After the Gates

Liberation, treatment, and relocation at Bergen-Belsen

TOT.C.7.8 "Explain how Allied Forces liberated camps, including the relocation and treatment of the survivors."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ways the British treated survivors, circle the reason they burned the old camp barracks, and number the places survivors lived in the order the passage describes them.

Liberation Was a Beginning

1 On April 15, 1945, British forces entered Bergen-Belsen, a Nazi concentration camp in northern Germany, after German forces agreed to hand it over. The British found tens of thousands of prisoners, many weakened by starvation and crowded conditions. Typhus, a disease spread by lice, had swept through the camp. Dead bodies lay near the living, and clean water was scarce. Liberation ended Nazi control of the camp, but it did not instantly make the prisoners safe. The soldiers faced an emergency: they had to bring supplies and medical workers into a place where disease could spread quickly.

2 British troops and medical teams brought drinking water, food, and medicine. They set up emergency care and worked to control lice and typhus. Many survivors could not digest ordinary food after prolonged starvation, so caregivers had to adjust what they gave them. Even with treatment, thousands died in the weeks after liberation. To get survivors out of the contaminated camp, the British moved them to nearby former German military barracks, where they established a hospital and housing. Only after people had been moved did the British burn the old camp barracks to help prevent disease from spreading.

3 Recovery also meant finding a place to live after the emergency. In the barracks complex, survivors received continuing care and became part of a displaced persons community. Some searched for relatives and learned that their families and homes were gone. Aid workers helped people obtain clothing, documents, and information about missing family members. Survivors did not all take the same path: some returned to their countries, while others remained in displaced persons camps until they could emigrate. At Bergen-Belsen, liberation was the start of a longer process that joined immediate treatment with relocation and the difficult work of rebuilding lives.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did the British need to provide urgent care even after they took control of the camp?

2. How did survivors' condition affect the way caregivers provided food?

3. Explain the order and purpose of moving survivors and burning the old camp barracks.

4. How did aid after the emergency support survivors who might relocate again?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a six-sentence museum label for a visitor who thinks liberation happened in one moment. Explain the sequence from the British arrival through treatment, the move to new housing, and survivors' later choices.

ANSWER KEY

After the Gates

HIGH SCHOOL · TOT.C.7.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways the British treated survivors, circle the reason they burned the old camp barracks, and number the places survivors lived in the order the passage describes them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did the British need to provide urgent care even after they took control of the camp?	**Prisoners were weakened by starvation, clean water was scarce, and typhus was spreading. Ending Nazi control did not end those dangers.**
2	How did survivors' condition affect the way caregivers provided food?	**After prolonged starvation, many survivors could not digest ordinary food, so caregivers had to adjust what they gave them.**
3	Explain the order and purpose of moving survivors and burning the old camp barracks.	**The British first moved survivors to nearby former military barracks for hospital care and housing. They burned the old camp barracks afterward to help prevent disease from spreading.**
4	How did aid after the emergency support survivors who might relocate again?	**Aid workers helped survivors obtain clothing, documents, and information about missing relatives. Some later returned to their countries, while others stayed in displaced persons camps until they could emigrate.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

When British forces entered Bergen-Belsen, they ended Nazi control but found prisoners facing starvation and disease. Troops and medical teams brought water, food, medicine, and emergency care. Because many survivors could not digest ordinary food, caregivers adjusted what they provided. The British then moved survivors to nearby former military barracks for hospital care and housing. After the move, they burned the old camp barracks to help prevent disease from spreading. Some survivors returned to their countries, while others stayed in displaced persons camps until they could emigrate.

Accept wording that distinguishes the end of Nazi control from the longer work of treatment and relocation. The museum label should place the move before the burning of the old barracks.