

# Biography of Anne Frank



*The house in Amsterdam where Anne Frank and her family hid.*

Anne Frank was born in Frankfurt, Germany in 1929. Her father, Otto, was a businessman in Germany and her mother, Edith, was a housewife. Anne had an older sister, Margot.

Anne and her family were Jewish. When Anne was young, Adolph Hitler became the leader of Germany. He issued many laws limiting the rights of Jews in Germany. Anne's father was afraid for his family's safety and moved them to Amsterdam in 1933. In 1940, Hitler and his Nazi party took over the Netherlands, and the laws that the Frank family had fled from seven years earlier were now in place in their new home. Jewish people were not allowed to ride buses or own businesses, and Jewish children had to attend separate schools. Soon after, the Nazis began sending Jewish families to concentration camps.

When Anne's sister received notice that she would be sent to a camp, the Frank family decided to hide. In July 1942 they moved into a small space above the warehouse where Otto had worked. They were joined later by another family, making conditions even more cramped. Anne called the space the "Secret Annex". During the day, they had to keep the lights off and stay silent so that they would not be found. They were not allowed to speak, listen to the radio or even flush the toilet until evening, when the employees in the warehouse below had left for the day. Anne passed the time by writing in a diary.

In 1944, everyone living in the Annex was found and arrested. Anne and her family were sent to Westerbork camp in the Netherlands, and shortly after to Auschwitz. Anne died there along with her mother and sister just weeks before the liberation of the camps. Her father was the only member of the family who survived.

When Mr. Frank returned to Amsterdam, his friends gave him Anne's diary. Mr. Frank published her diary in 1947 under the title The Diary of a Young Girl. It remains an important work of nonfiction, giving a poignant and moving window into the horrors of World War II.



*A stamp issued in honor of Anne Frank*

## Q&A

**Answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.**

Why do you think Mr. Frank chose to publish Anne's diary after the war?

The residents in the Annex had to spend almost eight hours a day in darkness and complete silence for over two years. Most of the residents passed the time by studying, reading or taking naps. What would you have done to keep yourself occupied during those hours? How would you have entertained yourself and your family in the evening if you weren't allowed to go outside to get supplies?