

## Module 8: World War II - 1939 to 1945

### Topic 6 Content: The Holocaust Notes

#### Introduction



The Holocaust was responsible for the deaths of an estimated six million Jews. More than seventy concentration and extermination camps existed in the Nazi-controlled territory. The prisoners in these camps were starved, forced to work, and euthanized. The Holocaust is the worst example of genocide in the history of the world. In this interactivity, learn about the Holocaust. Please note that this interactivity includes graphic pictures of the Holocaust. Click the arrow to begin.

## Module 8: World War II - 1939 to 1945

### Topic 6 Content: The Holocaust Notes

#### Anti-Semitism



Nazi Germany passed anti-Jewish laws and supported anti-Jewish behavior in an effort to remove the group from German society. These policies eventually evolved into a plan to concentrate and kill European Jews. The signs the men are holding say, "Germans, defend yourselves against the Jewish atrocity propaganda, buy only at German shops!"

## Module 8: World War II - 1939 to 1945

### Topic 6 Content: The Holocaust Notes

#### Ghettos



Nazi Germans took initial steps toward the Holocaust by creating ghettos. A ghetto was an enclosed city district where Jewish people and other “undesirables” were forced to live, separated from others in the city.

## Module 8: World War II - 1939 to 1945

### Topic 6 Content: The Holocaust Notes

#### Final Solution



The Wannsee House in Berlin, Germany is where the Nazi leaders met and finalized the plan to kill millions of Jewish people.

In January 1942, at the direction of Adolf Hitler, a group of top Nazi officials gathered at a conference called the Wannsee Conference, to plan a large scale extermination, or murder, of the Jewish people in Europe. They called this plan the Final Solution.

## Module 8: World War II - 1939 to 1945

### Topic 6 Content: The Holocaust Notes

#### Transportation



Cattle cars were filled with Jews and transported to concentration camps. Many died during the cramped train rides, and were simply removed from the trains and left.

Jewish people and others were transported from Ghettos to concentration camps or extermination camps in over-cramped box cars attached to trains.

## Module 8: World War II - 1939 to 1945

### Topic 6 Content: The Holocaust Notes

#### Concentration Camps



Concentration camps housed Jews and “undesirables” who were healthy enough to work. Prisoners here were starved and suffered through horrible conditions.

Concentration camps existed throughout the Nazi-controlled territories. The camps were set up with a purpose. Some housed POWs, while others were meant for forced labor. The conditions at these camps were horrible and cruel. The work camps had extremely high death rates.

## Module 8: World War II - 1939 to 1945

### Topic 6 Content: The Holocaust Notes

#### Extermination Camps



The Auschwitz concentration camp was the largest in the Nazi regime. An estimated 1.1 million people were killed at this extermination camp.

Six different extermination camps existed in Nazi-controlled territory. The sole purpose of these camps was to euthanize large groups of people (mostly Jewish) in several different ways. Most were sent to gas chambers.

## Module 8: World War II - 1939 to 1945

### Topic 6 Content: The Holocaust Notes

#### Crematorium



The Nazis cremated most of the bodies after the Jews and others were euthanized. The extermination camps housed large crematoriums with many furnaces.



## Module 8: World War II - 1939 to 1945

### Topic 6 Content: The Holocaust Notes

#### Mass Graves



While three million Jewish people were killed in the extermination camps, many died while in the concentration camps. The deceased in concentration camps were buried in mass graves.