

The illustration depicts a woman, Doña Gracia, in profile, looking towards the right. She is wearing a red dress with a dark floral pattern and a matching red headscarf with a blue and white geometric design. Her hands are resting on a ledge. In the background, a city with domes and minarets, likely Istanbul, is visible through a hazy, golden light. The overall style is reminiscent of traditional Middle Eastern or Islamic art.

Doña Gracia Saved Worlds

Bonni Goldberg
illustrated by Alida Massari

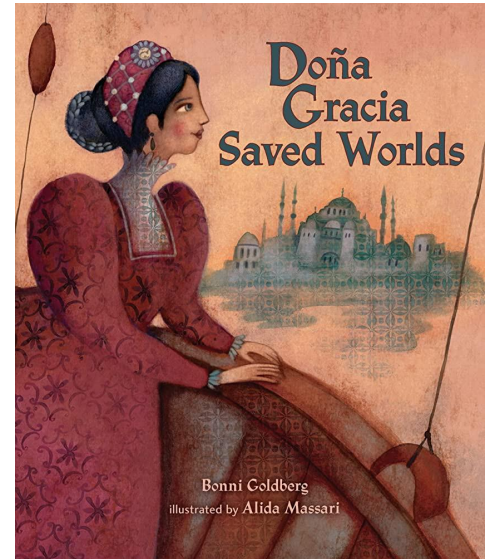
teaching guide

ACTIVITIES

RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the subway side

Doña Gracia Saved Worlds

teaching guide



ABOUT THE BOOK

In 16th-century Portugal, even Doña Gracia's Jewish name was a secret. But she and her merchant husband helped those like them, giving treasures to the king to protect other secret Jews during the Inquisition. When her husband died, many said no woman would be able to run their powerful business, but Doña Gracia did. Escaping Portugal, she helped other Jews do the same, smuggling them out of the country on her spice ships in the night. Only in Turkey was she finally able to live freely as a Jew, and build synagogues, hospitals, and Jewish schools. Doña Gracia saved worlds.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

Before reading *Doña Gracia Saved Worlds* consider the following activities to engage your readers.

1. Take a picture walk of the story, flipping each page and pointing out the illustrations. Encourage students to predict what will happen in the story.
2. Host a class-wide discussion about the title. Why did the author choose that title? What might we be reading about?
3. Create a mind map to record what students already know about the history of Jews.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

BONNI GOLDBERG

Bonni Goldberg, award-winning author and Jewish educator, lives in Portland, Oregon. She first learned about Doña Gracia in a mother-daughter bat mitzvah class. Bonni believes children would like to know about Gracia too.



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EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Doña Gracia Saved Worlds tells the inspiring true story of a trailblazing woman who helped fellow Jews safely practice their religion at a time when it was against the law. The inquiry-driven activities in this guide apply to a variety of content areas and educational standards. They may be used for a range of learners and are aligned to the CCSS and NGSS.

ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS

problem + solution

Target Grade Range: K – 5th Grade

In *DOÑA GRACIA SAVED WORLDS*, Gracia experiences a clear problem in the story. As with any story, every problem has a solution. Explore Gracia's problem and how she solves it. Also, consider a different way that secret Jews could have solved the problem. Students can add a picture to go along with their thoughts, using their favorite art supply. The graphic organizers have differentiated lined paper, appropriate for students in a range of grade levels.



WRITING

doña gracia brochure

Target Grade Range: 1st – 5th Grade

In *DONA GRACIA SAVED WORLDS*, we learn all about the inspirational life of Dona Gracia and the impact she had on the Jewish community. Take this a step further by inviting students to answer and write about comprehension questions related to the story. This activity includes differentiated graphic organizers and writing paper for a range of students.

STEAM

build a boat

Target Grade Range: K – 5th Grade

We learn that Gracia used boats in her plans to help secret Jews escape. In this STEAM-inspired activity, students will design and build a boat, much like the one used. Using hands-on materials, students will create a boat that can hold weight and float. Younger students may benefit by completing this in partnerships or with the direct help of an adult.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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SOCIAL STUDIES

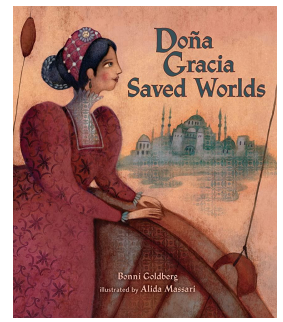
mapping gracia's route

Target Grade Range: K – 5th Grade

Bonni Goldberg teaches us all about how Doña Gracia saved worlds! In this mapping activity, students will use their preferred art supply to show the many places Gracia moved to stay safe while she helped fellow Jews escape Portugal. Without Gracia's bravery, many Jews would still have been in hiding, unable to practice their beliefs freely.

RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the subway side

ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITY



PROBLEM & SOLUTION

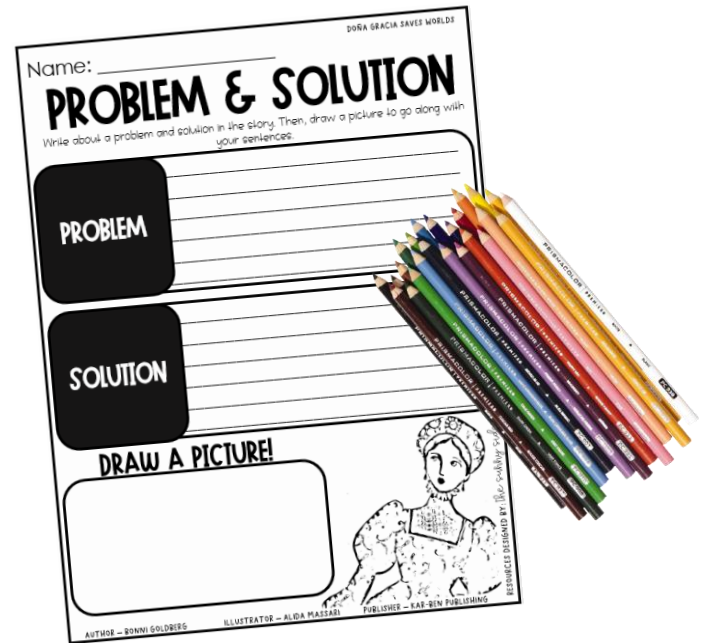


Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.K.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.1

You will need:

- White copy paper
- Pencils
- Art Supplies (crayons or colored pencils)



Step by step to do list:

1. Decide which differentiated worksheets work best for your students.
2. Brainstorm with students a problem that was encountered and how that problem was solved.
3. Students should write about a problem, a solution to the problem, and then draw a picture to go along with their thoughts.
4. Allow students an opportunity to share with other students in class.
5. For younger students (2nd grade and younger) you may want to complete this activity as a whole group or use the graphic organizer with blank boxes for students to draw rather than write.

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Name: _____

PROBLEM & SOLUTION

Write about a problem and solution in the story. Then, draw a picture to go along with your sentences.

PROBLEM**SOLUTION****DRAW A PICTURE!**

Name: _____

PROBLEM & SOLUTION

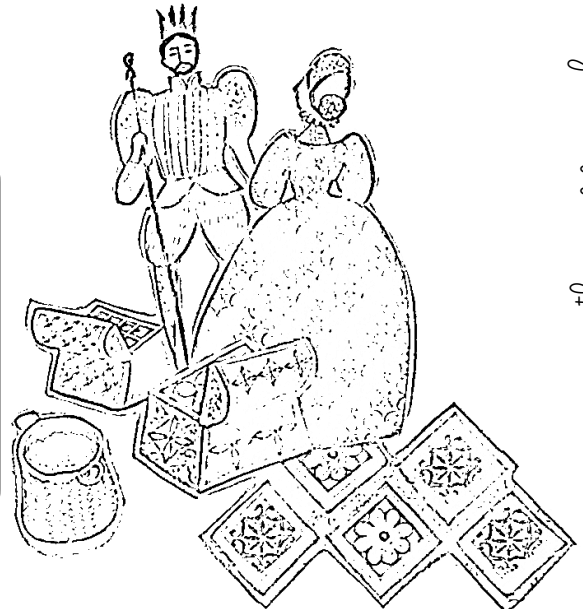
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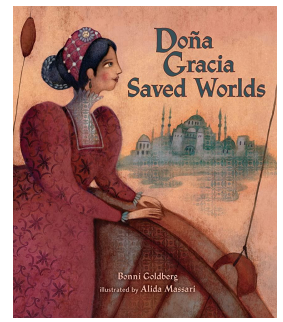
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WRITING ACTIVITY

WRITTEN BROCHURE



Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.10
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.10
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.10
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.10

You will need:

- White copy paper
- Pencils
- Crayons / colored pencils / markers



Step by step to do list:

1. Decide which differentiated lined paper works best for your students and copy the WHAT WE LEARNED ABOUT DOÑA GRACIA BROCHURES on white copy paper (copy the templates back-to-back so that they open like an actual brochure).
2. Distribute brochures to students.
3. Use the plot of the story and the author's note to answer all the comprehension questions throughout the brochure.
4. Students can share and compare their thinking in partnerships or in small groups.
5. For younger students (1st grade and younger) you may want to complete this activity as a whole group together.

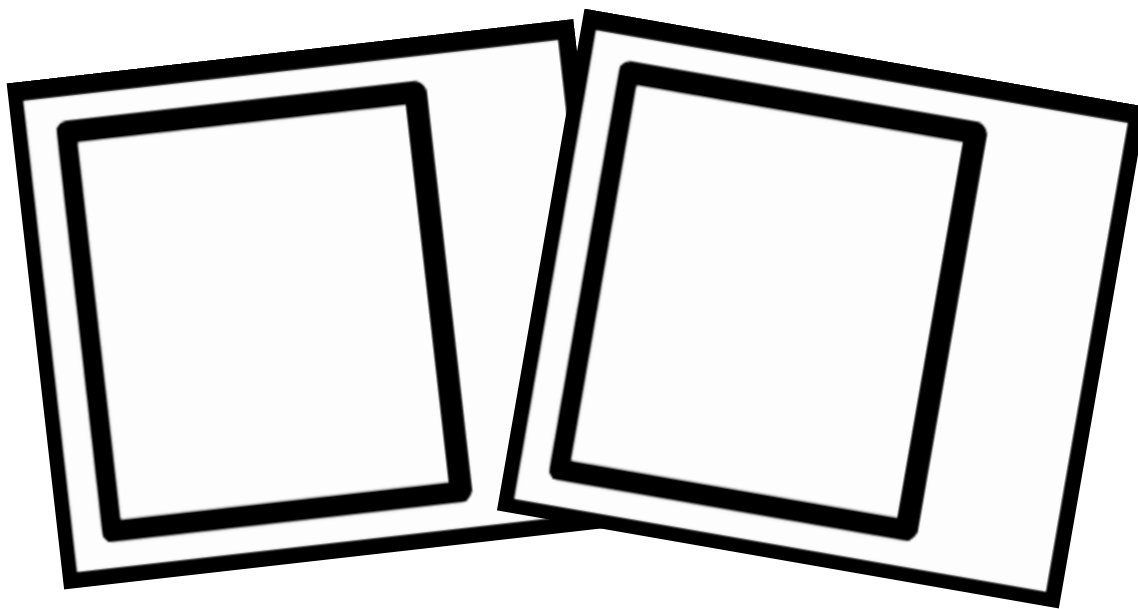
RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the subway side

WHAT WE LEARNED

ABOUT
DOÑA GRACIA



RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the sunny side



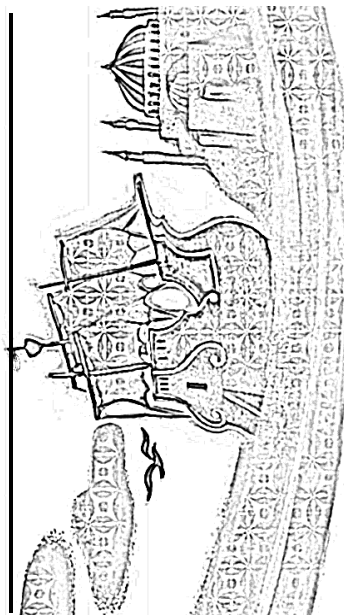
PICTURES OF GRACIA'S ESCAPE PLANS

IN WHAT WAYS DID SHE SAVE WORLDS?

AUTHOR — BONNI GOLDBERG

WEBSITE — WWW.BONNIGOLDBERG.COM

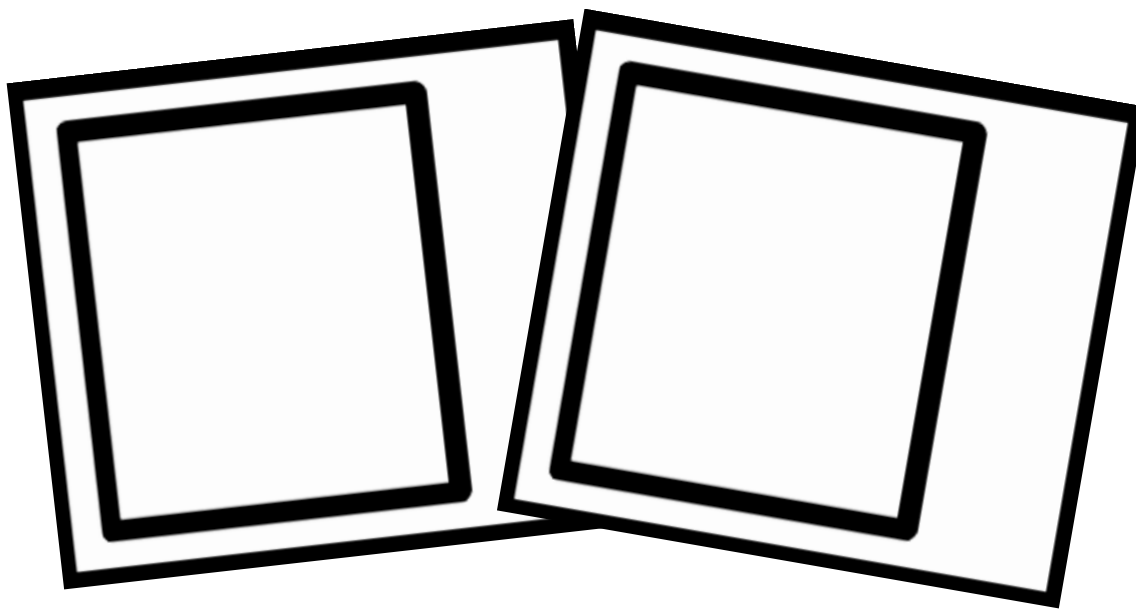
PUBLISHER — KAR-BEN PUBLISHING



WHAT WE LEARNED ABOUT DOÑA GRACIA



RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the sunny side



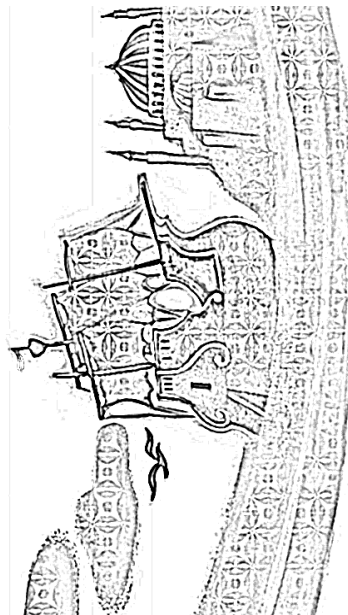
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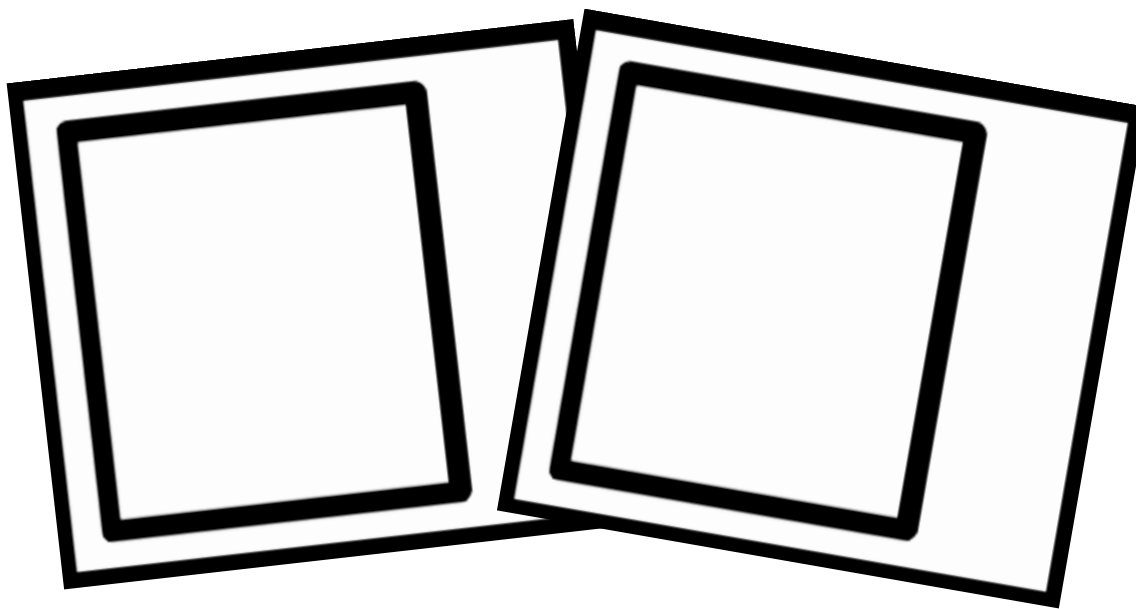


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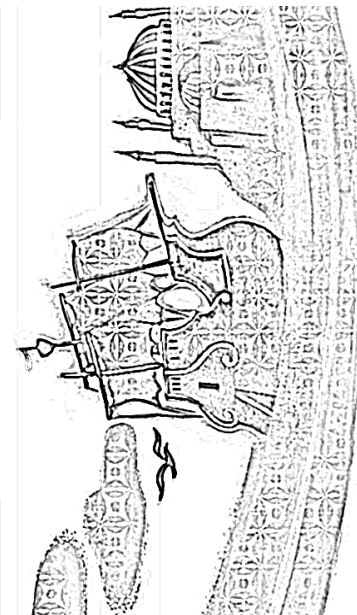


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PICTURES OF GRACIA'S ESCAPE PLANS

IN WHAT WAYS DID SHE SAVE WORLDS?



WHERE DID GRACIA GROW UP?

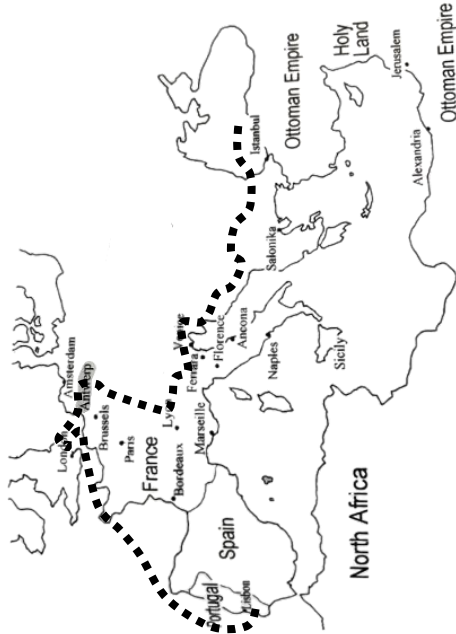
AUTHOR – BONNI GOLDBERG

HOW DID SHE CONVINCE THE KING TO PROTECT HER PEOPLE?

PUBLISHER – KAR-BEN PUBLISHING

MAP OF GRACIA'S JOURNEY

Color the dotted route Gracia took and answer the questions below..



1. Where did Gracia start her journey?

2. Where did Gracia end her journey?

HOW DID SHE HELP SECRET JEWS?

WHERE DID GRACIA FINALLY LIVE?

RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: *the sunny side*

DOÑA GRACIA SAVED WORLDS

WEBSITE – WWW.BONNIGOLDBERG.COM

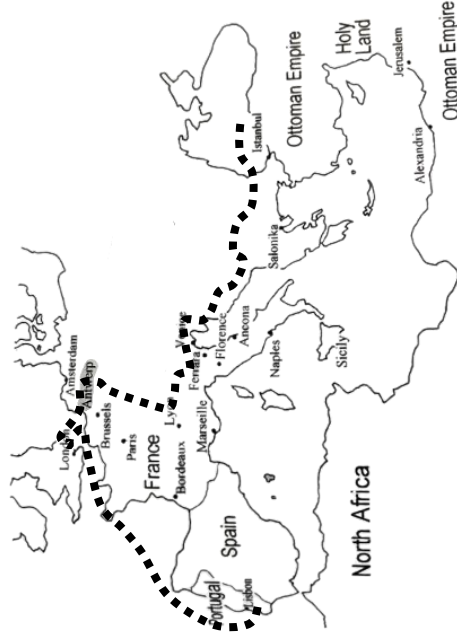
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AUTHOR – BONNI GOLDBERG

HOW DID SHE CONVINCE THE KING TO PROTECT HER PEOPLE?

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RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: *the sunny side*

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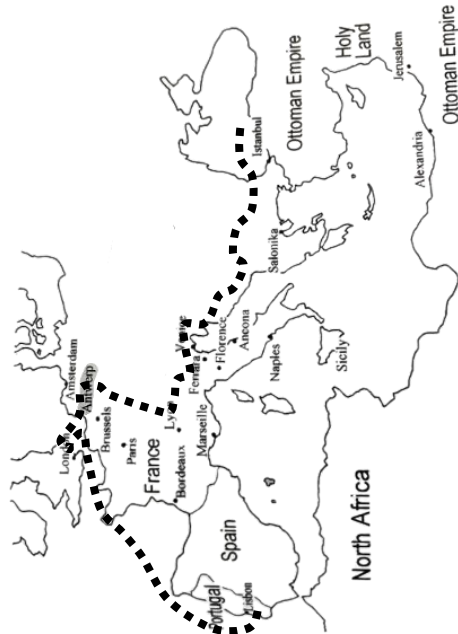
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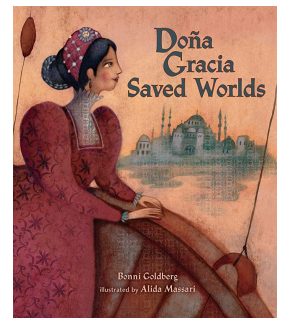
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STEAM ACTIVITY

BUILD A BOAT

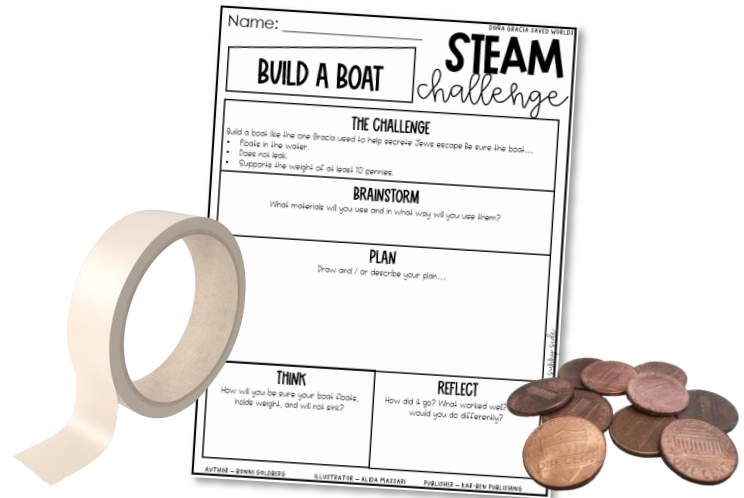


Standards:

- 3-5-ETS1-1.
- 3-5-ETS1-2.
- 3-5-ETS1-3.

You will need:

- White copy paper
- White cardstock
- Scissors
- Pencils
- For each student / group: Water, tub, 5 pennies, and building materials (i.e., playdough, tape, straws, foil, construction paper, popsicle sticks, etc.)



Step by step to do list:

1. Decide student groups prior to this activity (groups of no more than 4 students generally work best).
2. Copy the BUILD A BOAT activity page on white copy paper.
3. Then, gather the rest of the supplies for each group (listed above).
4. Explain that the goal today is to design and build a boat like the one that Gracia used to help secret Jews escape.
5. Explain that student boats must: float in the water, hold the weight of at least 5 pennies, and cannot sink.
6. Distribute the STEAM page to students and allow them to work through the questions in their small group or individually.
7. Give each group or student the materials they need and allow time to create.
8. Reflect on the STEAM experiment and allow students an opportunity to share with other groups.
9. For younger students (1st grade and younger) you may want to complete this activity as a whole group together.

RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the subway side

Name: _____

BUILD A BOAT**STEAM**
*challenge***THE CHALLENGE**

Build a boat like the one Gracia used to help secrete Jews escape Be sure the boat...

- Floats in the water.
- Does not leak.
- Supports the weight of at least 5 pennies.

BRAINSTORM

What materials will you use and in what way will you use them?

PLAN

Draw and / or describe your plan...

THINK

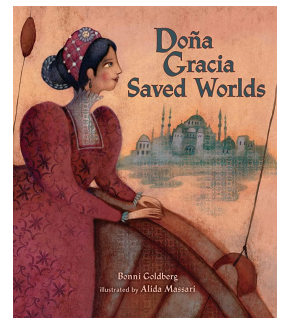
How will you be sure your boat floats, holds weight, and will not sink?

REFLECT

How did it go? What worked well? What would you do differently?

SOCIAL STUDIES ACTIVITY

MAPPING GRACIA'S ROUTE



Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.7
 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.7
 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.7
 CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7

You will need:

- White copy paper
- Pencils
- Crayons / colored pencils / markers



Step by step to do list:

1. Copy the MAPPING GRACIA'S ROUTE pages on white copy paper.
2. Distribute maps to students.
3. Encourage students to read and follow the outlined map directions.
4. They will mark, color, and label Gracia's journey from start to finish.
5. Students can share and compare their thinking in partnerships or in small groups.
6. For further enrichment and more of a personal connection to Gracia, students can make a list of the places they have already lived or a list of the places they would like to live in the future.

RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the subway side

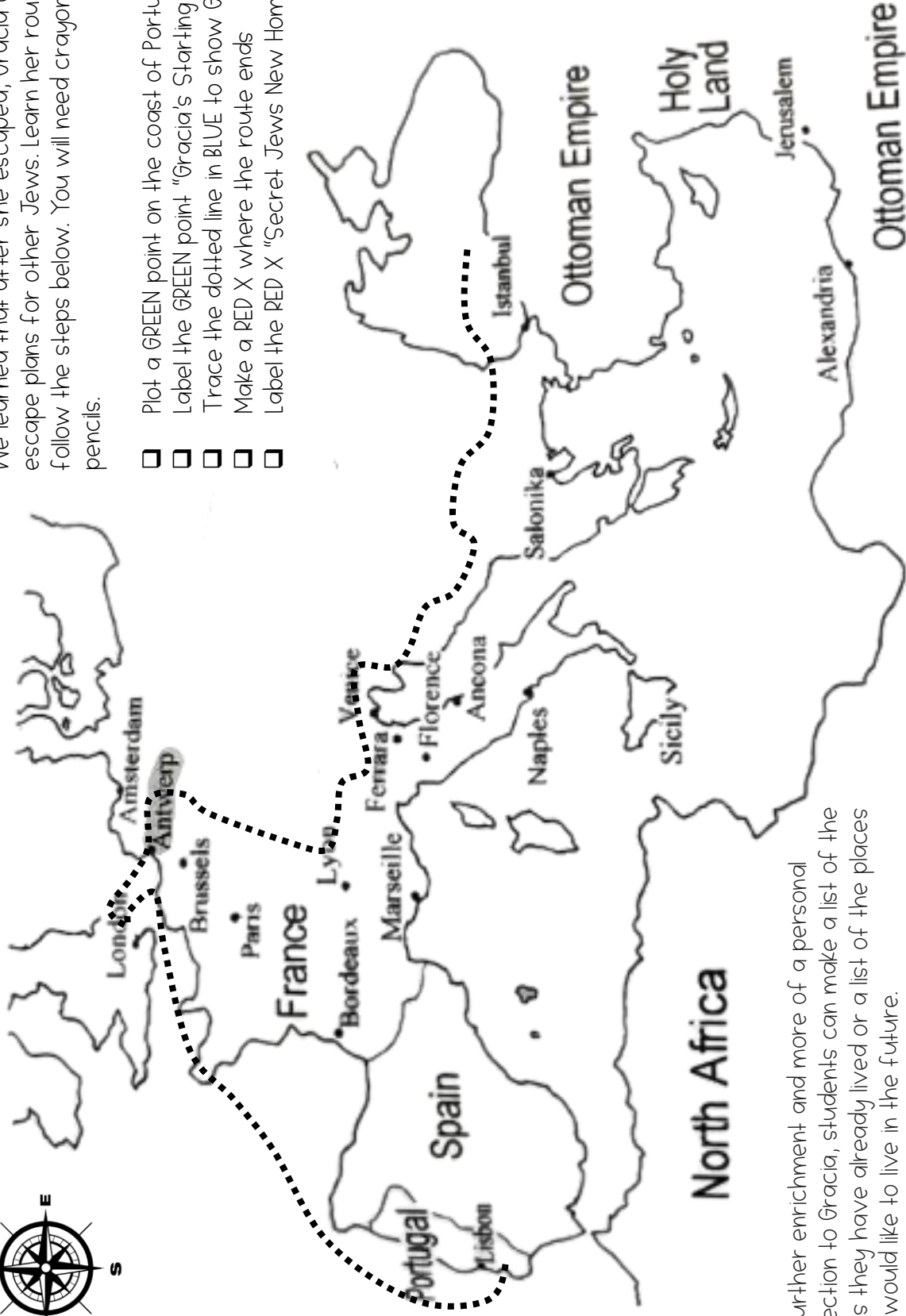
Name: _____

MAPPING GRACIA'S ROUTE



We learned that after she escaped, Gracia organized escape plans for other Jews. Learn her route below and follow the steps below. You will need crayons or colored pencils.

- ☐ Plot a GREEN point on the coast of Portugal
- ☐ Label the GREEN point "Gracia's Starting Place"
- ☐ Trace the dotted line in BLUE to show Gracia's Route
- ☐ Make a RED X where the route ends
- ☐ Label the RED X "Secret Jews New Home"



For further enrichment and more of a personal connection to Gracia, students can make a list of the places they have already lived or a list of the places they would like to live in the future.

SOURCES

<https://mylibraryscope.vic.edu.au/donagracia>

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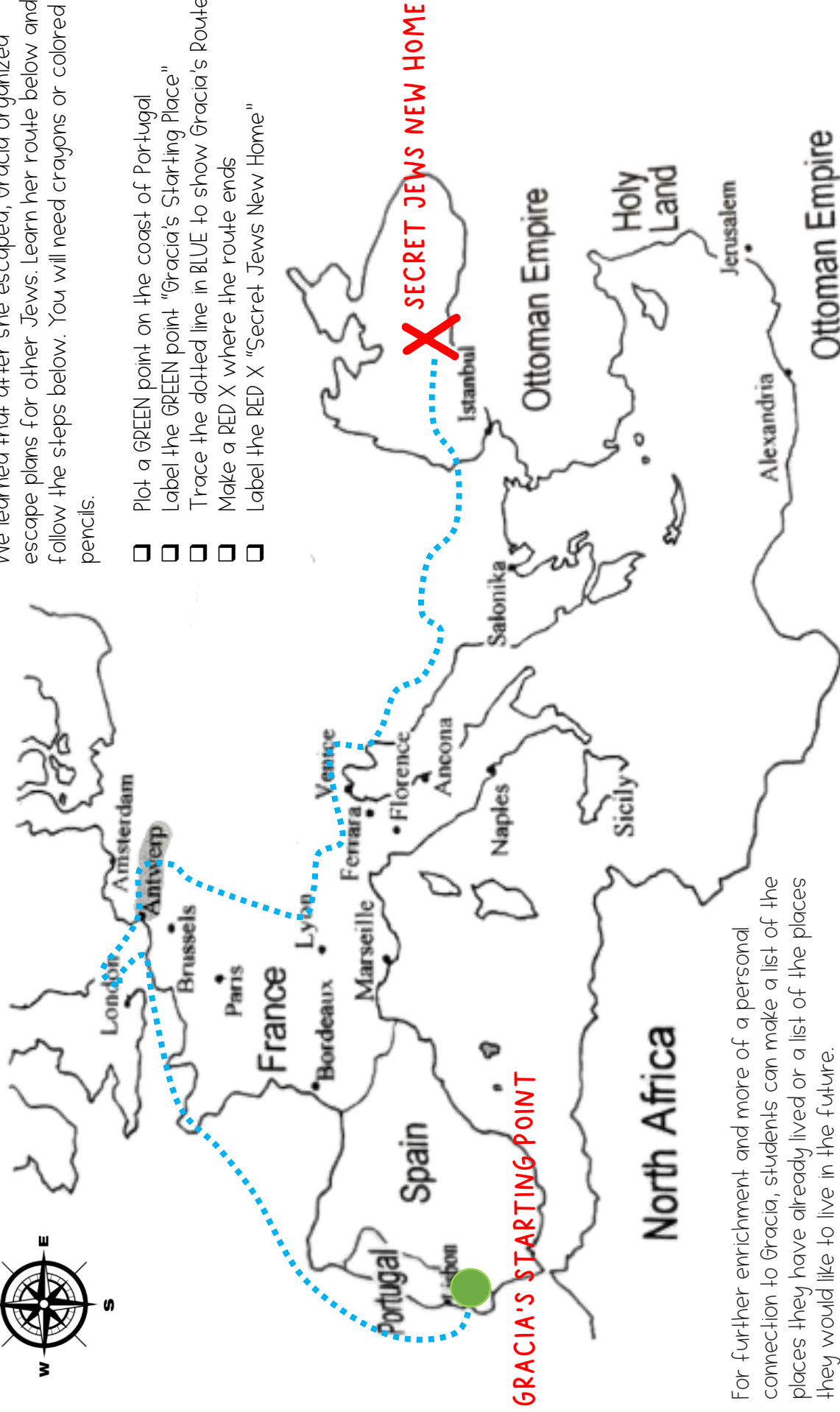
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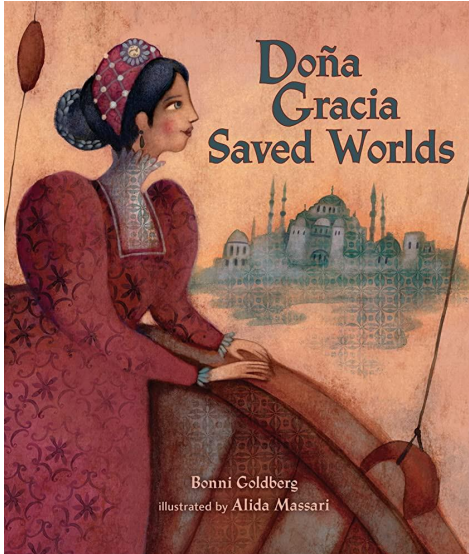
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CREDITS PAGE

The author — Bonni Goldberg

Bonni Goldberg, award-winning author and Jewish educator, lives in Portland, Oregon. She first learned about Doña Gracia in a mother-daughter bat mitzvah class. Bonni believes children would like to know about Gracia too.



CONNECT WITH BONNI



The illustrator — Alida Massari

Alida Massari is an Italian artist specializing in illustration for children. Born in Rome where she studied illustration at the European Institute of Design, she finds inspiration for her work from folk traditions and ancient art. She has illustrated many books, collaborating with Italian, English, German, and American publishers. She lives in Rome, Italy.

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INFORMATION.

