

Knowledge organiser: How and why did the Holocaust happen?



<p>Jews have been an important part of European society for over 1,000 years but have often faced discrimination, culminating in the Holocaust. The Holocaust (1933–1945) was the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million European Jews by the Nazi German regime and its allies and collaborators. There are many interpretations from historians about why the Holocaust happened which you will consider.</p>		Chronology: what happened on these dates?		Vocabulary: define these words.	
		<p>30th Jan. 1933</p> <p>Hitler becomes the Chancellor of Germany.</p>		<p>Anti-Semitism</p> <p>Hostility to or prejudice against Jews.</p>	
Summarise your learning		<p>1st April 1933</p> <p>Nazis order a boycott of Jewish shops, which is called off after one day.</p>	<p>Persecution</p> <p>The act of treating somebody in a cruel and unfair way, especially because of their race, religion or political beliefs</p>		
<p>Topic 1: What was life like for Jews before the Holocaust?</p>	<p>Before the Holocaust, Jewish people lived in countries all across Europe and were employed in all types of jobs. Prejudice against Jews had existed in Europe for 2000 years. Antisemitism led to Jews being treated with suspicion and hostility throughout this era, leading to frequent outpourings of violence.</p>	<p>15th Sept. 1935</p> <p>Introduction of Nuremberg Laws which stripped Jews of their German citizenship.</p>	<p>Social Darwinism</p> <p>Attempts to apply Darwin's ideas of evolution to race, believing that some races were superior to others.</p>		
<p>Topic 2: What did the Nazis want to achieve?</p>	<p>The Nazi Party rose in power in Germany over the 1920s. Hitler was elected Chancellor in January 1933 and then gradually took control of Germany, becoming a dictator. The Nazis believed in Social Darwinism and wanted a pure Aryan race. They therefore persecuted, terrorised and even murdered minority groups who were regarded as not part of their 'People's Community' (Volksgemeinschaft).</p>	<p>8–9th Nov. 1938</p> <p>'Kristallnacht': anti-Jewish pogrom in which widespread violence takes place against Jews in Germany.</p>	<p>Aryan</p> <p>The Nazis believed Germans belonged to an Aryan 'master race'.</p>		
<p>Topic 3: How were the Jews persecuted from 1933-45?</p>	<p>During the 1930s, the Nazis used propaganda, violence and anti-Jewish laws to make life extremely difficult for Jews in Germany. The persecution got increasingly worse for Jews. When the Second World War broke out, the persecution escalated as the Nazis took over Europe. In Poland, Jews were moved into Ghettos where many died from overcrowding and poor living conditions. The largest was the Warsaw Ghetto. In the USSR, 2.2 million Jews were murdered by bullets by the <i>Einsatzgruppen</i>. Eventually a 'Final Solution' to the Jewish problem was decided and Jews were killed by poison gas in Death Camps.</p>	<p>Oct. 1939</p> <p>Having conquered Poland, where 3 million Jewish people lived, the Nazis began moving Polish Jews into ghettos. Conditions were often terrible, with little food and fuel available and cramped living conditions.</p>	<p>Bystander</p> <p>A person who is present at an event or incident but does not take part.</p>		
		<p>June 1941</p> <p>Germany invaded the Soviet Union (USSR). Special units called the <i>Einsatzgruppen</i> were ordered to murder all Jews in the USSR. By 1944 they had murdered 2.2 million in the 'Holocaust by bullets.'</p>	<p>Perpetrator</p> <p>A person who carries out a harmful, illegal, or immoral act</p>		
<p>Topic 4: How did people respond and who was responsible?</p>	<p>Jews within Nazi Germany and in the Ghettos bravely tried to resist the Holocaust. Others fought for Allied armies to defeat the Nazis. Some even tried small underground resistance in the concentration camps. Many ordinary citizens in Germany and Europe were bystanders or perpetrators in the persecution of the Jews or even collaborators. The British and American governments knew about the mass murder of the Jews but did nothing as they believed the best way to help the Jews was to defeat Nazi Germany and win the war.</p>	<p>1941-1945</p> <p>Death Camps were set up by Nazi Officials as the 'Final Solution' to the Jewish problem. They used poison gas for mass murder.</p>	<p>Collaborator</p> <p>People, organisations and governments that's helped the Nazis persecute and/or murder Jews.</p>		
			<p>Ghetto</p> <p>An area of a city where Jews were separated by force from other people. They were overcrowded and had poor living conditions.</p>	<p>Death camps</p> <p>Camps set up by the Nazis in Central Europe where people were systematically murdered.</p>	
<p>Topic 5: What was the aftermath and legacy?</p>	<p>Jewish communities across Europe were devastated by the Holocaust and most were lost forever. Many survivors emigrated to other countries but were not always welcomed. Antisemitism and persecution did not end with the Holocaust. There have been many genocides since and many people still suffer from persecution today.</p>		<p>Genocide</p> <p>The murder of a large group of people, especially those of a particular nation or race</p>		

