

Holocaust Vocabulary

1. Prejudice against or hatred of Jews, often rooted in their culture, background and/or religion. A person who practices anti-semitism is an anti-semite.
2. The genocide of approximately six million European Jews during WWII. Two thirds of the nine million Jews who resided in Europe prior to WWII were killed through state sponsored extermination by Nazi Germany.

3. The night of broken glass was a series of attacks throughout Austria and Nazi Germany on November 9-10, 1939. Jewish homes, stores, towns and villages were ransacked by Stormtroopers and civilians. Nearly 2,000 Synagogues were ransacked and set on fire. 30,000 Jewish men were taken to concentration camps.
4. Places where political prisoners were confined, usually under harsh conditions. These camps were used to hold Communists, Jews, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Gypsies and the homeless. These SS were responsible for guarding and administering the camps.

5. Abbreviated SS. Was a major organization under Hitler and the Nazi Party. Was under the command of Heinrich Himmler and was responsible for many of the crimes against humanity during WWII. One of the largest and most powerful organizations in the third reich.

6. Convened at the initiative of FDR in 1938 to discuss the growing number of Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi persecution. Representatives from 32 countries attended. Nearly all refused to open its doors to more refugees.

7. SS mobile killing squads that were responsible for mass killings usually by shooting of Jews in particular. Operated throughout territory occupied by German armed forces (Poland, Soviet Union). Were responsible for the deaths of over 1,000,000 people.
8. The largest of the Ghetto's in Nazi occupied Europe. Jews from Warsaw and its suburbs were crowded into an area within the city of Warsaw. Starvation and the spread of disease was rampant. From January thru April of 1943 the inhabitants staged a valiant uprising against the Nazi's.

9. Anti-semitic laws passed in 1935. A series of laws geared towards defining who was a Jew and who was not. Laws deprived Jews of German citizenship and prohibited Jews and Germans from marriage. Permitted legal discrimination of Jews.
10. Was held to inform Nazi leaders of various policies involving the Jews. Addressed the “final solution” to the “Jewish problem”. Jews were to be sent to labor camps where they would be worked to death or killed in death camps. Goal was the complete removal of Jews from German occupied territory.

11. The deliberate and systematic destruction, in whole or in part, of an ethnic, racial, religious, or national group. Became a legal basis for the prosecution of Nazi leaders at the Nuremberg trials. Term was first coined in 1944.

12. A series of military trials held by the main victorious allied forces in WWII. Tried 22 of the most important captured Nazi leaders. 10 of the 22 were hanged, 2 committed suicide, some were acquitted the remainder received prison sentences.

13. Carried over 900 Jewish refugees seeking asylum from the Nazi's. They originally went to Cuba where they were denied entry. The ship was refused entry into the U.S. and Canada and was forced to return to Europe. It is believed that 200-300 of the passengers perished as a result of the Holocaust.

14. Created by FDR in 1944 to aid victims of the Nazi and Axis powers. Credited with rescuing 200,000 Jews from Nazi occupied territories. Criticized for not acting sooner.

15. Built to systematically kill millions by gassing, mostly Jews. The most infamous of these camps were built in Nazi occupied Poland. Examples: Sobibor, Auschwitz, Majdanek, Treblinka