother's and Father's lives.

Eventually, Stephan earned enough money and solely ventured off to the island of Cyprus. He traveled to Cairo, Egypt, and then to Cuba, where he stayed for about a year. During that time, he saved up money by shoe shinning to immigrate to The United States. Once Stephan gathered his earned funds, he paid someone to hide him in the freighter's boiler room. There were many other young adults in there with him; they were all so hot down there from the boilers, and he did not know if he would survive.

He survived the journey and finally arrived in Mobile, Alabama, where he was taken to a hotel. He was instructed to stay put while the soldiers went to get the authorities. Stephan realized what was about to ensue and escaped with a small bag of belongings because he knew they would send him back to Cuba, so he ran to a nearby train station and boarded onto a train. All he had in order to communicate with anyone was a piece of paper in his pocket with his Uncle from Chicago, Illinois address, written in English. Luckily, he showed it to someone who directed him to get onto the right train and traveled from Alabama to Chicago.

Once he arrived in Chicago, he somehow found his way to his Uncle's street. It is unknown how he made it because he did not speak any English and had no idea exactly where he was going. When he arrived at his Uncle's, there was no one at the house because his Uncle was at work, so Stephan waited outside for the whole day until his Uncle came home.

Stephan stayed in Chicago with his Uncle for a year and then moved to Detroit. Some Armenians in the Metro Detroit Area helped him get a factory job at Ford Motor Company at the Highland Park Plant. Stephan did not like working at the factory. Stephan mistook the red tobacco spit as blood and thought they had tuberculosis; he did not realize they were all chewing tobacco. While Stephan worked at the Ford Plant, he would send money back to his family. Eventually, his parents, sister, and brother immigrated to The United States, where they were reunited.

After leaving Ford Motor Company, Stephan got a job at a dry cleaner through another Armenian connection. He worked as an unpaid apprentice for a few months, and then once he gained experience and mastered the skill, he was well paid, and he thoroughly enjoyed this line of work.

Stephan met his wife, Sevart (Stamboulian) Karakashian, through a Church event in Detroit, Michigan.

Sevart was an Armenian born in The United States, and they got married in 1938. They lived a loving life together and had three children, Jack Karakashian, Robert “Bobby” Karakashian, and Mary Ann (Karakashian) Artinian.

Stephan Karakashian passed away at the age of 88 in 1993. His son, Robert Karakashian, who told his Father’s story, described him as an incredibly courageous person. Stephan’s heroic acts were so noble that Armenian survivors who immigrated to Detroit spoke highly of Stephan’s because they survived off of the food he gave them when they were children in the orphanage at the beginning of the Armenian Genocide.

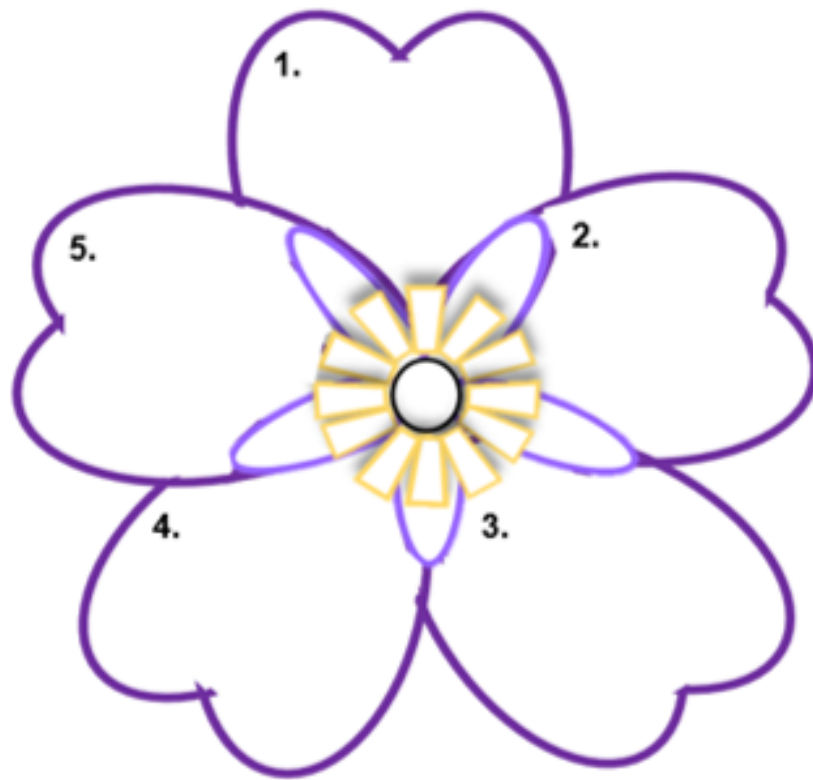


From Left: Jack Karakashian, Stephan Karakashian,
& Robert “Bobby” Karakashian

¹¹ Image provided by Denise (Dzungian) Karakashian

Name: _____
Date: _____

5 Ways You Can



Change The World

I hope this inspires your students to learn about
Armenian history, their family history, and
inspires

I also hope this inspires students to help others.

Thank you for your support!



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