

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Holocaust

When the Nazi party took control of Germany, people who did not fit Adolf Hitler's view of the perfect Aryan German race faced extermination. Targets included Jews, Slavs, the Roma (Gypsy) people, homosexuals, the mentally handicapped, and others.

On November 9, 1938, the world got its first glimpse of the terror that lay head for Jews in Germany. German gangs attacked and burned synagogues and Jewish business throughout Germany. Jewish hospitals, homes, schools and cemeteries were also vandalized. The night became known as Kristallnacht, or the "night of the broken glass." Some 30,000 Jews were arrested and placed in prisons called concentration camps.

The Nazis used the concentration camps for many atrocities. Camp prisoners were used as slave laborers and were often worked to death. The Nazis conducted cruel medical experiments without using anesthesia.

In time, the Nazis adopted a policy of genocide, the deliberate and systematic extermination of a group of people based on their race, religion, or culture. The concentration

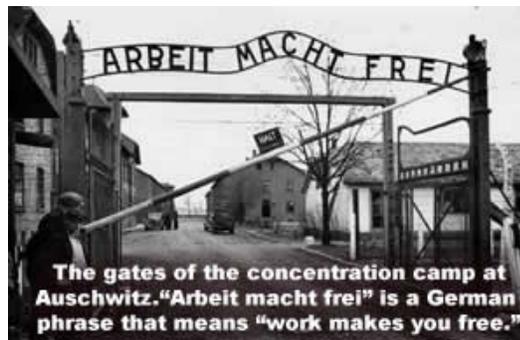


camps became death camps with gas chambers for mass killings. Many prisoners were forced to dig their own graves. Once the graves were dug, the prisoners were shot. Those who survived the shooting were buried alive. Other prisoners were starved to

death, or died from lack of medical care. One of the cruelest atrocities involved "showers." Naked men, women, and children were herded into a large room expecting to be showered with water. Instead, poison gas filled the room, causing a cruel, painful death. The bodies were then removed and cremated.

Altogether, as many as six million Jews and five million others perished in what became known as the Holocaust. After the war, the Allied Powers convicted the Nazi leaders for "crimes against humanity," for their atrocities. The few survivors of the Holocaust have implored the world to never

let the world forget the tragedy for the Jewish people, or for any people. More than half a century after the Holocaust, institutions, memorials, and museums continue to teach the history of the Holocaust to future generations.



Answer in complete sentences

1. What was *Kristallnacht*? Why was the event significant?

*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.

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Fill in the Blanks

Adolph Hitler argued that G_____ would r_____ to
g_____ if "o_____" were purged from the nation. His N_____ party began to e_____ people who did not fit H_____’s view of the perfect A_____ race. Jews, S_____, the R_____, homosexuals, and the h_____ were considered unfit by the N_____. The Nazis forced the people they considered to be unfit into c_____ camps where *pr_____ were often worked to death. The Nazis performed many cruel experiments on the concentration c_____ prisoners, often without a_____. As many as s_____ million J_____, and f_____ million others p_____ in what became known as the H_____.

Answer in complete sentences

2. What is the dictionary definition of atrocity? (See atrocious if the dictionary leads you there.)

3. What is genocide?

4. Approximately how many people perished in the Holocaust?

5. Why have the survivors of the Holocaust implored the people of the world to not forget the lessons of the Holocaust?

