

# HOLOCAUST VOCABULARY

A PROGRAM OF THE MILWAUKEE JEWISH FEDERATION



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

| WORD                    | DEFINITION  |
|-------------------------|---|
| Antisemitism            | Prejudice towards, or discrimination against, Jews  |
| "Arbeit Macht Frei"     | "Work makes you free" is on the gates at Auschwitz and was intended to deceive prisoners about the camp's purpose.  |
| Aryan                   | Term used in Nazi Germany to refer to non-Jewish and non-Roma Caucasians. Northern Europeans with especially "Nordic" features such as blonde hair and blue eyes were considered by so-called race scientists to be the most superior Aryans, members of a "master race." |
| Concentration Camp      | Nazi system for imprisoning those considered "enemies of the state" - religious opponents, resisters, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Roma and Sinti, Poles, and Jews   |
| Death March             | Death marches were forced marches of concentration camp prisoners over long distances under guard and in extremely harsh conditions.  |
| Deportation             | The act of being forced to leave where one is living  |
| Displaced Persons' Camp | Camps set up after World War II as temporary living quarters for the thousands of homeless people created by the Holocaust  |
| Einsatzgruppen          | Often called "mobile killing units," are best known for their role in the murder of Jews in mass shooting operations during the Holocaust   |
| Facism                  | A political movement that exalts the collective nation, and often race, above the individual  |
| "Final Solution"        | This was the Nazi code for the murder of all European Jews.   |

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| Genocide                               | The deliberate, systematic annihilation of a racial, religious, cultural, or political group of people   |
| Gentile                                | Someone who is not of the Jewish faith, most often referring to a Christian  |
| Gestapo                                | The Nazi Secret State Police, Geheime Staatspolizei, who had absolute power and could arrest without a warrant   |
| Ghetto                                 | A confined area of a city in which members of a minority group are forced to live  |
| Kapo                                   | A concentration camp prisoner selected to oversee other prisoners on labor details   |
| Killing Centers                        | Unlike concentration camps, which served primarily as detention and labor centers, killing centers (also referred to as "extermination camps" or "death camps") were almost exclusively "death factories".   |
| Kindertransport (Children's Transport) | Was the informal name of a series of rescue efforts between 1938-1940. These rescue efforts brought thousands of refugee children, the vast majority of them Jewish, to Great Britain from Nazi Germany.   |
| Kristallnacht                          | German for "night of broken glass," for nation-wide pogroms (anti-Jewish riots) which occurred throughout Germany on November 9 and 10, 1938   |
| Nazi                                   | The abbreviation for Hitler's political party, the National Socialist German Workers' Party  |
| Nuremberg Laws                         | Two distinct laws passed in Nazi Germany in September 1935 are known collectively as the Nuremberg Laws: the Reich Citizenship Law and the Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor. They provided the legal framework for the systematic persecution of Jews in Germany. |
| Orthodox                               | A type of Judaism that emphasizes maintaining Jewish tradition and practice  |
| Partisan                               | A member of a resistance group operating secretly within enemy lines   |
| Pogrom                                 | Organized violence, riots, and lynchings aimed against Jews, often initiated and supported by religious and political authorities  |

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|-----------------|--|
| Propaganda      | False information used by a government or political party to sway the opinions of the population   |
| Red Army        | The army of the Soviet Union   |
| "Resettlement"  | A Nazi euphemism for deportation and murder  |
| SS              | Founded in 1925, the "Schutzstaffel," German for "Protective Echelon," initially served as Hitler's personal bodyguards, and later became one of the most powerful and feared organizations in Nazi Germany. |
| Star of David   | A six-pointed star, a symbol of the Jewish religion. Jews were required to wear a yellow star on their clothing for identification and to make them easy targets.  |
| Synagogue       | In Judaism, a house of worship and learning  |
| Third Reich     | "Reich" is German for "empire". The Third Reich is the official name of the Nazi regime.   |
| Weimar Republic | Name of the parliamentary democracy established in Germany from 1919-1933, following the collapse of Imperial Germany and preceding Nazi rule.   |
| Yiddish         | The language spoken by European Jews, particularly those living in Central and Eastern Europe before the Holocaust   |
| Yom HaShoah     | Holocaust Memorial Day established to commemorate the Holocaust and the six million Jews who perished. It is held on the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising - April 19, 1943.                         |

Definitions from:

- <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/glossary>
- <https://www.thebremen.org/Portals/0/VOCABULARY%20OF%20THE%20HOLOCAUST.pdf>
- [https://candleholocaustmuseum.org/file\\_download/inline/7dcd0d4b-8938-4f11-a101-461caa3104b6](https://candleholocaustmuseum.org/file_download/inline/7dcd0d4b-8938-4f11-a101-461caa3104b6)
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