Places and Purposes

Locate major camps and examine their roles in the Holocaust

SS24.HOS.15c "Locate major camps and explain their significance.*"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each camp name, underline a clue to its location, and draw an arrow from the name to a phrase explaining why that camp matters.

Where the Camps Stood

1 In Nazi-occupied Europe, the location of a camp could shape what happened there. During World War II, Nazi Germany built major killing centers in occupied Poland, where millions of Jews lived and where rail lines could carry prisoners from across Europe. The Nazis also imprisoned and murdered Roma and other people they targeted. A location alone does not tell a camp's whole history: some sites combined forced labor with mass murder, while others were built primarily to kill. Reading place names together with each camp's function helps explain how the Holocaust was organized across a wide area.

2 Auschwitz-Birkenau, near the town of Oświęcim in southern occupied Poland, was part of the Auschwitz camp complex. Prisoners arrived by train; many Jews were murdered in gas chambers, while others were selected for forced labor. The Auschwitz complex became the deadliest Nazi camp complex. Treblinka, northeast of Warsaw in occupied Poland, had a different main purpose. At this killing center, the Nazis murdered hundreds of thousands of Jews, most soon after arrival, including many deported from the Warsaw ghetto. These two sites show that camps in the same occupied country could serve different purposes within a shared system of persecution and murder.

3 Other locations reveal the system's reach. Sobibor stood in eastern occupied Poland, east of Lublin, near the present-day border with Ukraine. It was a killing center where the Nazis murdered mostly Jews. In 1943, prisoners organized an uprising, and some escaped. Majdanek stood on the outskirts of Lublin. Unlike Sobibor, it was a concentration camp that held prisoners for forced labor and was also a site of mass murder, including killings in gas chambers. Together, these places show why a camp's position and purpose both matter: nearby sites could have different roles, and prisoners resisted even under extreme danger.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Where was Auschwitz-Birkenau, and why was the Auschwitz complex significant?

2. Locate Treblinka in relation to Warsaw. What was its main purpose?

3. Where was Sobibor in relation to Lublin, and what happened there in 1943?

4. Where was Majdanek, and how did its role differ from Sobibor's main purpose?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75- to 100-word museum caption comparing Sobibor and Majdanek with one camp farther west. Give a location and a reason each site matters, then explain what their differences reveal about the camp system.

Places and Purposes

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each camp name, underline a clue to its location, and draw an arrow from the name to a phrase explaining why that camp matters. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Where was Auschwitz-Birkenau, and why was the Auschwitz complex significant?	**Auschwitz-Birkenau was near Oświęcim in southern occupied Poland. The Auschwitz complex was the deadliest Nazi camp complex; prisoners were murdered there or forced to work.**
2	Locate Treblinka in relation to Warsaw. What was its main purpose?	**Treblinka was northeast of Warsaw in occupied Poland. It was a killing center where the Nazis murdered hundreds of thousands of Jews.**
3	Where was Sobibor in relation to Lublin, and what happened there in 1943?	**Sobibor was east of Lublin in eastern occupied Poland. Prisoners organized an uprising in 1943, and some escaped.**
4	Where was Majdanek, and how did its role differ from Sobibor's main purpose?	**Majdanek was on the outskirts of Lublin. It held prisoners for forced labor and was a site of mass murder, while Sobibor was primarily a killing center.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A visitor who sees only camp names misses both geography and purpose. Sobibor stood east of Lublin in eastern occupied Poland; it was a killing center, and prisoners there organized an uprising. Majdanek stood outside Lublin, yet it held people for forced labor and was also a place of mass murder. Farther west, Auschwitz-Birkenau near Oświęcim was part of a complex where many Jews were murdered and others forced to work. Comparing these sites shows that camps located near one another could have different roles within the same system.

Accept accurate equivalent descriptions of each location and role. In the caption, the farther-west camp may be Auschwitz-Birkenau or Treblinka, provided the comparison is accurate.