

History Year 9 Spring Term 1 'Knowledge Organiser: The Holocaust.



Nazi beliefs about race:

The Nazis believed in a hierarchy of races. Hitler and the Nazi's believed that the Aryan Race was superior and destined to control. They believed that other ethnicities were inferior, in particular Jews. Nazis believed that inferior races were meant to either be ruled or destroyed by the "master race". Nazi persecution of Jews started when Hitler took power in January 1933. As the Second World War started, the Nazis became more aggressive with their policies, with forced deportations to ghettos. As they expanded eastwards, the Nazis started to encounter more Jews and started to murder thousands. After the Wannsee conference, the Final Solution began, which ended in 1945 after over 6 million Jews and other minorities were murdered.

Key terms

Anti-Semitism	The persecution of the Jewish people, dating to before the Middle Ages for religious reasons.
Final Solution	The industrial style plan initiated by the Nazis in early 1942 to end the Jewish presence in Europe.
Holocaust	The term used to describe the murder of over 6 million Jews during WW2 – 'death by fire'.

Key people.

Adolf Eichmann	SS officer who organised the transportation of Jew to the death camps.
Reinhard Heydrich	2 nd in command in the SS. Key figure in the Final Solution.
Rudolf Hoess	SS Commandant of Auschwitz Death Camp (1942 – 5)
Oskar Schindler	German industrialist and Nazi Party member who went on to save the lives of 1,200 Jews.

Timeline:

1933 - 1939	Within Germany the steady process of identifying and discriminating against Jews to isolate them within German society.
1939	Germany invade Poland, Britain declares war.
1940	First Ghettos are built in Polish cities – Krakow, Lodz, Warsaw.
1941	Operation Barbarossa – with the use of 4 Einsatzgruppen Forces.
1942	Wannsee Conference. Auschwitz-Birkenau is developed into the largest death camp.
1943	Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
1944	Treblinka was dismantled as the Soviet's advance.
1945	Liberation of camps begins with Auschwitz 27 th January.

Key Words.

Aryan Race	Stereotypical German with blonde hair and blue eyes, seen as racially superior.
Auschwitz	Largest death camp used by Nazis, based in Southern Poland. Over 1 million Jews and other minorities were murdered there.
Death camps	Built in Poland during WW2 to murder European Jews.
Einsatzgruppen	Mobile death squad of the SS that followed the German army rounding up and murdering Jews and communists.
Genocide	When one ethnic group are indiscriminately persecuted and killed.
Ghetto	Walled off part of a city where Jews were forced to live, separated from the rest of the city and in appalling living conditions.
Kapo's	Other prisoners (crimes of murder and theft) in the camps who were given special privileges by the SS guards, usually to oversee/persecute Jews.
Operation Barbarossa.	German invasion of the Soviet Union which began in June.
Persecute	To taunt, discriminate against or attack another group.
Selection	Jews were selected for work or death on arrival and periodically within the camp.
Sonderkommando	Units of Jewish prisoners forced to dispose of the bodies from the gas chambers and to use the crematoria
SS	Hitler's personal protectors and the administrators of the camps.
Wannsee Conference	Meeting of senior Nazi officials who agreed the terms of the Final Solution of the so called 'Jewish problem'.
Zyklon-B gas	Industrial pesticide used to suffocate the Jews at Auschwitz.



Map of Nazi Death Camps.

Concept: Cause and Effect.