Beyond One Label

Compare Nazi camps by purpose, entry, and daily life

SS24.HOS.15 "Differentiate among the types of camps utilized by the Nazis, including their origins, purposes, and the conditions associated with them.* 15a Outline the arrival, selection..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the three named camps and circle words that tell each camp's purpose. Number the steps described for a prisoner's entry into Auschwitz-Birkenau so you can compare what happened at different camps.

Different Camps, Different Purposes

1. The Nazi camp system changed over time. In 1933, the Nazis opened Dachau near Munich, Germany, as a concentration camp for political opponents; later, many other persecuted groups were imprisoned there. Guards used confinement, violence, and forced labor to control prisoners. During World War II, the Nazis expanded forced-labor camps to exploit prisoners for factories and construction. Hunger, disease, and exhaustion were widespread. These camps were brutal, but their primary purpose differed from that of killing centers, which the Nazis built for mass murder.

2. Beginning in 1941, Nazi leaders established killing centers in occupied Poland to murder Jews on a vast scale. Treblinka, northeast of Warsaw, was one; nearly everyone sent there was killed soon after arrival. Auschwitz-Birkenau, near Oświęcim in occupied Poland, combined a concentration camp complex with a killing center. At its rail arrival area, guards separated people in selections: some were sent to forced labor, while others were sent to be killed. Survivors assigned to the camp were registered, stripped of belongings, and given camp clothing.

3. For prisoners kept in camps, each day could bring roll calls, exhausting work, little food, and crowded barracks. Guards punished people harshly, and illness spread easily. Yet prisoners resisted in different ways: some shared food, kept forbidden records, or helped others survive. At Treblinka, prisoners organized an armed revolt in 1943; many were killed, but some escaped. Comparing Dachau, Treblinka, and Auschwitz-Birkenau shows why location alone does not identify a camp's function: camps could imprison and exploit people, murder them, or do both.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the purpose of Dachau when it opened in 1933 differ from the purpose of killing centers established beginning in 1941?

2. Compare what happened to arrivals at Treblinka and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

3. What conditions did prisoners face, and how did two forms of resistance differ?

4. Where was Auschwitz-Birkenau, and why does it not fit neatly into just one camp type?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence museum label explaining how the Nazi camp system changed and why the single word "camp" can mislead. Include all three named sites, two locations, one contrast in entry or daily life, and one act of resistance.

ANSWER KEY

Beyond One Label

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.HOS.15

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the three named camps and circle words that tell each camp's purpose. Number the steps described for a prisoner's entry into Auschwitz-Birkenau so you can compare what happened at different camps. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the purpose of Dachau when it opened in 1933 differ from the purpose of killing centers established beginning in 1941?	**Dachau opened to imprison political opponents. The killing centers were established for mass murder.**
2	Compare what happened to arrivals at Treblinka and Auschwitz-Birkenau.	**Nearly everyone sent to Treblinka was killed soon after arrival. At Auschwitz-Birkenau, guards selected some arrivals for forced labor and others to be killed; those assigned to the camp were registered, stripped of belongings, and given camp clothing.**
3	What conditions did prisoners face, and how did two forms of resistance differ?	**Prisoners faced conditions such as exhausting work, little food, and crowded barracks. Some resisted by sharing food or keeping forbidden records; at Treblinka, prisoners staged an armed revolt.**
4	Where was Auschwitz-Birkenau, and why does it not fit neatly into just one camp type?	**It was near Oświęcim in occupied Poland. It combined a concentration camp complex with a killing center.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The word "camp" hides different Nazi purposes and their expansion over time. Dachau, near Munich in Germany, began in 1933 as a concentration camp, where prisoners faced confinement and forced labor. Treblinka, northeast of Warsaw in occupied Poland, was a killing center where nearly all arrivals were murdered. At Auschwitz-Birkenau near Oświęcim, guards selected some arrivals for labor and sent others to be killed, so this site served both functions. Amid hunger and violence, prisoners resisted by sharing food, keeping records, and staging a revolt at Treblinka.

Accept accurate comparisons in students' own words. A strong museum label distinguishes the sites' functions without implying that all arrivals experienced the same entry process.