Rights Taken Away

How Nazi laws changed Jewish life in Germany

TOT.C.5.3 "Describe how the life of Jews deteriorated under the Third Reich, through implementation of the Nuremberg Laws."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the names of the two laws announced in 1935. Underline one way each law made life harder for Jews.

From Intimidation to Law

1. Imagine a Jewish family walking past a shop window marked with a warning not to buy from Jews. This scene reflects a campaign of intimidation that began before the Nuremberg Laws. After the Nazis took power in 1933, officials pushed many Jews out of government jobs, while organized boycotts targeted Jewish businesses. These actions threatened income and made ordinary errands feel unsafe. Yet the Nazi government went further in September 1935. At a party rally in Nuremberg, it announced laws that turned racist ideas into nationwide rules about citizenship and personal relationships.

2. The Reich Citizenship Law said that only people of "German or related blood" could hold full citizenship. Jews were reduced to subjects of the state without the political rights of citizens. A Jewish shopkeeper might still live and work in Germany, but the government no longer recognized that person as an equal member of its political community. A second law, the Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor, prohibited marriage and sexual relations between Jews and people classified as German or related by blood. It also forbade Jewish households to employ German women under age 45 as domestic workers.

3. Officials later used family records, including information about grandparents, to decide who was legally classified as Jewish. This meant that a person's own beliefs could not simply undo the government's label. The laws damaged daily life as well as legal status: they restricted whom people could marry, marked Jews as outsiders, and gave officials a basis for further discrimination. Other Nazi measures intensified the harm. In 1938, a separate order excluded Jewish children from public schools, and violent attacks in November destroyed many Jewish shops and synagogues. The Nuremberg Laws did not cause every later abuse, but they helped build a system of exclusion.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the 1935 laws make persecution different from the actions described for 1933?

2. How did the Reich Citizenship Law change Jews' place in German society?

3. How did the second Nuremberg law limit both personal choices and work in Jewish households?

4. Why would it be inaccurate to say that the Nuremberg Laws themselves excluded Jewish children from public schools in 1938?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence museum label about an invented Jewish family living in Germany between 1933 and 1938. Describe two ways the Nuremberg Laws affected them and one hardship caused by a separate, later Nazi measure.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the names of the two laws announced in 1935. Underline one way each law made life harder for Jews. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the 1935 laws make persecution different from the actions described for 1933?	**The 1933 actions threatened jobs and businesses. The 1935 laws made discrimination a nationwide legal rule about citizenship and personal relationships.**
2	How did the Reich Citizenship Law change Jews' place in German society?	**It denied Jews full citizenship and the political rights of citizens, reducing them to subjects of the state.**
3	How did the second Nuremberg law limit both personal choices and work in Jewish households?	**It barred marriage and sexual relations between Jews and people classified as German or related by blood. It also barred Jewish households from employing German women under age 45 as domestic workers.**
4	Why would it be inaccurate to say that the Nuremberg Laws themselves excluded Jewish children from public schools in 1938?	**A separate Nazi order excluded Jewish children from public schools in 1938. The Nuremberg Laws helped build the system of exclusion but did not impose every later restriction.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1933, the invented Rosen family saw a boycott threaten their shop. In 1935, the Reich Citizenship Law denied them full citizenship and the political rights of citizens. The other Nuremberg law barred their Jewish uncle from marrying his partner, who was classified as German. In 1938, a separate Nazi order excluded their daughter from public school. The family lost rights under the Nuremberg Laws and faced further harm from later measures.

Accept descriptions that connect each law to a specific loss of rights or choice. For the museum label, the later hardship must be identified as separate from the Nuremberg Laws.