

“The Holocaust: A Learning Site for Students”

<http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/>

Comprehension Prompts: Respond to each prompt after reading the individual Web page. Please, do not hunt and peck for the answers, instead, read the whole page with the question in mind. Be certain to use specific details from the readings to support your responses. After you are finished thoroughly responding to these prompts, continue exploring the myriad resources on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum’s website.

Jews in Prewar Germany

“Antisemitism”

1. Define antisemitism and give three social and/or historical explanations for its existence in Europe and Eastern Europe. Focus on the results of Roman expulsion from the Jewish homeland, restricted opportunities for work and differences in basic religious beliefs.

“Jewish Life in Europe Before the Holocaust”

2. Explain the significant differences between the way Jewish people lived in Eastern Europe and the way they lived in Western Europe prior to World War II.

Nazi Rule

“Hitler Comes to Power”

3. Specifically identify three historic events or conditions that allowed Adolf Hitler’s National Socialist German Workers’ Party (Nazi) to rise to power, and then explain how Hitler used Germany’s unfortunate recent history to his political advantage.

“The Nazi Terror Begins”

4. Identify the varied methods Adolf Hitler used to secure the power of his Nazi party and explain why these methods were so effective.

“The SS Police State”

5. Describe the SS and explain three ways they were used by the Nazi leadership to take complete control of the German public and their government.

“Nazi Propaganda and Censorship”

6. Explain what the Nazis did to keep ideas that contradicted their ideology from reaching the citizens of Germany.
7. Explain three things Hitler and the Nazi leadership did to guarantee future generations of Nazi followers.

“Nazi Racism”

8. Explain the basis for Nazi racism and identify who became victims of this hateful way of thinking.

“World War II in Europe”

9. Identify and explain in detail the signature Nazi war strategy for taking over most of the European continent, and list the nations that fell victim to this brutal and effective strategy.

“The Murder of the Handicapped”

10. Identify the German citizens who did not represent the ideals of the “master race,” and then explain specifically what the Nazis did to these citizens of Germany.

“German Rule in Occupied Europe”

11. Identify the manner in which the Nazis treated the Slavic people of Poland, and contrast it with the way the people of the Netherlands (Holland) were treated. Explain the reason for this varied treatment of those under Nazi-occupied rule.