Inside the Walls

How Nazi policies shaped life in the Warsaw ghetto

SS24.HOS.13a "Identify tactics utilized by the Nazis to control, isolate, and weaken Jewish people in the ghettos."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four actions Nazi authorities used to control, isolate, or weaken Jewish residents. Circle a result of each action, then give each action and its result the same number.

The Warsaw Ghetto

1. In November 1940, German authorities sealed the Warsaw ghetto in occupied Poland. They forced hundreds of thousands of Jewish people into a small area enclosed by walls and guarded entrances. Families had little choice about where they lived, and many shared crowded rooms with strangers. Leaving without permission could bring severe punishment. The walls did more than mark a boundary: they cut residents off from jobs, relatives, and supplies outside. By controlling the gates, Nazi authorities could decide who and what entered or left. This physical separation made ordinary life and escape far more difficult.

2. Inside the ghetto, German authorities limited food deliveries and set official rations far below what people needed to live. Residents often depended on smuggled food, but crossing the boundary to bring it in carried deadly risks. Hunger made people weaker and more vulnerable to disease. Crowding and poor sanitation helped illnesses spread, while medical supplies were scarce. German officials also ordered Jewish councils to carry out their demands, including distributing limited resources and organizing forced labor. Council members faced threats and had little real freedom. These policies burdened residents with daily survival and used coerced local administration to enforce Nazi control.

3. In July 1942, German authorities began mass deportations from the Warsaw ghetto to the Treblinka killing center. They claimed that some deportees were being sent to work elsewhere, hiding the actual destination. German forces ordered people to report at a collection point and used armed raids to seize others. Separating residents from accurate information and using force reduced their ability to make informed choices or resist. These deportations were part of the Nazi genocide of Jewish people, not a move to safer housing. Despite hunger and danger, ghetto residents organized aid, documented their lives, and resisted in many ways, including armed resistance in 1943.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the walls and guarded entrances help Nazi authorities isolate and control Jewish residents?

2. Identify two conditions created by Nazi policies that weakened residents physically. Explain the effect of each.

3. How did German officials use Jewish councils to extend control inside the ghetto?

4. Identify two tactics used during the 1942 deportations. How did each limit residents' choices?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write one paragraph for a student museum guide explaining how at least three different Nazi tactics in the Warsaw ghetto worked together to control, isolate, or weaken residents. Include a cause-and-effect connection, and describe Jewish councils as acting under coercion.

ANSWER KEY

Inside the Walls

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four actions Nazi authorities used to control, isolate, or weaken Jewish residents. Circle a result of each action, then give each action and its result the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the walls and guarded entrances help Nazi authorities isolate and control Jewish residents?	**The walls and guarded entrances cut residents off from jobs, relatives, and supplies. Control of the gates let Nazi authorities restrict movement and make escape more difficult.**
2	Identify two conditions created by Nazi policies that weakened residents physically. Explain the effect of each.	**Food restrictions caused hunger and made residents more vulnerable to disease. Forced crowding, along with poor sanitation, helped illnesses spread.**
3	How did German officials use Jewish councils to extend control inside the ghetto?	**Officials forced councils to carry out orders, such as distributing limited resources and organizing forced labor. Council members acted under threats and had little real freedom.**
4	Identify two tactics used during the 1942 deportations. How did each limit residents' choices?	**False claims about work hid the destination, limiting residents' ability to make informed choices. Armed raids seized people by force, limiting their ability to resist.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

German authorities sealed the Warsaw ghetto and controlled its gates, cutting Jewish residents off from relatives, jobs, and supplies. They set rations too low to sustain life, so people faced hunger and risky attempts to bring in food. They also forced Jewish councils to carry out orders under threat, extending control inside the walls. Later, false claims about work hid the purpose of deportations to Treblinka. These tactics worked together: isolation restricted supplies and information, while hunger and coercion made survival and resistance harder.

Accept other passage-supported tactics and effects. Responses should distinguish coercion of Jewish councils from willing cooperation and should not imply that residents lacked all forms of resistance.