

NAME: _____ Intro - Holocaust

The Holocaust refers to the horrific time period from 1933 to 1945 when throughout Europe over six million Jewish men, women, and children were systematically killed by the Nazi government of Germany. This period is one of the most tragic chapters in human history. The Nazi government perceived the Jewish people as an inferior race and a threat to humanity. As a result, the Nazi government, led by Adolph Hitler, organized the mass murder of Jewish people. Their ultimate goal was to kill all Jewish people.

Hitler became chancellor of Germany in 1933, representing the Nazi Party. He hated Jewish people. Soon after he became chancellor, the Nazi government made laws to limit the freedoms of Jewish people. The government also distributed anti-Semitic, or anti-Jewish, propaganda to the German people. Hitler wanted a country of all white citizens. He thought that white people were superior to other ethnicities. He believed the Jewish people were not only a religious group; he defined them as a race. Hitler claimed that the Jewish people were a disease to humanity.

The phrase, "The Jewish Question" referred to the question of the role of the Jewish people in society. The Nazi government looked to its own anti-Semitic policies as an answer. The Nazis developed a plan for the extermination of all Jewish people. They called it "The Final Solution to the Jewish Question."

During World War II, the Nazis rounded up Jewish people who were still in Germany and Nazi-controlled territories. Some had already left or were in hiding, but many had decided to stay or had nowhere to go. Allies of Nazi Germany, including Italy and the unoccupied part of France, also rounded up Jewish people. This was one of the ways they contributed to the Nazi agenda.

The Jewish people rounded up by the Nazis and their allies were sent to concentration camps. Most of the Jewish people were sent immediately to camps known as extermination camps, or death camps. The purpose of extermination camps was to kill all the people sent there. Some of the Jewish people were sent to labor camps. The people sent to the labor camps were treated inhumanely and forced to work hard hours. Many died because of the extremely harsh conditions or because of disease. Jewish people who were first sent to labor camps would often be sent to extermination camps as a final destination.

By the middle of 1942, news about "The Final Solution" reached the Allied governments, including the American and British governments, but they were slow to act in response. Critics say that the governments did too little to save the Jewish people. United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt thought that the best method to stop the killings was to defeat the Nazis as quickly as possible. He focused on creating military strategies that would defeat the Nazis as opposed to establishing plans for directly saving the Jewish people. The American government as well as the European governments that made up the Allied governments have been condemned for not doing enough to protect the Jewish people from the cruelty of the Nazi government.

NAME: _____ Intro - Holocaust

As more and more people found out about the full scope of the Holocaust, they were shocked and horrified. How could over six million people, in the modern world, be killed for no reason other than their ethnicity, or cultural background? It is important to remember the Holocaust and to study what happened. Only by understanding this bleak part of history can we hope to prevent such horror from happening again.

1. How many Jewish men, women, and children were killed during World War II?
 - A. about six hundred
 - B. over six million
 - C. over sixty million
 - D. less than six thousand
2. What does the text describe?
 - A. the cultural impact of the Jewish people throughout Europe
 - B. key events that led to World War II
 - C. Hitler's rise to political power
 - D. the Nazi government's efforts to exterminate the Jewish people
3. Hitler hated Jewish people. What evidence from the text best supports the conclusion?
 - A. Hitler believed that the Jewish people were not only a religious group but also a race.
 - B. Hitler claimed that the Jewish people were a disease to humanity.
 - C. Hitler became chancellor of Germany in 1933, representing the Nazi party.
 - D. People were horrified when they found out about the full scope of the Holocaust.
4. "The Jewish Question" referred to the question of the role of the Jewish people in society. What was the Nazi government's answer to this question?
 - A. increase the role of the Jewish people in society
 - B. eliminate the Jewish people from society so that they have no role
 - C. limit the role of the Jewish people in society
 - D. expand the role of the Jewish people in different areas of society
5. What is this text mostly about?
 - A. World War II

NAME: _____ Intro - Holocaust

- B. Hitler's political power
- C. the Holocaust
- D. the Nazi government

6. How did the Nazi government plan to exterminate the Jewish people? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

7. Why might people have been horrified when they found out about the full scope of the Holocaust? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

8. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

Hitler thought that white people were superior to other ethnicities. _____, he wanted a country of all white citizens.

- A. Therefore
- B. However
- C. On the other hand
- D. Initially

NAME: _____ WWII – Hiroshima and Nagasaki

World War II ended on May 17, 1945. On that day, Germany's Nazi forces finally surrendered to America and its allies. However, one of Germany's allies refused to stop fighting. Despite repeated demands that it surrender, Japan continued to battle America and its allies. Harry S. Truman, America's president at the time, struggled with what to do. Japan was our enemy. It had attacked an American naval base at Pearl Harbor, which made Americans very angry. Many Americans felt the Japanese had to be stopped. Truman decided to do something drastic. He made one of the biggest decisions in history. He ordered the use of a new American weapon known as an atomic bomb. The bomb was the deadliest weapon ever made. It had been tested but never used. Scientists believed it could destroy an entire town and cause illness among survivors for years to come.

On August 6, 1945, an American airplane dropped the first atomic bomb used in warfare on an important Japanese military town named Hiroshima. A second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan on August 9. Both Hiroshima and Nagasaki were devastated. The bombs killed from 110,000 to 140,000 people. They destroyed large areas of the two cities—about 2.5 square miles in Nagasaki and 5 square miles in Hiroshima. The bombs also released hazardous chemicals into the air, which remained in the atmosphere for some time. The air made people very sick. Thousands more died because of the exposure to these harmful, cancer-causing chemicals. The terrible destruction caused by the bombs led Japan to surrender on September 2, 1945. Japan's surrender meant the war was over. Today in Hiroshima, Peace Memorial Park sits where the bomb was dropped. Every year on August 6, people come to the park to remember those who were lost and to pray for peace.

1. The United States dropped an atomic bomb on Japan because it wanted
 - A. revenge.
 - B. Japan to keep on fighting.
 - C. Japan to surrender.
 - D. to test the bomb.

2. The author most likely chose the picture to show
 - A. a building that is in Nagasaki.
 - B. how the Japanese rebuilt Hiroshima after the bomb.
 - C. effects of the atomic bomb.
 - D. the Peace Memorial Park site.

3. The effects of the atomic bomb were
 - A. minimal.
 - B. both immediate and gradual.
 - C. immediate.
 - D. gradual.

NAME: _____ WWII – Hiroshima and Nagasaki

4. The purpose of Peace Memorial Park is to

- A. make Americans feel badly about what they did.
- B. show America that Japan has healed.
- C. give people a place for prayer and remembrance.
- D. encourage worldwide prayer on August 6.

5. The passage is mostly about

- A. A special bomb used against the Germans.
- B. Why an atomic bomb was used and its effects.
- C. How atomic bombs are made.
- D. Why tourists enjoy coming to Hiroshima.

6. What effect did the atomic bomb have on people's health years after it was dropped?

7. Did President Harry S. Truman make the right decision in using the atomic bomb against the Japanese? Explain your answer.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence. *Truman decided to use the atomic bomb _____ he knew it would kill innocent people.*

- A. because
- B. especially
- C. although
- D. indeed