

Name: _____

Class: _____

WORD	DEFINITION
Antisemitism	Hatred, unfair treatment, or discrimination against Jewish people just because they are Jewish. This can include harmful words, actions, or laws, and it has existed for a long time in many parts of the world.
"Arbeit Macht Frei"	"Arbeit Macht Frei" means "Work Makes You Free" in German. The Nazis put this phrase on the gates of Auschwitz and other concentration camps to fool prisoners. It made it seem like if they worked hard, they might earn their freedom, but that was a lie. The phrase was part of the Nazis' cruel plan to control and deceive people.
Aryan	This was a word the Nazis used to describe people they believed were part of a "perfect" or "master" race. They especially meant white people with features like blonde hair and blue eyes. The Nazis wrongly thought these people were better than everyone else, and they used that false belief to treat others (especially Jews, Roma, and others) unfairly and violently.
Concentration Camp	A place where the Nazis sent people they viewed as "enemies." This included Jews, Roma and Sinti, Poles, Jehovah's Witnesses, LGBTQIA+ people, and anyone who spoke out against them. These camps were not prisons for people who broke laws. They were meant to punish, control, and often destroy entire groups of people the Nazis hated.
Death March	Near the end of the Holocaust, the Nazis forced prisoners to walk long distances in terrible conditions. These marches were meant to move people from one camp to another, but many didn't survive because of the freezing weather, lack of food, and brutal treatment along the way.
Deportation	When someone is forced to leave their home and taken somewhere else, usually by the government. During the Holocaust, Jews and other targeted groups were deported by the Nazis to ghettos, concentration camps, or killing centers, often by train and against their will.
Displaced Persons' Camp	After World War II, many people had no homes to return to because of the Holocaust. These special camps were set up to give survivors and other refugees a temporary place to live while they tried to find family, rebuild their lives, or move to a new country.
Einsatzgruppen	These were Nazi "mobile killing units" that followed the German army during World War II. Their job was to hunt down and murder Jews and other targeted groups, often by shooting large groups of people and burying them in mass graves.
Facism	A form of government where one leader or group has total power, and everyone is expected to obey without question. People aren't allowed to speak out, and anyone who disagrees can be punished. Under fascism, the government controls many parts of life, often through fear and violence.

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"Final Solution"	This was the Nazi code for the murder of all European Jews.
Genocide	The planned and organized killing of an entire group of people because of their race, religion, culture, or beliefs.
Gentile	A person who is not Jewish. The term is often used to refer to Christians or anyone who doesn't follow the Jewish faith.
Gestapo	The Gestapo was the Nazi secret police. Their full name in German was <i>Geheime Staatspolizei</i> . They had total power and could arrest anyone without warning or a reason. People were terrified of them because they spied, tortured, and sent many to concentration camps.
Ghetto	During the Holocaust, ghettos were small, crowded areas in a city where Jews were forced to live, separated from the rest of the population. The Nazis used ghettos to control, isolate, and weaken Jewish communities before sending many people to concentration and death camps.
Kapo	A prisoner in a concentration camp who was chosen by the Nazis to be in charge of other prisoners, usually during forced labor.
Killing Centers	Also called "death camps" or "extermination camps," these were places the Nazis built to murder large numbers of people, mostly Jews, as quickly as possible. Unlike concentration camps, which also used prisoners for forced labor, killing centers were designed mainly to kill, often using gas chambers.
Kindertransport (Children's Transport)	This was a rescue mission that took place from 1938 to 1940. It helped thousands of mostly Jewish children escape from Nazi-controlled areas and brought them safely to Great Britain. Many had to leave their families behind, not knowing if they'd ever see them again.
Kristallnacht	A German word meaning "night of broken glass." On November 9–10, 1938, mobs attacked Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues all across Germany. Windows were smashed, buildings were burned, and thousands of Jews were arrested or killed. It was a violent turning point that showed how dangerous life had become for Jews under Nazi rule.
Nazi	Short for the National Socialist German Workers' Party, this was Adolf Hitler's political party.
Nuremberg Laws	These were two major laws passed in Nazi Germany in 1935 that took away basic rights from Jewish people. The laws said Jews could no longer be German citizens and weren't allowed to marry or date non-Jewish Germans. These unfair rules were part of the Nazis' plan to separate, isolate, and hurt Jewish people.

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Orthodox	A branch of Judaism that focuses on keeping traditional Jewish beliefs, customs, and religious practices. Orthodox Jews often follow strict rules about things like prayer, food, and holidays to stay connected to their faith and heritage.
Partisan	A person who fought back against the Nazis, often in secret. Partisans were part of resistance groups that hid in forests or worked underground to sabotage the Nazis, rescue people, and fight for freedom, often while risking their lives.
Pogrom	A violent attack against Jewish people, often involving riots, looting, and even murder. These attacks were usually organized and sometimes encouraged or allowed by leaders in power, like the government or religious authorities. Pogroms happened in different places long before the Holocaust and were part of a long history of antisemitism.
Propaganda	Information that's often false or misleading, spread to make people believe a certain idea. During the Holocaust, the Nazis used propaganda like posters, films, and speeches to turn people against Jews and gain support for their hateful actions.
Red Army	The name for the army of the Soviet Union (now Russia and other countries).
"Resettlement"	A word the Nazis used to hide what they were really doing. They told Jews they were being "resettled" to new homes or jobs, but in reality, this often meant being deported to ghettos, concentration camps, or killing centers. It was a way to trick people and cover up the truth about the Holocaust.
SS	Short for <i>Schutzstaffel</i> , which means "Protective Squad" in German, the SS started as Hitler's personal bodyguards. But it grew into one of the most powerful and feared groups in Nazi Germany. The SS ran the concentration and death camps and was responsible for many of the worst crimes during the Holocaust.
Star of David	A six-pointed star that is a symbol of the Jewish faith. During the Holocaust, the Nazis forced Jews to wear a yellow Star of David on their clothing so they could be easily identified, separated from others, and targeted for discrimination and violence.
Synagogue	A place where Jewish people gather to pray, learn, and come together as a community. It's similar to a church or mosque, but for followers of the Jewish faith.
Third Reich	"Reich" means "empire" in German. The Third Reich was what the Nazis called their government when they were in power from 1933 to 1945 under Adolf Hitler.

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Weimar Republic	The democratic government that ruled Germany from 1919 to 1933, after the German Empire ended and before the Nazis took control. It was a time of big changes, struggles, and unrest, which helped create the conditions that allowed Hitler to rise to power.
Yiddish	A language that was spoken by many Jewish people in Central and Eastern Europe before the Holocaust. It's a mix of German, Hebrew, and some other languages, and was used in everyday life, stories, songs, and culture.
Yom HaShoah	Also called Holocaust Memorial Day, this is a day to remember the six million Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust. It takes place each year around the date of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, which began on April 19, 1943, when Jewish fighters stood up against the Nazis.

If you need additional definitions, please check out these sites:

- USHMM
 - <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/glossary>
- Museum of Jewish Heritage
 - <https://education.mjhnyc.org/glossary/>
- Holocaust Museum Houston
 - <https://hmh.org/education/resources/vocabulary-terms-related-holocaust/>
- ADL
 - <https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/holocaust-glossary.pdf>