From Prejudice to Genocide

Trace how Nazi policies changed and how the camp system worked

SS24.WH.11 "Explain the Holocaust as the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and mass murder of Europe's Jews and other minorities by Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1945..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline examples of how the Nazis portrayed Jews as enemies. Number the steps in Nazi persecution from earliest to latest, then circle each type of camp named in the passage.

How Persecution Became Mass Murder

(1) Antisemitism, hostility toward Jews, had existed in Europe for centuries before the Nazis took power in Germany in 1933. Nazi leaders drew on old lies that Jews were dangerous outsiders, then spread propaganda blaming them for Germany's defeat in World War I and its economic troubles. Newspapers, posters, and school lessons portrayed Jewish neighbors as threats rather than people with individual lives. By calling Jews an enemy of the German people, the government tried to make exclusion seem necessary. The Nazis also persecuted Roma and Sinti people, people with disabilities, and other groups they claimed did not belong.

(2) Persecution became policy step by step. In 1933, Nazis organized a boycott of Jewish businesses and removed many Jews from government jobs. The 1935 Nuremberg Laws stripped Jews of citizenship and banned marriages between Jews and people classified as German. In 1938, Nazi-led attacks destroyed synagogues and Jewish shops, and thousands of Jewish men were arrested. After Germany invaded Poland in 1939, authorities forced many Jews into crowded ghettos. Following the 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union, mobile killing units shot large numbers of Jews. In 1942, Nazi officials coordinated deportations and mass murder across Europe under the name "Final Solution."

(3) The Nazi camp system served different purposes, and some camps changed roles or combined them. Transit camps held people temporarily before deportation to other sites. Concentration camps imprisoned people under brutal conditions; prisoners faced starvation, disease, and violence. Slave labor camps forced prisoners to work for industries or military projects, often until they died. Killing centers, mostly in German-occupied Poland, were designed for mass murder, especially of Jews, often using gas chambers. The Nazis also murdered Roma and Sinti people and people with disabilities. These different sites formed part of a state-run system, but not every camp was a killing center.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Nazi propaganda build on older antisemitism to portray Jewish people as enemies?

2. How did Nazi persecution change between the 1935 laws and the actions that followed the 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union?

3. How does the passage show both that the Nazis persecuted groups beyond Jews and that Jews were central to the Final Solution?

4. Why would it be inaccurate to say that a transit camp and a killing center had the same purpose?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A classmate says, "The Holocaust began only when killing centers opened, and every camp did the same thing." Write one paragraph correcting both claims. Explain how antisemitism became Nazi policy, trace at least three changes from 1933 to 1942, and distinguish two types of camps.

ANSWER KEY

From Prejudice to Genocide

GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.11

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline examples of how the Nazis portrayed Jews as enemies. Number the steps in Nazi persecution from earliest to latest, then circle each type of camp named in the passage. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Nazi propaganda build on older antisemitism to portray Jewish people as enemies?	**It drew on old lies that Jews were dangerous outsiders, blamed them for Germany's troubles, and portrayed Jewish neighbors as threats.**
2	How did Nazi persecution change between the 1935 laws and the actions that followed the 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union?	**The 1935 laws took away Jews' citizenship and restricted marriage. After the 1941 invasion, mobile killing units shot large numbers of Jews.**
3	How does the passage show both that the Nazis persecuted groups beyond Jews and that Jews were central to the Final Solution?	**It names Roma and Sinti people and people with disabilities as other targets. It describes the Final Solution as coordinated deportation and mass murder of Jews across Europe.**
4	Why would it be inaccurate to say that a transit camp and a killing center had the same purpose?	**A transit camp held people temporarily before deportation. A killing center was designed for mass murder.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Holocaust did not begin with killing centers. The Nazis used old antisemitic lies to portray Jews as enemies, then turned that hatred into government policy. In 1933, they organized a boycott of Jewish businesses and removed many Jews from government jobs. The 1935 laws took away Jews' citizenship. After the 1939 invasion of Poland, authorities forced many Jews into ghettos. Mobile killing units shot large numbers of Jews after the 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union, and Nazi officials coordinated mass murder across Europe in 1942. Camps also had different purposes: transit camps held people before deportation, while killing centers were designed for mass murder.

Accept accurate descriptions of the shift from exclusion to mass murder that preserve the order of events. Students should distinguish camp purposes without implying that every camp had only one role.