

The Holocaust is undoubtedly the most tragic event in history. Between the years 1933 and 1945, the Nazi Party in Germany attempted to capture, violate, and exterminate every European Jew. In addition, they targeted a number of other groups they considered to be inferior or a weakness in the German population. The Nazis not only killed, but tortured and experimented on their captives. By the time Nazi Germany was defeated in 1945, they had killed approximately twelve million people in concentration camps, including six million European Jews. Why did the Nazi party attempt to eliminate an entire race of people? How did they gain the power to commit such heinous acts? What processes did they take on the way to attempted genocide? In this unit, we will attempt to answer these and other questions.

By the end of the unit, you should <i>know</i>...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the following terms: genocide, concentration camps, ghetto, Kristallnacht, Wannsee Conference, “Final Solution”, Aryan, Judenrat, Nuremberg Laws, anti-Semitism• The following locations: Nuremberg, Dachau, Buchenwald, Auschwitz, Treblinka, Majdanek, Sobibor, Belzic, Warsaw• the following people: Adolf Hitler, Heinrich Himmler, Joseph Goebbels, Josef Mengele, Reinhard Heydrich, Herman Goering
By the end of the unit, you should <i>understand</i>...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why the Nazis targeted Jews and other groups for extermination.• What steps the Nazi party took persecute the Jews.• How the Nazi party was able to impose anti-Semitic policy in Germany.• Why the Nazis kept their “final solution” confidential.• What conditions/treatment were faced by prisoners in concentration camps.• How the Holocaust was finally ended.• What the end results of the Holocaust were.• What punishment Nazi party members faced, and how many were tried.
By the end of the unit, you should <i>be able to</i>...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain the Nazi rationale for the Holocaust.• Organize major events of the Holocaust in chronological order.• Use primary documents to analyze the who, what, why, and how of the Holocaust.• Establish cause-effect relationships between events in World War II and methods of persecution by the Nazis.• Describe what a prisoner of a concentration camp might go through from their transport to the camp to their eventual extermination at the hands of the Nazis.• Compare the treatment of prisoners at German concentration/extermination camps to the treatment of Japanese prisoners in internment camps in the United States.• Share your views on how the Holocaust was allowed by both German people, and in some ways the Allied Powers.• Illustrate your understanding of important themes of the Holocaust through writing.