



# The Holocaust

**A**dolf Hitler and the Nazis claimed that German people were a “master race.” They said that all other races, especially Jews, were inferior. This racist idea led to the Holocaust, the worst mass killing in history. Because of their religion and ethnicity, millions of Jews were murdered.

For centuries, Europeans had blamed the Jews when things went wrong. For example, in the Middle Ages, many people thought Jews caused the black plague by poisoning town wells. In the 1930s, the Nazis blamed Jews because Germany lost World War I. When the Nazis took control of Germany, they made new laws for Jews. In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws took away Jews’ rights, including the right to German citizenship.



In 1938, a Jewish man shot a German diplomat in Paris, France. The Jewish man was angry because his parents had been forced to leave Germany. The Nazis used the shooting as an excuse to attack Jews in Germany. On November 9 and 10, 1938, Nazis burned synagogues and smashed the windows of Jewish businesses. The night became known as *Kristallnacht*, or “Night of Broken Glass.” It got this name because glass covered the streets after the attack.

Hitler told the Jews to leave Germany, so thousands moved to places like France, Latin America, and the United States. When Hitler realized he could not get rid of all the Jews this way, he made a new plan. Jews in all the countries under his control were moved to cities in Poland, like Warsaw. In these cities, Jews were forced to live in ghettos, or areas set aside for Jews. Jews had to wear a yellow star on their clothing so that Nazis could tell they were Jewish. The Nazis sealed the ghettos with walls and barbed wire. They hoped the people inside would starve to death or get sick and die.

Later, Hitler came up with a plan called the Final Solution. As Nazis took control of areas in Europe, Hitler sent soldiers to find and kill Jews. The soldiers shot men, women, and children and buried them in mass graves. Other Jews were forced to live and work in concentration camps. Later, camps were built for the sole purpose of killing large numbers of people. When prisoners arrived, guards set aside the strongest people to be workers. The rest were poisoned with cyanide gas.

When Allied troops liberated camps near the end of World War II, they were shocked by the horrors they found. Six million Jews died during the Holocaust. Two out of every three European Jews were killed. Today, the Holocaust is a reminder of the terrible things that can happen because of intolerance.



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## Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. The Nazis claimed that \_\_\_\_\_ were a “master race.”

- A. Nazis
- B. Germans
- C. Jews
- D. Europeans

2. Nazis used \_\_\_\_\_ as an excuse to attack Jews in Germany.

- A. the shooting of a German diplomat in Paris
- B. World War I
- C. the black plague
- D. Nuremberg Laws

3. Jews left Germany and moved to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. France
- B. Latin America
- C. the United States
- D. all of the above

4. Six \_\_\_\_\_ Jews died during the Holocaust.

- A. hundred
- B. thousand
- C. million
- D. billion

5. Jews were forced to move to \_\_\_\_\_.

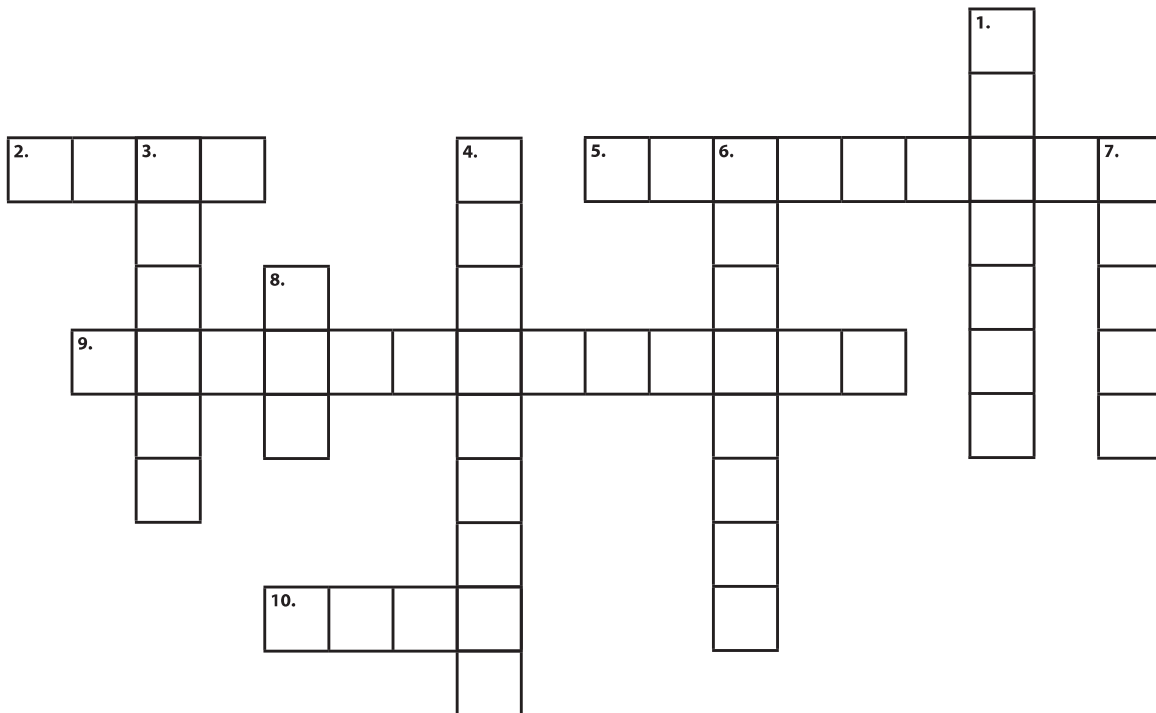
- A. other countries
- B. ghettos
- C. concentration camps
- D. all of the above



# The Holocaust

## Crossword Puzzle

Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.



### ACROSS

2. Jews had to wear a yellow \_\_\_\_\_ on their clothing so that Nazis could tell they were Jewish.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ Laws took away Jews' right to German citizenship.
9. As part of Hitler's \_\_\_\_\_, Jews were shot and buried in mass graves.
10. Many \_\_\_\_\_ were forced to live and work in concentration camps.

### DOWN

1. The Nazis hoped people inside the \_\_\_\_\_ would starve to death or get sick and die.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ troops liberated the camps at the end of World War II.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ was the worst mass killing in history.
6. Millions of Jews were murdered because of their \_\_\_\_\_ and ethnicity.
7. *Kristallnacht* got its name because \_\_\_\_\_ covered the streets after the attack.
8. At death camps, those who were not strong enough to work were poisoned with cyanide \_\_\_\_\_.



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## Chart – Estimated Number of Jews Killed Under Nazi Rule

Use the chart to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.

Country	Population Before World War II	Jews Killed	Percentage Surviving
Poland	3,300,000	3,000,000	9%
Soviet Union	2,850,000	1,252,000	56%
Hungary	650,000	450,000	31%
Romania	600,000	300,000	50%
Germany/Austria	240,000	200,000	17%

1. In which country were the most Jews killed?

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2. How many Jews lived in Germany and Austria before World War II?

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3. What percentage of Jews survived in Poland?

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## Quiz: The Holocaust

### True/False

Decide if each statement is true or false, and write "true" or "false" in the blank.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Six million Jews died during in the Holocaust.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The Nazis claimed that Europeans were a "master race."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Jews had to wear a yellow diamond on their clothing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Many Jews left France and moved to Germany.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The shooting of a German diplomat was the excuse Nazis used to attack Jews in Germany.

### Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

6. The \_\_\_\_\_ took away Jews' right to German citizenship.

A. *Kristallnacht*  
B. Final Solution  
C. Nuremberg Laws  
D. ghettos

7. The Nazis hoped people inside the ghettos would \_\_\_\_\_.

A. die  
B. escape  
C. vote  
D. work

### Short Answer

Answer the following question in complete sentences.

8. Why did the Nazis murder millions of Jews?

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