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SP: SOCIAL SCIENCE
GRADE 9: TERM 1
HISTORY: LEARNER BOOKLET

Learner Name: _____ Grade: 9C _____

WORLD WAR II (1919-1945)



The city of Dresden in Germany was bombed by the British just before the end of World War II

WORD BANK

CONCEPT	DEFINITION
Treaty	Agreement between countries.
Republic	A form of government whose head of state is a president.
Armistice	An agreement between enemies in war to stop fighting so that they can discuss peace terms.
Reparation	Payment for damages by losing nation(s) to the winner.
Revenge	Action taken in return for being hurt.
Dictator	A ruler who has complete power and makes all the laws.
Dictate	Give commands or orders.
Human rights	Rights protected by the law, such as freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, equal treatment under this law etc.
Elected	Voted for by the people.
Swastika	The symbol of the Nazi party
Surrendered	Admitted defeat, gave up.
Opposition	A group of people who disagree with you.
Coup	French word, also used in English, for violent overthrowing of government.
Putsch	German word for violent overthrowing of government.
Stock market	A place where people buy and sell shares in big businesses.
The Great Depression	A period during the 1930's where there was a Worldwide economic collapse and mass unemployment.
Inflation	An increase in the price of goods
Police state	A country where the police and army have full control, no one can question the government or leader.
Reichstag	German word for parliament.
Chancellor	Another name for leader of the Reichstag
Authoritarian	Strict dictatorial, people have no freedom or say on how government rules.
Nationalism	Love of country and willingness to sacrifice for it or the doctrine that your national culture superior to any other.
Traitors	People who betray their country.
Constitution	A set of rules that the government and the laws of a country must be observed, no one can act outside these rules not even the president.
Emergency	Crisis in which the police and army are given extra power to keep control.
Propaganda	Control and use of media to promote state policies.
Mass media	The means of communicating with many people such as newspaper and broadcasting.
Storm troopers	Armed units of a political party usually linked to illegal violent act
Intimidation	Frightened, subdued and influenced
Der Fuhrer	German word for leader
Fatherland	What Germans called their state under the Nazi
Concentration Camp	Those imprisoned were physically concentrated in one place
Scapegoat	Someone who is blamed and punished for the misfortune of others.
Stereotype	Limited portrayals of a person or a group of people which is presented as
Infer	To come to a conclusion or form an opinion based on the information you have

Discrimination	Make a distinction, treat differently and unjustly
Persecution	Oppression or cruel treatment
Boycott	To deliberately stay away from or refuse
Diplomat	Someone who represents a movement in a foreign country

THE RISE OF NAZI GERMANY

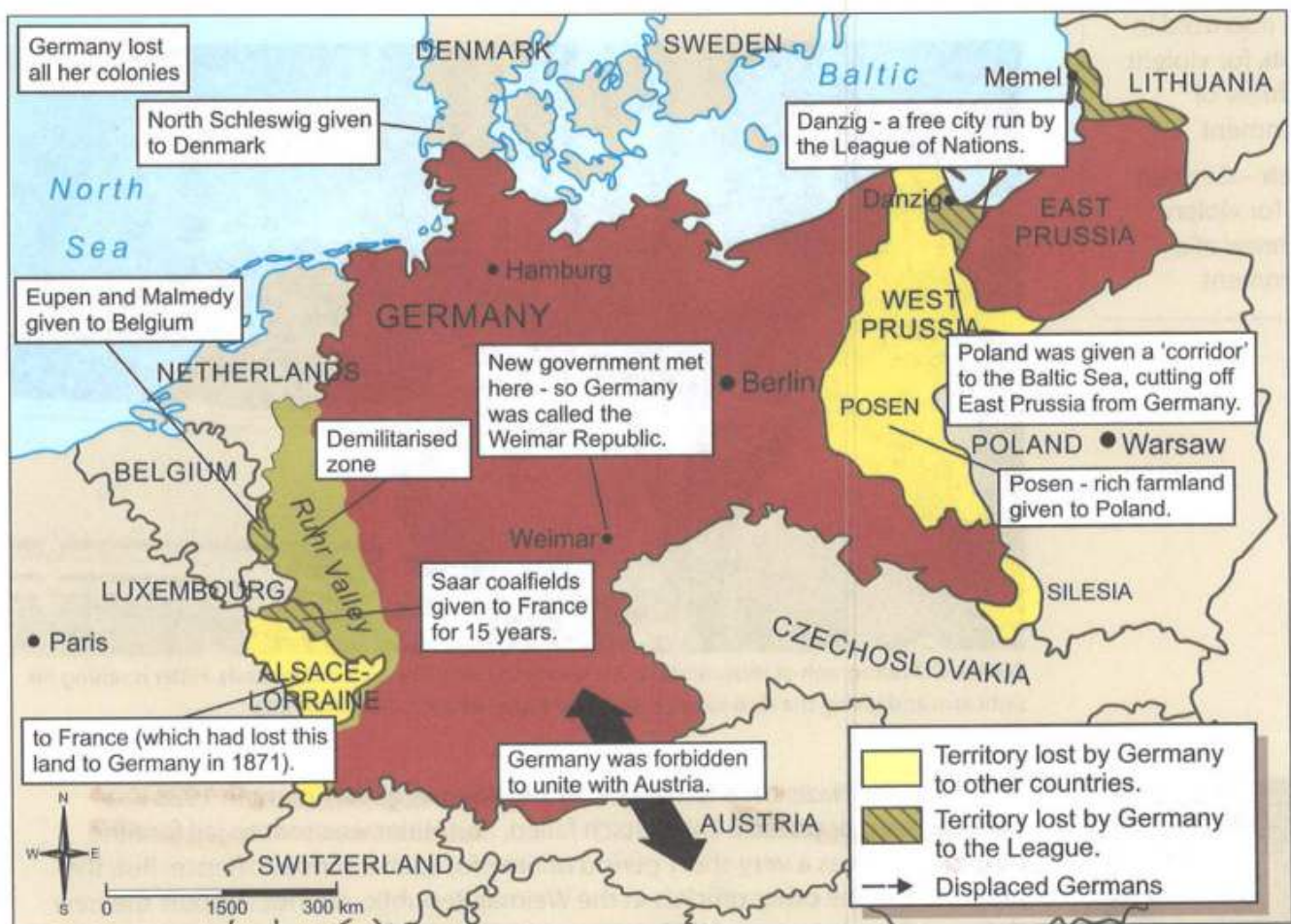
Many factors led to this war, one of which was Germany's occupation of land due to its growing nationalism. Although Germany was defeated in World War I, Germans were still proud of their country. The Allies blamed Germany for the war and their terms were so harsh that the Weimar Republic (the new name for Germany after WWI) had severe problems.



END OF WORLD WARI: WEIMER REPUBLIC; TREATY OF VERSAILLES

The Treaty of Versailles (1919) which ended the War laid down the following peace terms:

1. Germany had to pay for damage caused by the war
2. Germany lost the land it had occupied before WWI, as well as its four colonies in Africa.
3. Germany was allowed only a reduced, small army and navy and no air force.
4. Germany had to agree that they alone had caused the war, which many Germans thought was unfair.



Source B: The terms of the Treaty of Versailles, shown on a map. This map shows the land that Germany lost after WWI.

The huge war debt meant that the Weimar Republic struggled financially as prices of goods and services rose and their currency became almost worthless. In 1923, French and Belgian troops

occupied Germany's main industrial region – the Ruhr River Valley – because Germany had not paid back their war debt or delivered enough coal or steel. This occupation of the centre of the Germany coal and steel industries made the German people angry and they stopped working. The result was inflation and unemployment and morale was low. Politically the country was divided.

Source A: A point of view on how Germany should be punished



Signing of the Treaty of Versailles

the country was divided.



Activity 1:

Date:

Look at the cartoon above to see what ordinary Germans were feeling and saying in Germany in the 1920's. The important industrial region of the Ruhr had been invaded by Belgian and French troops. The price of a loaf of bread had increased a hundred times.

1. How would this make you feel if you were a German?
2. Would you look for somebody to blame?

HITLER AND THE NAZIS, 1920'S

The National Socialist German Workers Party, called the Nazi Party was formed in Munich on 5 January 1919. Adolph Hitler became the seventh member in that year. By 1921 he was playing a big role in the party. The Nazi made popular promises:

- To create jobs
- To make Germany strong and united
- To resist carrying out the instructions of the Treaty of Versailles.

Because Hitler worked against the Weimar republic, he was arrested in 1923 and sent to jail where he wrote a book called *Mein Kampf* ('My Struggle'). He spelt out his master plan for Germany, a country to be populated only by the pure German race which he called the Aryan race. He promoted nationalism and hatred of Jews or anti-Semitism. In 1924 he was released from prison.



The swastika was the symbol of the Nazi Party



Source C: Photograph of Hitler and the SA. Notice the swastika on the armbands. Hitler is raising his right arm and giving the Nazi salute called 'Heil Hitler' which means 'Hail Hitler'.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION OF 1929 AND EFFECTS ON GERMANY

After the Ruhr occupation, Germany could not continue to pay the war debt imposed by the Treaty of Versailles. America therefore lent Germany money. In October 1929, the Wall Street stock market crashed. This meant the end of America's strong economy. The result of this crash was the onset of the Great Depression of 1929 and it affected countries all over the world.

As Germany had built up its economy on American loans, it was hugely affected when America wanted the money back. Germany was given 90 days to start repayments. This was impossible and the effects on Germany were that German companies went bankrupt and millions of workers were laid off. Hyperinflation (dramatic rise of prices and goods and services) meant that money lost most of its value. Those who saw no end to their troubles turned to the more extreme political parties in Germany – the Nazi and Communist Parties.



Newspaper headlines about the Wall Street Crash, New York, 1929

Activity 2:

Date:

1. These events are in the wrong order. Arrange them into the correct order and then write them in your notebook.
 - Workers in Germany lost their jobs.
 - The Great Depression began.
 - American banks called for the money that they had lent to Germany to be paid back.
 - The USA lent the German government money.
 - The Wall Street stock market crashed and collapsed.

FAILURE OF DEMOCRACY IN THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

Because the Weimar Republic had accepted the Treaty of Versailles, German people saw it as a sell-out. They were dissatisfied and bitter, and wanted a scapegoat (someone to blame). After the Wall Street crash, people encountered great hardship and the government was incapable of helping them. They liked the Nazis' direct and simple solutions which were publicised through rallies, on radio, in films and posters.

All Nazi propaganda promoted German unity and a sense of belonging to a powerful nation.



Source D: Photograph of children playing with money, as it had so little value

REASONS FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR NAZI PARTY

For over ten years the German people had been suffering loss of national pride, economic and financial hardship and a feeling of hopelessness, especially after the Wall Street crash when the loans made to them were called in. The Nazis offered hope by promising a strong, united Germany with jobs and a renewed purpose in building Germany up. The Nazis used a great deal of propaganda. They spread their ideas throughout Germany so people saw posters, heard radio broadcasts and attended rallies where they participated enthusiastically and felt proud to be German again. Hitler was an excellent public speaker and he gave enthralling speeches about Nazi policies and German superiority. Hitler was presenting himself as the German people's last hope.



Source E: Propaganda poster of Hitler holding a flag with a swastika on it. The words say 'Long live Germany'.



Activity 3:

Date:

1. How does the artist make Hitler look strong? Look at his arm, his face and the angle of the picture.
2. The Swastika is shown in both pictures. Why was it effective to use this symbol often?
3. In the poster, Hitler baut auf means 'Hitler is building up!' How does the appearance of the main figure give the feeling of strength and power?
4. The building stones represent work, freedom, bread. Why do you think the Germans would have been impressed by them as building blocks?

THE 1932 AND 1933 ELECTIONS

After the Great Depression struck Germany, the government was struggling and people wanted a more stable party. The Nazis found the money to finance three massive election campaigns between 1930 and 1932. In 1929, they had only 12 seats in the Reichstag (parliament). But by the 1932 the Nazi party was the strongest with 230 seats, but there were also other parties such as the Communist Party, and the Nazi's failed to get the majority vote. Powerful forces in the government decided to promote Hitler. President Paul von Hindenburg made Hitler Chancellor of a coalition government. In January 1933 and in the March 1933 elections, Hitler won 288 seats.

ENABLING ACT 1933 AND DICTATORSHIP

Because the Nazis won so many seats, they were immediately able to force through an Enabling Act, giving Hitler dictatorial powers for four years.

He set about eradicating all opposition by:

- Muzzling the press
- Abolishing other political parties
- Imprisoning other leaders
- Prohibiting trade unions
- Burning non-Nazi books

Hitler succeeded in giving Germans back their national pride, but he did not tolerate any opposition. Ernst Rohm was a leader of the Brownshirts, a branch of the military that helped Hitler get into power. Ernst wanted to redistribute wealth to improve the financial welfare of the masses. Hitler found that Rohm was becoming a threat, so he had all the leaders of the Brownshirts killed on a night that has been named 'Night of the Long Knives' in June 1934. Most of the killings were carried out by the Schutzstaffel (SS) and the Gestapo, which were the regimes secret police.

Concentration camps were set up to confine and question or sometimes torture the Nazi's political opponents. When the president of Germany, Paul von Hindenburg died in August 1934, Hitler combined the role of president and chancellor in one and proclaimed himself Fuhrer. The German army had to swear an oath of loyalty to him. Thus, Germany had become a dictator's state.



Source G: Propaganda poster of Hitler. The words say 'One People, one Empire, one Leader'.

There is one way to freedom: obedience, enthusiasm, honesty, discipline and order, cleanliness, a sense of sacrifice and love for the **Fatherland**.

(Source: *The History Place*)

Source H: Words painted on a building at Dachau concentration camp

NUREMBERG LAWS AND LOSS OF BASIC RIGHTS OF JEWISH PEOPLE, 1935

The Nuremberg Laws of 1935 were anti-Semitic laws in Nazi Germany introduced at the annual Nuremberg Rally of the Nazi Party. After the takeover of power in 1933 by Hitler, Nazism became an official ideology, including anti-Semitism as a form of racism. The Nuremberg Laws classified people with four German grandparents as 'German or kindred blood', while people were classified as Jews if they descended from three or four Jewish grandparents. A person with one or two Jewish grandparents was a Mischling, a crossbreed, of mixed blood. These laws deprived Jews of German citizenship and prohibited marriage between Jews and other Germans. The reason for this was that Hitler wished to produce a pure German Aryan race of Übermensch, a 'master race'. The ideal Germany and the countries they took over should be ruled by the 'master race'. They idealised the powerful, muscular, blue-eyed, blond features. Hitler hated the Jewish people. This bias is called anti-Semitism.



Jews were drawn to make them look as unpleasant and unattractive as possible

The Nuremberg Laws

The Nuremberg Laws were made in 1935, and were added to in the years that followed. These laws took away the basic rights of Jews.

Jews were:

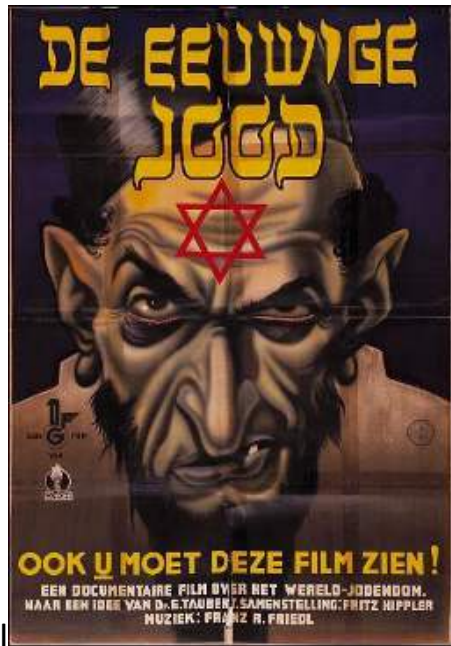
- expelled from schools and universities
- stripped of all citizenship rights
- prohibited from marrying non-Jews
- forced to sit on separate park benches
- not permitted to use public facilities, travel on trams, or attend theatres or cinemas.
- dismissed from the civil service
- dismissed from jobs as professors, lecturers, teachers, doctors, dentists and nurses and lawyers

Adapted from Dr. Achim Gercke, *Die Lösung der Judenfrage*, *Nationalsozialistische Monatshefte*, Heft 38 (May 1933), pp. 195-197.

Source I: The Nuremberg Laws

Activity 4:

Date:



A poster advertising an Anti-Semitic film

Source A: Point 4 of the DSDAP Program

Only members of the nation may be citizens of the State. Only those of German blood, whatever their creed, may be members of the nation. Accordingly no Jew may be a member of the nation.

(Adolph Hitler and Anton Drexler, founder of the German Worker's Party; point 4 of the 25-point Party Programme adopted in 1920)

Source B: Extract from *Mein Kampf*

It is the Jew who struggles for his domination over the nations. No nation can remove this hand from its throat except by the sword ... Such a process is and remains a bloody one.

(*Mein Kampf*, Hitler, 1939)

1. Explain in your own words what Hitler is saying in the above sources.
2. Describe what Hitler saw as the ideal Aryan person.
3. How did Hitler see Jewish people?
4. The German people were looking for someone to blame for their problems. Why do you think Hitler's hatred for Jews would have appealed to them?

PERSECUTION OF POLITICAL OPPONENTS: JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES; GYPSIES; HOMOSEXUALS; SLAVS; BLACK PEOPLE; DISABLED PEOPLE.

Aside from the Jews, there were other people who were also considered inferior (not good enough) to live in Germany. These included Jehovah's Witnesses who had beliefs different from other Christians, the gypsies, homosexuals, Slavs, black people and disabled people. There was no place for these people in an Aryan homeland. Anti-Semitism had a long history in Germany and many Germans supported the Nazi's racist views.

By 1938 the Nazis started on a full-scale programme against Jews. On the night of 9 November 1938, SS men killed at least 100 Jews and took 30 000 more to concentration camps. They burnt down and demolished hundreds of synagogues throughout Germany. This night is known as Kristallnacht because of the shattering of the glass. Kristallnacht was planned as revenge for the shooting of a German diplomat.



Kristallnacht is generally seen as the start of a very systematic persecution of Jews. After Kristallnacht, various laws were passed to exclude Jews completely from public life. Jewish people were not allowed to use public facilities or be in a profession where they dealt with 'non-Jewish' people. They were treated as less than human.

Activity 4:

Date:

Source C: A personal account

Two Gestapo officers came to get us ... They took us by car ... [to the] Department of Racial and Hereditary Welfare. They examined us and measured our skulls. It's hard to explain this to ordinary people. They measured our eyebrows, eye colour, noses. We were lucky we weren't **euthanasia** victims. We were only sterilised. It was all over in two hours ... We had to sign a paper saying we agreed not to marry people with German or half-German blood. And that we wouldn't have sexual relations with Germans ... It was depressing and offensive. I felt only half human.

(Hans Hauck, aged 17, one of 400 children from the Rhineland who were sterilised because they were classified as being of 'mixed race')

1. Why did the Gestapo officers come to get the children and not ordinary policemen?
2. Why is the use of the word Welfare in Department Racial and Hereditary Welfare strange? Think of whose welfare they were considering?
3. Who were the ordinary people to whom the writer found the event difficult to describe?
4. Being sterilised is a humiliating and horrible experience. Why do you think the writer says "we were sterilised?"
5. Continue the writer's explanation. "I felt only half human because....."

Activity 5:

Source D: A personal account

My father had been picked up in an earlier raid. At the railroad station. He found out that my uncle and I had been taken. He asked the Germans to let us travel in the same boxcar. Two days later we arrived at Dachau [a **concentration camp**]. We waited locked in the airless boxcar for about three quarters of an hour. Then we heard a shout as thirty or forty young SS men unlocked the bolts and threw open the doors. "Pigheads," they screamed. "Out, out. Run, you Congo niggers, run." Their whips fell on us, killing two men as we ran toward the gates of Dachau.

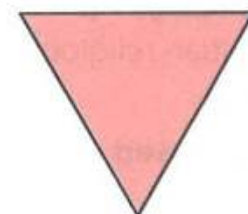
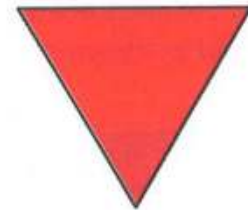
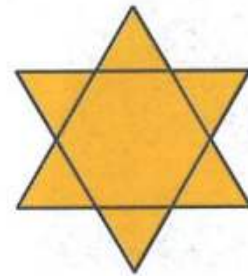
(A gypsy boy, Bubli, remembers the day the SS arrived for his family)

1. Do you think the father was brave to ask the Germans to let the family travel together in the same boxcar? Why?
2. Explain in your own words what a concentration camp was?
3. In what way were the guards offensive when they let the people out?

NAZI GERMANY AS AN EXAMPLE OF A FASCIST STATE COMPARED WITH A DEMOCRACY

- In a fascist state, the nation is all important. The people are bound together by common ancestry and culture and a national spirit is of overriding importance.
- Paramilitary organisations such as the Gestapo and SS in Germany, threaten opponents with violence.
- Discipline is strong and all people must conform.

This is in contrast to a democracy where everyone has a vote and individual human rights are regarded as very important.



Racism and persecution of the 'other' was part of the Nazi fascist ideology. People who were considered to be 'non-Aryans' had to wear identifying badges.



Source J: An anti-Semitic Nazi demonstration. Hitler believed that Germans were a 'herrenvolk' or 'master race'. He believed that Germans were a 'superior' race, called Aryans. He said the lowest form of humanity were the Jews. The sign in this photograph reads 'Germans Protect Yourself! Do not buy from Jews!'

The Nazis used propaganda with great skill in building support among the German people. Hitler took advantage of every opportunity to be seen as an admired and trusted leader of the people.



Source K: A photograph of Nazi soldiers marching with guns. Hitler wanted to expand Germany's frontiers through conquest. To do this he had to build up a strong defence force, and manufacture weapons.



Source L: Hitler being surrounded by his followers in a propaganda photograph. Photographs such as this one were carefully staged to create a sense of spontaneous hero worship. These photographs were widely circulated throughout the country.

The 1933 election clearly showed that many Germans did not support Hitler and the Nazis. For these people, the Nazis developed a policy of fear and created the SS. SS is an abbreviation of Schutzstaffel or Protection Squad. Members of the SS wore sleek black uniforms with badges showing threatening symbols: double lightning, skulls and silver daggers.



Source M: Photograph of a German man being stopped and searched. The Gestapo or Geheime Staatspolizei were the Secret Police in Nazi Germany, who were used to silence Hitler's political opponents. Here German citizens are stopped and searched by plainclothes police and uniformed Gestapo police in March 1933 on the pretext that the citizens might be concealing weapons.



Source N: German citizens being abused in the street

WORLD WAR II: EUROPE

Nazi policies made the German people change from feeling hopeless and crushed by the Treaty of Versailles to pulling together and feeling national pride. Nazi ideas were however taken to extremes and other nations began to fear Hitler's **expansionist** policy which allowed for no minority group or other opinions.

NAZI'S AGGRESSIVE, EXPANSIONIST FOREIGN POLICY FOR LEBENSTRAUM

Lebensraum literally means 'living space' in German. Nazi believed that extra space was needed for the growth of the German population, both in land and in raw materials. In his book, *Mein Kampf*, Hitler stated that inferior Slavic populations should make way for German people. In 1938 Hitler united Austria and Germany. The allies, Britain and France, did nothing to stop him although the Treaty of Versailles had forbidden this. Then Hitler took Sudetenland, an area of Czechoslovakia with many Germans in it. When Hitler reached the border of Poland, the allies said they would declare war if he attacked.

OUTBREAK OF WORLD WAR II: AXIS VS ALLIES

The Axis Alliance or Axis was a group of nations that fought against the Allies.

The Axis alliance began in 1936 when Germany signed treaties with Italy and Japan. In 1939 this became a military alliance. When Germany invaded Poland, the Allies (Britain and France) declared war on the Axis countries.

Germany invaded the Netherlands and France, but in the Battle of Britain, British pilots prevented the German Luftwaffe (air force) from gaining air superiority. In June 1941, Hitler decided to invade Russia instead of Britain. This proved to be a mistake. Thousands of German soldiers died in Russia, especially in the cold winter, and Hitler never defeated Russia, which was a communist country led by Josef Stalin. The defeat of an entire German army at Stalingrad was a disaster for the Germans. Some historians consider this battle the turning point of World War II because the German army could now only go in one direction, and that was back to Germany.



Map showing Allied countries against Axis countries



Hitler and Mussolini were both dictators of fascist countries. Here Mussolini gives the Nazi salute to show Italy's support for Germany.

Allied Powers	Axis Powers
Britain	Germany
France	Italy
Russia	Japan
USA	

Activity 6:

Date:

1. List three causes of World War II.
2. Which four main countries fought on the Allied side?
3. Which three main countries fought on the Axis side?



Activity 7:

1. Which is the stronger country, Italy or Germany?
2. What two details of the drawing tell you this?
3. What is the badge on the German soldier's arm?

EXTERMINATION CAMPS AND GENOCIDE, THE HOLOCAUST AND THE 'FINAL SOLUTION'

The killing of approximately 6 million European Jews during WWII is called the Holocaust. This was Nazi Germany's systematic genocide of various ethnic religions, national and other groups during World War II.

The Jews of Europe were the main victims of the Holocaust. What the Nazis called the 'Final Solution of the Jewish Question' was formally instituted in September 1941. The 'final solution' was to kill them all. The commonly used figure for the number of Jewish victims is 6 million. Other 'undesirables' such as Slavs, gypsies, the mentally or physically disabled, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses and political dissidents were also persecuted and murdered. Taking these other groups into account, the total death toll rises considerably to at least 11 million people.

The Holocaust was Hitler and the Nazis 'final solution'. Jewish people and others were taken, by force to 'work camps' which were concentration camps. Because very few people came out of these alive, these camps were also known as death camps. Possessions were taken away from the prisoners, they had their heads shaved and were forced to do hard physical labour. They were starved, humiliated and tortured. Children and parents were separated.

At first the Germans shot their victims or they were beaten to death, but later they were gassed to death and then burnt in large rooms known as crematoria, after having had their

gold teeth pulled out. There were 22 extermination camps, the most notorious being Dachau, Treblinka and Auschwitz. This was one of the most shameful episodes in the history of the world.



Concentration camp inmates were dressed in striped pyjama-like uniforms. Here the triangle badge is visible on two of their uniforms.



Source B



Source C



Source D



Source E

Then the procession starts to move – all naked men, women, children and cripples. Mothers with their babies at their breast, come up, hesitate, enter the death chambers. A tough SS man tells the poor people: “Nothing is going to happen to you. Just breathe in deeply in the chambers; it will strengthen your lungs. This is necessary because of all the sickness ...”

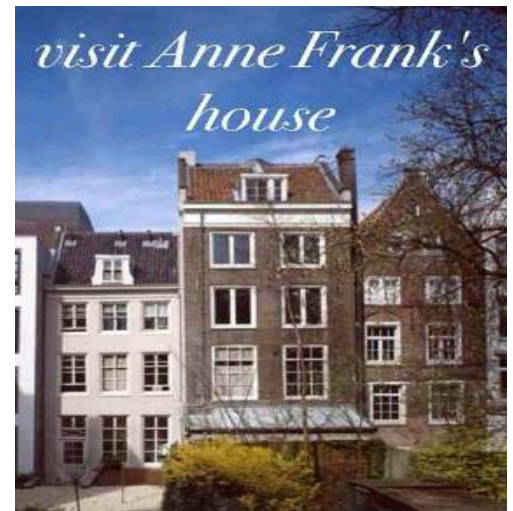
But the majority understand what is happening to them. They climb the staircase, hesitate, but they enter the death chambers, driven on by the others behind them or by the leather whips of the SS ... seven to eight hundred in an area of twenty-five square metres. The SS push them in as far as possible. The doors shut; the others are waiting outside in the open, naked. The people are going to be killed by diesel exhaust gases. But the diesel engine won't start! The people wait in the gas chambers. One can hear them sobbing... After two hours, forty-nine minutes the engine starts ... After thirty-two minutes they are all dead.

Kurt Gerstein was a young SS officer who witnessed the gassing at Belzec death camp in August 1942. He wrote this account in May 1945, shortly before committing suicide.

Source F: A description by a young SS officer of Jews being led into the gas chambers

JEWISH CHILDREN

A very famous Jewish child who was living in WWII was a girl called Anne Frank. She wrote about her experiences and her book was later published as *The Diary of Ann Frank*. She was born in Germany but lost her citizenship because of the Nuremburg Laws. Her family moved to Amsterdam where they were trapped when the Nazis occupied the



Netherlands. The family went into hiding in July 1942, in the hidden rooms of the office building of Anne's father, Otto Frank. After two years, the group was betrayed and transported to concentration camps. Anne Frank and her sister, Margot, were eventually transferred to a concentration camp, where they both died of typhus in March 1945. Otto Frank, the only survivor of the family, returned to Amsterdam after the war to find that Anne's diary had been saved, and his efforts led to its publication in 1947. The diary which was given to Anne on her thirteenth birthday, tells about her life from 12 June 1942 until 1 August 1944.

ASSESSMENT TASK: USE SOURCES**Source F: An extract from *The Footsteps of Anne Frank***

On the third night the train suddenly came to a stop. The doors of the truck were slid open violently, and the first we saw of Auschwitz were the glaring searchlights fixed on the train, and outside on the platform, men were running back and forth as though they were crazy to show how hard they were working. At the rear of the platform stood the SS officers. They were trimly built and smartly dressed, and had big dogs at their sides. As I watched, one of them stooped and patted his dog.

(*The Footsteps of Anne Frank*, Ernst Schnabel, 1958)

1. This was written by Mrs de Wiek who went to Auschwitz with Ann Frank. Explain what Auschwitz was. (4)
2. Who was sent to Auschwitz and similar places and why? (4)
3. This was part of the Nazis 'Final Solution'. What was meant by this phrase? (2)
4. If you had been on the train, what would you have felt when the doors opened and you saw the searchlights? (2)
5. Why would the Nazis have wanted this effect? (2)
6. What was the job of the SS? (2)
7. What is strange in the last sentence and why? (2)
8. Do you think Anne Frank deserved to go to Auschwitz? Explain your answer? (2)

TOTAL: 20

WORLD WAR II IN THE PACIFIC

AMERICA IN THE WAR VS JAPAN: PEARL HARBOUR

In the years before World War II, Japan wanted to expand its Empire in order to be a self-reliant superpower. Japan was able to do this because it gained control of the former German colonies in the Pacific after World War I. Japan also gradually pulled away from international agreements and this angered the Western countries.



Japan had relied on vital imports of rice and rubber from countries like Malaysia and China. One of Japan's rivals was America which had become a colonial power in the Philippines. In 1940, the Tripartite Pact was signed between Germany, Italy and Japan. This recognized Japan's right to a New Order in Asia. Now Japan could take positive steps to conquer new territories. The result was that Japan fought the Allies for control over the entire East Asian region in the war in the Pacific from 1941 to 1945.

The Japanese air force attack on Pearl Harbour was a surprise military strike conducted by the Imperial Japanese Navy against the United State naval base at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, on the morning of 7 December 1941. The attack was intended to keep the American Pacific fleet from interfering with military actions which the Empire of Japan was planning in Southeast Asia.

Japan launched 353 Japanese fighter, bombers and torpedo planes from six aircraft carriers. As there had been no declaration of war, America was caught off-guard. Sixteen American warships were damaged or destroyed, 2 402 Americans were killed and 1 282 wounded while Japanese losses were light with only 65 servicemen killed or wounded.

America and Britain immediately declared war on Japan, and soon the USA was at war with Germany and Italy too. The war in Europe had now become a World War!

JAPANESE AMERICANS FORCEFULLY MOVED INTO INTERNMENT CAMPS IN THE USA



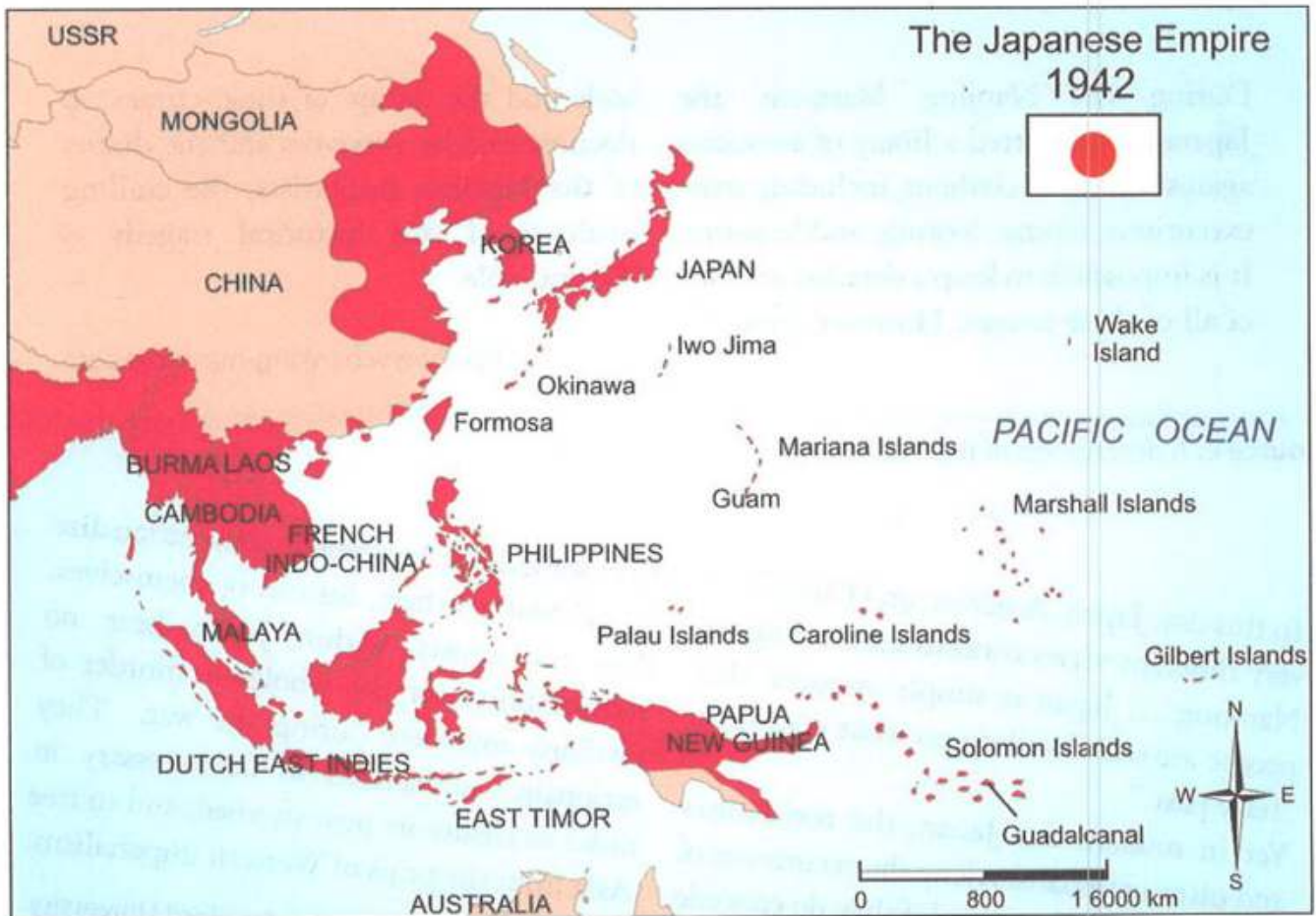
As a result of the attack on Pearl Harbour, the Americans interned Japanese Americans. In February 1942 about 120 000 people of Japanese descent living in America were removed from their homes and sent to 10 different internment camps in case they spied for the Japanese. Life in the camps was hard. They lived in barracks and had to use communal areas for washing, laundry and eating. All of them suffered hardships, particularly the children.

At the end of the war, some remained in America and rebuilt their lives. Others were unforgiving and returned to Japan. In 1983, the USA acknowledged the injustice of interment.

JAPANESE EXPANSION AND ATROCITIES IN CHINA

Japan sought to expand into Asia and fought a brutal war against China from 1931 onwards. This lasted for fifteen year until 1945.

Japan wanted to be economically self-sufficient so looked to occupy other countries to provide raw materials. Japan first occupied Manchuria, then went into China, but this was a much bigger country and many soldiers were needed to keep control to put down resistance. This developed into full-scale war, known as the Sino-Japanese war. Many atrocities were committed by the Japanese, such as in Nanking where 200 000 men were used for bayonet practice, machine gunned or set on fire. Many other people were mutilated or killed, some by decapitation. Japan wanted China to surrender, but this did not happen.



This map shows the extent of the Japanese Empire at its height in 1942



Japanese soldiers decapitated Chinese prisoners. They displayed their heads, smiling proudly as they stood among mutilated corpses.

During the Nanjing Massacre, the Japanese committed a litany of atrocities against innocent civilians, including mass executions, raping, looting, and burning. It is impossible to keep a detailed account of all of these crimes. However, from the

scale and the nature of these crimes, as documented by survivors and the diaries of the Japanese militarists, the chilling evidence of this historical tragedy is indisputable.

<http://www.nanking-massacre.com>

JAPANESE PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMPS FOR ALLIED SOLDIERS

Japan did not treat prisoners-of-war (POWs) in accordance with international agreements, because the Japanese viewed surrender a dishonourable. Prisoners of the Japanese found themselves in camps in Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and other Japanese-occupied countries. Prisoner-of-war camps in Japan housed both captured military personnel and civilians who had been in the East before the outbreak of war.

The Japanese inflicted starvation rations, beatings, murder and forced labour on Allied prisoners, such as forcing them to build the bridge on the river Kwai, part of the notorious Thailand-Burma railway built to carry supplies for the Japanese army. The death rate of western prisoners was seven times more than those taken in Germany or Italy. POWs had no access to the International Red Cross and it was difficult for them to escape as they looked western and could not hide amongst the Asiatic people who looked so different.



Source G: A Japanese soldier in the water, photographed before committing suicide with a grenade he was holding to his head. The Allied soldier on the beach had called on him to surrender.

During my confinement at the Zentsuji prison camp, we did not receive proper food. I received 290 grams of raw rice a day. We received a teacup of soup, which consisted mainly of water, a very small amount of salt, sometimes with radish, and other vegetables. Otherwise we had to use weeds in soup.

During my confinement at Zentsuji, we were housed under very poor

conditions. The rooms were full of bedbugs, and during the night rats were running over everything in the room. In the summer time fleas, mosquitoes and flies were everywhere because the toilet was so close to our room. Hunger, dirt, and cold combined to make us miserable.

It was always 'tomorrow' when you asked for anything, but tomorrow never came. - Major Michael M. Ushakoff

http://www.manseil.com/pow_resources/camplists/osaka/Zentsuji/ushakoff_affidavit.html

Source H: An American major's account of his treatment in Zentsuji Prisoner of War Camp

Activity 8:

Date:

1. In your own words, write down why the Japanese treated their prisoners of war so badly. (5 sentences)