Roots of Exclusion

Sort two forms of antisemitism and trace their connection.

MWH.C.6.6.A "Trace the historical roots of antisemitism in Europe, including prejudice and the emergence of the 19th-century racial theories, and analyze how these ideas contributed to Nazi ideology."

NAME _____ DATE _____

RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE

This prejudice targets Jewish religious beliefs or practices. The discrimination is based on what people believe or how they worship.

An organizer refuses to invite people to a festival because they observe the Jewish Sabbath.

RACIAL ANTISEMITISM

This prejudice treats Jewish identity as an inherited trait that a person cannot change. Nineteenth-century claims that human groups have different worth were false, not science.

A writer falsely claims that measuring skulls can prove Jewish people are naturally inferior.

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered statement, circle BELIEF or ANCESTRY, then choose two numbers for Part 2 and explain which clues helped you sort each one.

1.	A ruler bars Jews from a trade guild for not accepting church teachings.	BELIEF ANCESTRY
2.	A town bars Jews from its market because they attend synagogue services.	BELIEF ANCESTRY
3.	A pamphlet falsely claims that Jews inherit fixed traits through blood.	BELIEF ANCESTRY
4.	An official classifies a baptized person as Jewish based on their grandparents.	BELIEF ANCESTRY
5.	An author wrongly ranks Jews as a lesser race using fake science.	BELIEF ANCESTRY
6.	A law bans Jews from holding office unless they convert to Christianity.	BELIEF ANCESTRY
7.	A speaker blames Jewish holy texts for the town's troubles.	BELIEF ANCESTRY
8.	A Nazi official targets people with Jewish ancestors, regardless of their faith.	BELIEF ANCESTRY

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new example of anti-Jewish prejudice based on religion and one based on supposed ancestry; label each BELIEF or ANCESTRY.

BELIEF _____

ANCESTRY _____

CHALLENGE

In two sentences, explain how nineteenth-century racial theories built on earlier religious prejudice and helped shape Nazi persecution.

ANSWER KEY

Roots of Exclusion

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PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	A ruler bars Jews from a trade guild for not accepting church teachings.	**BELIEF**	The exclusion is based on religious belief.
2	A town bars Jews from its market because they attend synagogue services.	**BELIEF**	The stated reason is religious practice.
3	A pamphlet falsely claims that Jews inherit fixed traits through blood.	**ANCESTRY**	The false claim treats traits as inherited.
4	An official classifies a baptized person as Jewish based on their grandparents.	**ANCESTRY**	Ancestry determines the classification despite baptism.
5	An author wrongly ranks Jews as a lesser race using fake science.	**ANCESTRY**	The author uses a false racial theory.
6	A law bans Jews from holding office unless they convert to Christianity.	**BELIEF**	The condition for holding office is religious conversion.
7	A speaker blames Jewish holy texts for the town's troubles.	**BELIEF**	The accusation targets religious texts.
8	A Nazi official targets people with Jewish ancestors, regardless of their faith.	**ANCESTRY**	The targeting is based on ancestry rather than belief.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **BELIEF**: A council excludes Jewish families from a public event because they follow their religious calendar.
- **ANCESTRY**: An official falsely claims that a Jewish person's inherited background determines their character, even if they practice another faith.

Challenge: Earlier religious prejudice treated Jews as outsiders and made exclusion seem acceptable to some Europeans. Nineteenth-century racial theories falsely described Jewish identity as inherited and unchangeable, an idea Nazis used to target people with Jewish ancestors regardless of their faith.

The statements describe discriminatory claims and actions, not facts about Jewish people. Accept Part 2 explanations that identify religion or ancestry as the basis for each selected item.