

Definition Detectives

Build an accurate Holocaust definition together.

GRADE 5 • SS.5.HE.1.1

SS.5.HE.1.1 "Define the Holocaust as the planned and systematic state-sponsored persecution and murder of European Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Speak respectfully about people and history.

2 Use facts, not guesses.

3 Take turns so every person speaks.

4 Do not make jokes about persecution or murder.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Form a group of 3 or 4. Choose one Topic card.
2. Each player takes one Role card. Give each player a hand of 4 Move cards from shuffled card copies.
3. Take turns using one sentence starter to add an accurate idea to your group discussion.
4. When you genuinely use a Move card, place it in the middle. Keep discussing until every player has played all 4 cards.
5. Complete the Topic card task, then check the Reflection statements.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I can define the Holocaust accurately.

☐ I included the years 1933 to 1945.

☐ I named European Jews as the people targeted.

☐ I explained that Nazi Germany and its collaborators planned and carried out state-sponsored persecution and murder.

**TOPIC CARDS** · pick one per round

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
Definition Build Create one accurate sentence that defines the Holocaust. Decide which details make your definition complete.	Must-Have Details Make a group list of details that an accurate Holocaust definition must include. Then use the list to say the definition.	Word Choice Create two possible definitions of the Holocaust. Decide which definition is more complete and precise, and explain why.

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Fact Finder Watch for accurate dates, the people targeted, and the people responsible.	Detail Checker Listen for the words planned, systematic, and state-sponsored.	Link Builder Connect each speaker's idea to the group's definition.	Turn Tracker Make sure each player has a chance to use a Move card.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD
DEFINE IT “The Holocaust was ____.”	DEFINE IT “I would define the Holocaust as ____.”	ADD DATES “It took place from ____ to ____.”	NAME TARGETS “European Jews were ____.”
MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD
NAME PERPETRATORS “Nazi Germany and its collaborators ____.”	EXPLAIN PLANNING “This was planned and systematic because ____.”	STATE SUPPORT “State-sponsored means ____.”	CHECK DEFINITION “Our complete definition is ____.”

Print two card sheets per team for enough Move cards. Set aside extra cards.

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Print two copies of the card sheet per team, giving 16 Move cards. Deal four to each student; set aside extras. Use one Role card per student and one Topic card per round. Listen for students to combine all parts of the definition. Have the Turn Tracker invite players with cards remaining to speak.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Maya	The Holocaust was the planned and systematic persecution and murder of European Jews.
Leo	Nazi Germany and its collaborators planned and carried out these actions.
Ava	It took place from 1933 to 1945.
Noah	State-sponsored means Nazi Germany used government power to support and organize these actions.
Maya	Our complete definition is the Holocaust was the planned and systematic state-sponsored persecution and murder of European Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945.

LISTEN FOR

- planned and systematic, not random
- state-sponsored actions by Nazi Germany
- European Jews as the targeted group
- 1933 to 1945 and the role of collaborators

Check definitions for factual accuracy and all details listed above. Correct errors and assess respectful participation.