

The Holocaust

The Holocaust was the systematic killing of over six million people – mainly those of Jewish ancestry – during the Second World War in concentration and death camps throughout Europe. This was engineered by the Nazi party as their way of eliminating the Jewish people from the earth. It was their belief that Aryans (those people who were descended from Germanic tribes and who had blonde hair and blue eyes) were the superior race to all others in the world. Their goal was to create a race of super-Aryans who would come to dominate the world. In order to achieve this goal, the Nazis needed to kill off all of those people who they considered “undesirable” – especially the Jewish people of Europe.

Prior to the war, the Jewish population of Germany faced discrimination from the ruling Nazi party. They were forced from their businesses and homes, had their possessions taken away, physically and psychologically abused, and had their citizenship stripped away. This, however, was only the first step, and as the war progressed, so too did the harassment and level of punishment.

In the countries that Germany conquered, Jews were herded into designated city areas called ghettos. In 1941, the Nazi leadership decided on a “final solution” for the captured Jewish people and other “undesirables”, such as Romas (gypsies) and homosexuals.

This “solution” was to exterminate the Jewish people in death camps such as Dachau, Auschwitz, and Treblinka. The planned killing of an entire race of people is called genocide.

The mass murder of 6 million Jewish people by the Nazis is known as the Holocaust. Most of the Jewish people were moved to the death camps by freight trains. In the camps, some inmates were selected to be used as slave labour. Others were stripped of all their belongings and then placed in “showers”, where they were murdered by poisonous gas. Later, their bodies were burned in large ovens.

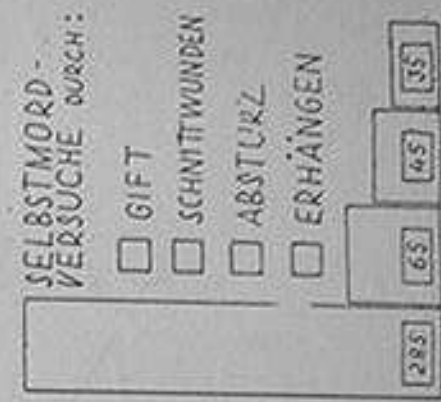
The biggest death camp was Auschwitz, located in what is now Poland. It remains today as a reminder of the Holocaust and a reminder of the evil that human beings are capable of doing to others.

Another concentration camp was located at Terezin, about 100 kilometres north of Prague, Czechoslovakia. The Nazis renamed it Theresienstadt and sent 140,000 Jewish prisoners there, from 1941 to 1945.

On the back is a page from a Nazi report book that detailed the number of deaths at Theresienstadt from 1941 until 1943.

SELBSTMORDE u. SELBSTMORDVERSUCHE IN THERESIENSTADT vom 24. XI. 1941 bis 31. XII. 1943.

	1941												1942												1943												Σ	
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII		
SELBSTMORDVERSUCHE	2	3	3	3	1	0	25	45	82	60	54	20	43	24	15	56	5	7	9	9	15	6	5	10	43	24	15	56	5	7	9	9	15	6	5	10	430	
MÄNNER	2	-	2	1	1	1	6	19	27	16	4	8	14	9	6	3	4	2	4	3	1	1	2	3	14	9	6	3	4	2	4	3	1	1	2	3	139	
FRAUEN	-	2	3	1	2	-	5	19	26	55	44	10	12	29	15	9	13	1	5	5	6	5	3	7	29	15	9	13	1	5	5	6	5	3	7	291		
TÖDLICH VERLIEFEN:	-	1	2	3	3	1	5	21	34	35	9	12	27	12	0	15	4	2	3	2	2	1	-	4	27	12	0	15	4	2	3	2	2	1	-	4	252	
MÄNNER	-	-	2	1	1	1	5	10	20	8	3	6	9	6	5	3	3	-	3	1	-	-	-	1	9	6	5	3	3	-	3	1	-	-	-	1	88	
FRAUEN	-	1	2	1	2	-	4	16	15	34	27	6	6	18	6	4	12	1	2	-	1	2	1	-	3	18	6	4	12	1	2	-	1	2	1	-	3	164
PROTEKTORAT	2	3	3	3	1	3	4	6	9	31	2	2	18	30	19	11	13	3	2	4	1	4	2	3	30	19	11	13	3	2	4	1	4	2	3	3	301	
REICH	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	21	39	73	29	12	18	29	15	9	10	1	4	6	7	5	4	5	29	15	9	10	1	4	6	7	5	4	5	285		
GIFT	-	2	2	2	1	-	4	23	31	52	47	9	12	8	5	4	3	3	-	3	2	-	1	-	1	8	5	4	3	3	-	3	2	-	1	-	1	63
SCHNITTWUNDEN	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	14	8	4	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	4	45	
ABSTURZ	1	-	1	1	2	1	2	-	4	11	5	-	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	4	45	
ERHÄNGEN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	5	6	1	5	3	3	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	35	



Translation of terms on chart:

Selbstmorde	suicides
Selbstmordversuche	attempted suicides
Gift	poison
Schnittwunden	knife wounds
Absturz	jumping/leaping e.g. off building
Erhängen	self hanging
Tödlich	resulted in death
Männer	men
Frauen	women
nach Herkunft	by origin
Protektorat	countries conquered by Germany
Reich	territory, specifically on a German document referring to the German Reich

The months on the chart are recorded in Roman Numerals. They are:

- I = 1,
- II = 2
- IV = 4,
- V = 5,
- VI = 6
- IX = 9,
- X = 10,
- XI = 11



Assignment/Activity

Part A) Read the following poem, and complete the following letter writing assignment:

AND I SAID NOTHING

In Germany
They first came for the communists
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a communist.
Then they came for the Jews,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.
Then they came for the trade-unionists,
and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Catholics,
and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant.
Then they came for me—
and by that time
no one was left to speak up.

-- *Pastor Martin Niemoller, 1945*

***TASK:** The year is 1945. You are 15 years old and a German citizen. You have been witness to one of the greatest atrocities in human history.*

Write a one page reflection on the Holocaust using the above quote as a guide as well as the guiding questions listed below.

Guiding Questions:

- Could the Holocaust have been stopped?
- How do the "Stages of Isolation" show the gradual persecution leading to the annihilation of the Jews?
- What did you do in reaction to the stages of isolation as you lived in Germany during the Third Reich?
- How does the passage "And I Said Nothing" portray the actions of the people in Germany during Third Reich? What is the danger in saying or doing "nothing"?
- What lessons must be learned from the Holocaust?
- How do we, as responsible and aware human beings, ensure that an event such as the Holocaust or any type of racial genocide never occurs again?

Instructions:

1. The letter should be typed, double spaced, using 12 point font.
2. Be creative, try to put yourself in the time period described.
3. Think critically

Part B) Go to class website (www.jasonhatch.wikispaces.com) and find the Holocaust Choices Activity. Open up the PowerPoint file, and go through the activity following the directions on screen. Be sure to play the presentation (if you press F5 on your keyboard, it will automatically set everything up).

As you go through this activity, complete the Holocaust Activity Tracker sheet in full. It has been included in this package, but it can also be found on the class website if it is lost or more pages are needed.

You will be required to hand in your Holocaust Activity Tracker sheet(s) along with your letter response to part A of this assignment.

You will be given the rest of the class to complete this, but some time may be required at home.

Please be sure to also include the rubric attached on the back of this page with your written activity and Tracker sheet.

DUE DATE: _____

Name: _____

Categories	Level 1 (50 - 59%)	Level 2 (60 - 69%)	Level 3 (70 - 79%)	Level 4 (80 - 100%)
Knowledge and Understanding /10	- demonstrates limited knowledge of impact of Holocaust and importance of individual choices	- demonstrates some knowledge of Holocaust and importance of individual choices	- demonstrates considerable knowledge of Holocaust and importance of individual choices	- demonstrates thorough knowledge of Holocaust and importance of individual choices
Thinking Critically /10	- in asking and answering questions, uses critical thinking processes with limited effectiveness	- in asking and answering questions, uses critical thinking processes with some effectiveness	- in asking and answering questions, uses critical thinking processes with considerable effectiveness	- in asking and answering questions, uses critical thinking processes with a high degree of effectiveness
Communication /10	- in asking and answering questions, expresses information with limited effectiveness	- in asking and answering questions, expresses information with some effectiveness	- in asking and answering questions, expresses information with considerable effectiveness	-in asking and answering questions, expresses information with a high degree of effectiveness
Application of knowledge and skills in various contexts /10	- makes connections between the presented materials with limited effectiveness	- makes connections between the presented materials with some effectiveness	- makes connections between the presented materials with considerable effectiveness	- makes connections between the presented materials with a high degree of effectiveness

____/40

COMMENTS