From Prejudice to Persecution

Trace causes, events, and consequences in the Holocaust

6-9.WH.5.4 "Analyze the causes, events, and consequences of the Holocaust while exploring the impacts of discrimination and prejudice."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one false claim Nazi leaders made about Jewish people, circle two actions German authorities took, and number two consequences of those actions. Use your marks to trace how prejudice led to harm.

The Warsaw Ghetto

1. Before World War II, Jewish families in Warsaw, Poland, lived in neighborhoods across the city. Antisemitism, prejudice against Jewish people, existed in Europe long before the Nazis took power in Germany. Nazi leaders turned that prejudice into state policy, falsely blaming Jewish people for problems and calling them a threat. After Germany invaded Poland in 1939, German authorities took away Jewish residents' rights and property. In 1940, they forced hundreds of thousands of Jewish people into a walled area of Warsaw called a ghetto. The barriers separated neighbors and made daily life harder.

2. Inside the ghetto, overcrowding, hunger, and disease killed many people. Families had little food because German authorities controlled supplies and blocked normal work and trade. In 1942, German forces began sending large numbers of ghetto residents by train to Treblinka, a killing center. Most people sent there were murdered soon after arrival. The deportations were part of the Holocaust, the Nazi campaign to murder Europe's Jewish people. Nazi forces and their helpers also persecuted and murdered other groups, including Roma people and people with disabilities. These policies caused enormous suffering across Europe.

3. Some Jewish residents resisted by secretly bringing food into the ghetto and recording what they saw. In 1943, Jewish fighters fought German forces during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. They knew they were badly outnumbered, but they chose to fight. German forces crushed the uprising and destroyed the ghetto. By the war's end, about six million Jewish people had been murdered across Europe. The deaths broke apart families and erased communities. Survivors carried the loss with them, while records of the crimes helped generations confront what unchecked prejudice can lead to.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Nazi leaders turn prejudice against Jewish people into actions in Warsaw? Give one claim and one action.

2. How did German authorities' control of supplies and trade affect life inside the ghetto?

3. Why were the 1942 deportations to Treblinka part of the Holocaust?

4. What happened after Jewish fighters resisted in 1943, and what lasting effect did records of the crimes have?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a museum displays an ordinary suitcase to represent people forced from the Warsaw ghetto. Write a four-sentence label that uses at least two facts from the passage to explain how prejudice led to government action, what happened during deportations, and one human consequence.

ANSWER KEY

From Prejudice to Persecution

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WH.5.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one false claim Nazi leaders made about Jewish people, circle two actions German authorities took, and number two consequences of those actions. Use your marks to trace how prejudice led to harm. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Nazi leaders turn prejudice against Jewish people into actions in Warsaw? Give one claim and one action.	**Nazi leaders falsely called Jewish people a threat. German authorities then took away Jewish residents' rights and property or forced them into a ghetto.**
2	How did German authorities' control of supplies and trade affect life inside the ghetto?	**Their control left families with little food. Hunger, along with overcrowding and disease, killed many people.**
3	Why were the 1942 deportations to Treblinka part of the Holocaust?	**German forces sent large numbers of Jewish ghetto residents to Treblinka, where most were murdered. This was part of the Nazi campaign to murder Europe's Jewish people.**
4	What happened after Jewish fighters resisted in 1943, and what lasting effect did records of the crimes have?	**German forces crushed the uprising and destroyed the ghetto. Records of the crimes helped later generations confront the dangers of unchecked prejudice.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Nazi leaders falsely called Jewish people a threat, and German authorities forced Warsaw's Jewish residents into a ghetto. In 1942, German forces deported many residents by train to Treblinka. Most people sent there were murdered, so the suitcase represents a journey forced on people and lives cut short. Families and communities lived with those losses long after the war.

Accept different supported examples of government action and harm. For the museum label, look for an accurate chain from prejudice to action to consequence, not just a list of events.