

Possible Holocaust Topics for Further Investigation

- Jewish life in Europe prior to the Holocaust years
- The long history of traditional Christian antisemitism
- Germany losing World War I and the burden and effect of the Versailles Treaty in Germany
- The outrageous inflation in the 1920's, the Depression in the 1930's, and the effects of both regarding the rise of the Nazi party
- The rise of the Nazi party during the Weimar Republic
- The Nazi takeover of Germany
- The bureaucratic (devoted to the details of administrative procedure) nature of Nazi policies, including the "legalization" of "exclusionary" (The act or practice of excluding.) policies
- The initial (and ongoing) legislation depriving Jews of their legal rights
- The role of propaganda in the Nazis' effort to demonize (To represent as evil), ostracize (To exclude from a group), and isolate Jews and others
- The use of terror by the Nazis to instill fear and dread
- The concept of "racial hygiene"
- The Nuremberg Laws
- The Anschluss (A political union, especially the one unifying Nazi Germany and Austria in 1938.) The signing of the Munich agreement (Agreement concluded at Munich, September 29, 1938, between Germany, Great Britain, France and Italy)
- Kristallnacht
- The annexation of the Sudetenland (A historical region of northern Czech Republic along the Polish border. Long inhabited by ethnic Germans, it was seized by the Nazis in September 1938 and was restored to Czechoslovakia in 1945, after which the German population was expelled.) by Germany and the establishment of the Czechoslovak Republic
- The invasion of Poland by Germany and the beginning World War II
- Key groups involved (Germans and non-Germans)- perpetrators, collaborators, bystanders, victims, and rescuers
- The "euthanasia" of the mentally and physically handicapped
- Operation Barbarossa (World War II was the largest war ever fought and *Operation Barbarossa*, the codename for the invasion of the Soviet Union, launched the most terrible and bloody theatre in that war. Hitler expected the war for "Lebensraum in the east" (or living space) to establish Germany as a great world power.)
- The mass killings by the Einsatzgruppen
- The unique role of women in the Holocaust
- The Wannsee Conference, in which the "Final Solution" was discussed
- The establishment of the death camps
- Various victim groups- while the Jews were the primary target group, the Gypsies were also targeted for total annihilation.
- Death and life in the concentration and death camps
- Rescue
- The world's response to the Holocaust
- Liberation of the camps
- The Nuremberg Trials