Policies and Lives

Trace how Nazi policies changed the lives of targeted groups.

TOT.C.7.2 "Explain the effect of Nazi policies on other targeted groups, including Roma-Sinti, Slavs, Jehovah's Witnesses, political opponents, the physically and mentally disabled, and homosexuals."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one Nazi policy for each of at least four targeted groups, circle an effect of each policy, and give each matched policy and effect the same number.

Different Targets, Different Harms

1. A family in occupied Poland could face danger for reasons the Nazis wrote into law and orders. Nazi officials labeled Roma and Sinti people racially inferior. Police registered families, restricted their movement, and deported many to camps; thousands were murdered, including at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Nazi occupiers also treated Poles as inferior, closing schools, seizing property, and sending many to forced labor or prison. After Germany invaded the Soviet Union, millions of captured Soviet soldiers died from starvation, disease, and shootings under brutal German policies. Many of these prisoners were Slavic, but Soviet citizenship alone did not identify a person's ethnicity.

2. Other people were pursued for what they believed, did, or were accused of doing. Jehovah's Witnesses refused military service and the Nazi salute because of their religious beliefs. The regime banned their activities, imprisoned members, and sometimes took children from their families. Some Witnesses could secure release by signing a statement renouncing their faith, but many refused. Nazis also jailed political opponents, including Communists and Social Democrats, to silence dissent. Men accused of homosexual acts faced arrest under a broadened criminal law; many were sent to prisons or concentration camps, where violence and abuse threatened their lives.

3. Disability brought another form of state violence. Under a program often called Aktion T4, Nazi authorities took people with physical or mental disabilities from institutions and killed them at designated centers. The program's official phase ended in 1941 after public protests, but killings continued in other forms. These policies did not affect every targeted group in the same way: a religious pledge could sometimes free a Witness, while a person selected for killing because of a disability had no such option. Across these cases, Nazi power stripped people of safety, family ties, education, freedom, or life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Nazi policies affect Roma and Sinti people and Poles in different ways?

2. How did Nazi policies restrict Jehovah's Witnesses and political opponents? Explain the effect on each group.

3. How did the policies aimed at people with disabilities and men accused of homosexual acts differ in their effects?

4. How did German policies endanger captured Soviet soldiers, and how was that effect different from the effects on Poles described in the passage?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 95 word museum label about two targeted groups from different paragraphs. Explain one Nazi policy and its effect for each group, then identify an important difference between their experiences.

Policies and Lives

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one Nazi policy for each of at least four targeted groups, circle an effect of each policy, and give each matched policy and effect the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Nazi policies affect Roma and Sinti people and Poles in different ways?	**Police restricted and deported Roma and Sinti families, and thousands were murdered. In occupied Poland, Nazis closed schools, seized property, and sent many Poles to forced labor or prison.**
2	How did Nazi policies restrict Jehovah's Witnesses and political opponents? Explain the effect on each group.	**Bans, imprisonment, and family separation punished Jehovah's Witnesses for their beliefs and practices. Jailing political opponents silenced dissent.**
3	How did the policies aimed at people with disabilities and men accused of homosexual acts differ in their effects?	**Nazi authorities took people with disabilities from institutions and killed them at designated centers. Men accused of homosexual acts faced arrest and imprisonment, where they risked violence and abuse.**
4	How did German policies endanger captured Soviet soldiers, and how was that effect different from the effects on Poles described in the passage?	**Millions of captured Soviet soldiers died from starvation, disease, and shootings. The passage describes Poles losing schools and property, and many being sent to forced labor or prison.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Roma and Sinti families and Jehovah's Witnesses both faced Nazi persecution, but the regime attacked them in different ways. Nazi police registered Roma and Sinti families, restricted their movement, and deported many to camps, where thousands were murdered. The regime banned the activities of Jehovah's Witnesses and imprisoned members, sometimes separating them from their children. Some Witnesses could secure release by renouncing their faith, while Roma and Sinti people targeted under racist policies had no similar way to change how the regime classified them.

Accept accurate policy-and-effect connections supported by the passage. For the museum label, look for two groups from different paragraphs, an effect for each, and a meaningful comparison.