

Path to Persecution

Trace how prejudice, propaganda, and Nazi actions led to the Holocaust.

SS6H3.b "Explain the rise of Nazism including preexisting prejudices, the use of propaganda, and events which resulted in the Holocaust."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show preexisting prejudice, circle propaganda methods or messages, and number events that led toward the Holocaust in time order.

How Nazism Rose

- ① Germany faced deep problems after World War I. The Treaty of Versailles required Germany to pay reparations and limited its military. Many people felt angry and humiliated. During the Great Depression, jobs and savings disappeared, and some citizens wanted a leader who promised quick change. Antisemitism, prejudice against Jewish people, already existed in Europe. False stereotypes blamed Jews for Germany's troubles. These old hatreds made it easier for Nazi leaders to target Jewish people and other groups.
- ② In the 1920s and 1930s, Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party used propaganda to win support. Propaganda is information designed to shape people's opinions, often by using lies or fear. Nazi posters, radio speeches, rallies, and newspapers praised Hitler and repeated false claims about Jews. The Nazis also blamed communists and other opponents for danger. Repeating these messages made some people accept unfair ideas. In 1933, Hitler became chancellor and the Nazis used violence and laws to crush political opposition and take control.
- ③ After taking power, the Nazi government turned prejudice into official policy. The Nuremberg Laws of 1935 took away many rights from Jewish Germans. During Kristallnacht in 1938, Nazi-led attackers destroyed synagogues and Jewish businesses, while police arrested thousands of Jewish men. During World War II, Germany occupied much of Europe. Nazis forced Jews into ghettos, deported them by train, and murdered them in concentration and killing centers. This organized persecution and mass murder is called the Holocaust. About six million Jewish people were murdered, along with millions of other victims.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the Great Depression and preexisting antisemitism help the Nazis gain support and target Jewish people?

2 Name two ways the Nazis spread propaganda. How did repeated propaganda messages affect some people?

3 After Hitler became chancellor in 1933, what did the Nazis do to take control of Germany?

4 How did the Nuremberg Laws, Kristallnacht, and Nazi actions during World War II show an escalation toward the Holocaust?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence cause-and-effect explanation of how Nazism led toward the Holocaust. Include one condition that helped the Nazis rise, one propaganda method, two later Nazi actions, and a sentence that connects these steps.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show preexisting prejudice, circle propaganda methods or messages, and number events that led toward the Holocaust in time order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Great Depression and preexisting antisemitism help the Nazis gain support and target Jewish people?	The Depression caused job and savings losses, so some people wanted a leader promising quick change. Existing antisemitism and false stereotypes made it easier for Nazis to blame and target Jewish people.
2	Name two ways the Nazis spread propaganda. How did repeated propaganda messages affect some people?	The Nazis used posters, radio speeches, rallies, and newspapers. Repeated false and fearful messages made some people accept unfair ideas.
3	After Hitler became chancellor in 1933, what did the Nazis do to take control of Germany?	They used violence and laws to crush political opposition and take control.
4	How did the Nuremberg Laws, Kristallnacht, and Nazi actions during World War II show an escalation toward the Holocaust?	The Nuremberg Laws removed rights from Jewish Germans. Kristallnacht brought destruction and arrests. During World War II, Nazis forced Jews into ghettos, deported them, and murdered them in concentration and killing centers.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Long-standing antisemitism gave Nazis a prejudice they could exploit. Nazi radio speeches spread false claims and fear to gain support. After gaining control, the Nazis stripped Jewish Germans of rights and later forced Jews into ghettos. These connected steps helped turn prejudice into the Holocaust.

Accept equivalent examples from the passage and clear cause-and-effect language. For the open response, look for all required parts and an accurate connection from prejudice and propaganda to escalating Nazi persecution.