

The Holocaust

Headings	Notes
WHAT IS GENOCIDE?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genocide is “the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group”. Some of these attempts have been highly organised and backed by a government while others seemed spontaneous – but all began with a process of dehumanisation or treating people as though they were somehow less human.
EXAMPLES OF GENOCIDE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The best-known genocide in history is the Holocaust. Other genocides include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.8 million Indigenous Americans during European expansion in North America. 1.5 million Christian Armenians in Turkey between 1915 and 1923. 3.9 million Ukrainians were killed by a man-made famine under Soviet rule in 1932-1933. 200,000 Chinese civilians were massacred by the Imperial Japanese Army in 1937 in Nanjing. 2 million Cambodian people by Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge between 1975 and 1979. 800,000 Tutsi people were slaughtered in Rwanda by ethnic Hutu extremists in 1994. 100,000 Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) and Croatian civilians were massacred by Bosnian-Serbs during the Bosnian War, 1992-1995. 400,000 ethnic Darfuri people were killed by the Sudanese Government-organised militia which started in 2003 and is still ongoing.
THE HOLOCAUST ANTI-SEMITISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-Semitism is a hatred of or prejudice towards Jewish people. The first clear examples of anti-Jewish sentiment can be traced back to the 3rd Century BCE to Alexandria, Egypt and Ancient Greece. It would become the norm throughout Europe during the First Crusades (1096-1099) but it reached a critical point in Nazi Germany. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nazis claimed that Germans and other Nordic peoples belonged to a superior race called Aryans and that the Jewish people were naturally inferior. In his manifesto, Mein Kampf (1925), Hitler declared the Jews a threat to Germany. In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws were made ‘<i>for the protection of German blood and honour</i>’. Under these laws, Jews were stripped of their rights for the following:

Keywords	Summary
Genocide	Rwanda
Spontaneous	Bosnian War
Dehumanisation	Darfur
Indigenous Americans	
Armenians	Anti-Semitism
Ukrainians	First Crusades
Nanjing	Aryans
Holodomor	Mein Kampf
Khmer Rouge	Nuremberg

The Holocaust

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ANTI-SEMITISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be German citizens • hold many types of jobs (such as teachers, civil servants, soldiers or doctors) • Jews had to wear the Star of David on their clothing. • In November 1938, Kristallnacht (<i>the Night of the Broken Glass</i>) was an organised attack by Nazis on Jewish synagogues, homes and businesses throughout Germany and Austria. At least 100 Jews were killed while another 30,000 were arrested and sent to concentration camps.
JEWISH GHETTOS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vote • own property • marry non-Jewish people • have extramarital relations with non-Jewish people • During World War II, the Nazis established more than 400 ghettos. A ghetto is a part of a city where a minority group lives due to social, legal or economic pressure. Jewish people were forced to relocate to the ghetto while their homes and belongings were taken. • The first ghetto was set up in Łódź, Poland on the 8th February 1940. • The ghettos had high walls and their gates were guarded. Mortality rates were high as disease spread in the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. • These ghettos made it easier to control the Jewish population – and later, to put them on trains to the concentration camps.
THE EINSATZGRUPPEN AND THE FINAL SOLUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1941, the German army was followed east by Einsatzgruppen, special mobile killing squads. Mass executions of 'anti-German elements' took place in forest or other isolated areas. About 1.3 million Jews were killed in this way. • In 1942, the Nazis formulated their official plan to exterminate the Jewish population of Europe, (approximately 11 million Jews lived in wider Europe at this time) called "The Final Solution" with Heinrich Himmler in charge. • The Nazis began to empty the ghettos and deport the Jews to concentration camps. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One such ghetto was the Warsaw ghetto where over 450,000 Jews lived. By the summer of • 1943, it is estimated that 395,000 had either died or had been transported to the camps.

Keywords	Summary
Nuremberg Laws	
Star of David	
Kristallnacht	Concentration Camps
Ghetto	
Łódź, Poland	
Disease	
Einsatzgruppen	
The Final Solution	
Heinrich Himmler	

The Holocaust

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<p>CONCENTRATION CAMPS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concentration camps had been in use since 1933 as labour camps with the first in Dachau. • 22 labour camps were set up in Germany, Poland, Austria, Latvia, the Soviet Union, France, Czechoslovakia and the Netherlands. • From 1942, 6 special extermination camps were built – all of which were outside Germany. These extermination camps were Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibor and Treblinka. <div data-bbox="537 527 1076 953" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1177 527 1581 953" data-label="Complex-Block"> <p>Key</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ - Extermination camps ■ - Labour camps </div>
<p>LIFE AND DEATH IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jews were deported to the camps on trains and told that they would be put to work. Several camps had signs reading 'Arbeit macht frei' ('<i>work makes one free</i>'). • Women, men and children were separated while their belongings were taken. Anyone unwell or unable to work was killed on arrival. Each prisoner's head was shaved while some camps would have a number was tattooed on their arm. • Prisoners lived in crowded barracks and worked until they died of disease, starved or were murdered. Some prisoners, particularly twins, were used for medical experiments without their consent. • Most prisoners were killed in large fake shower units which were actually gas chambers. Zyklon B (a cyanide poison) or carbon monoxide gases were used. • Towards the end of the war, deportations and murders accelerated as Hitler wanted to kill as many Jews as possible while he could.
<p>Keywords</p> <p>Dachau</p> <p>22 labour camps</p> <p>6 extermination camps</p> <p>Auschwitz</p> <p>Belzec</p> <p>Arbeit Macht Frei</p> <p>Gas chambers</p> <p>Zyklon B</p>	<p>Summary</p>

The Holocaust

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LIFE AND DEATH IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As Allied forces closed in, the SS forced prisoners from the camps on death marches. Many died due to starvation, harsh weather or were executed.
THE LIBERATION OF THE CAMPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soviet soldiers were the first Allies to encounter the concentration camps. They entered the Madjanek camp in eastern Poland on the 23rd July 1944. Crematorium ovens, mass graves or unburied piles of corpses were found in many camps. On the 27th January 1945, the Soviets entered Auschwitz to find thousands of sick and dying prisoners. Despite attempts, half of the prisoners discovered alive in Auschwitz died within a few days. British, Canadian, American and French troops also liberated concentration camps. By May 1945, all camps had been liberated.
THE AFTERMATH AND LEGACY OF THE HOLOCAUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust, over 1 million in Auschwitz alone. Millions of others were also killed including; 2.5 million Soviet prisoners of war, 2 million Poles, 500,000 Roma people, LGBT+ people, communists, and other groups. Many Jewish survivors of the camps left mainland Europe for good after the war, mostly for the US, Canada and South Africa. In 1948, the new Jewish state of Israel was founded in Palestine, its population today reaching 6.5 million. For many, their sense of a shared Jewish identity became stronger after this collective trauma. The 27th January is the International Holocaust Remembrance Day to commemorate the 6 million Jews and the other 11 million victims of the Nazi regime and its collaborators.
FAMOUS JEWS FROM THE HOLOCAUST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anne Frank – died in 1945 Viktor Frankl – died in 1997 Elie Wiesel – died in 2016 Tomi Reichental – moved in Ireland in 1959

Keywords	Summary
The SS	Anne Frank
Death Marches	Viktor Frankl
Soviet soldiers	Elie Wiesel
Madjanek	Tomi Reichental
Auschwitz	
6 million Jews	
Survivors	
Israel	
Holocaust Remembrance Day	

The Holocaust

Keywords	Definition
Anti-Semitism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hatred of or prejudice against Jewish people.
Aryan Race	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White non-Jewish people, especially those with a northern European appearance (tall, blonde hair, blue eyes) whom the Nazis considered to be the superior or master racial group.
Concentration Camps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Twenty-Two Camps set up by the Nazis to imprison political prisoners and members of persecuted minorities in poor conditions and were often forced to provide labour.
Death Marches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prisoners were forced to march out of Nazi concentration camps and away from the advancing Allied soldiers. Many died along the way.
Dehumanisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treating people as though they were somehow less than others.
Discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unjust treatment of different people, usually based on race, religion, sexual orientation or gender.
Einsatzgruppen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mobile killing squads that murdered thousands of Jews, mostly by shooting.
Extermination Camps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Six camps organised by the Nazis in Poland to imprison political prisoners and members of persecuted minorities in poor conditions where they awaited mass execution.
Gas Chamber	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A room built for the purpose of filling it with a poisonous gas that will kill any people inside.
Genocide	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The deliberate destruction of a particular national, ethnic, religious or racial group.
Ghetto	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Segregated and crowded area of a city where Jewish people were forced to live.
Holocaust	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The systematic genocide of European Jews by Nazi Germany
Holocaust denial	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An attempt to reject historical facts of the genocide of the Jews; often an expression of anti-Semitism.
Nuremberg Laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anti-Semitic laws passed in 1935 that stripped Jews of their citizenship rights.
Nuremberg Trials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The trials of Nazi officials and collaborators that took place at Nuremberg after World War II.
Pogrom	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An organised massacre and persecution of an ethnic or religious group.
Racism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Belief that race decides a person's character and that some races are superior to others; prejudice against someone of a different race based on their skin
The Final Solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The plan to exterminate the Jews of Europe using gas chambers in death camps.