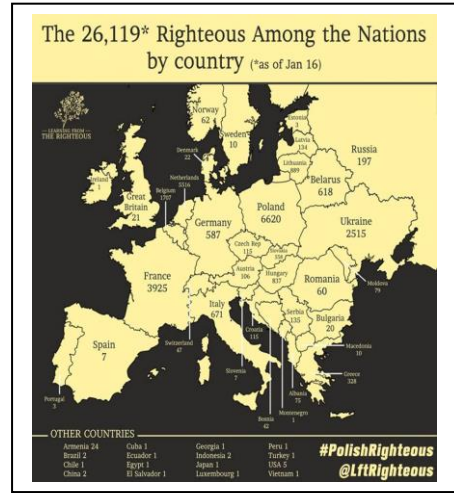
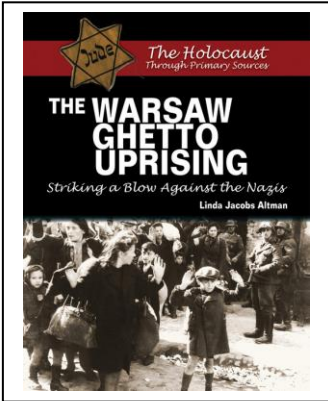
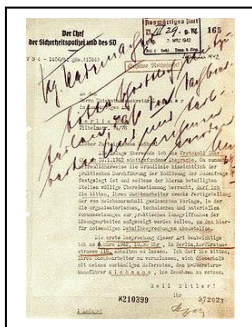


Aim #8: Why is it important to learn about the Holocaust?



Mini Lecture

- The early WWII victories of the German army allowed Hitler to establish a “**New Order**” in Europe. He planned to colonize Eastern Europe with Germans. He believed that the German “**master race**” deserved to be given farms, factories, and businesses. The original owners- Czechs, Poles, Russians, & other “inferiors”- were to work as slave laborers to produce goods & food for Germany.
- Millions of Europeans of all nationalities & cultural groups met such a fate. Most were transported to factories inside the dreaded concentration camps. Besides Jews & Slavs, Hitler wanted to eliminate the Romani people (Gypsies), gays, Communists, & the disabled.
- Hitler had especially marked the Jews of Europe for destruction. It began with the **Nuremberg Laws** of 1935 (stripped Jews of citizenship), followed by **Kristallnacht** in 1938. Once the war began mass deportation of Jews into ghettos and concentration camps began.
- Hitler justified and brainwashed Germans to go along with skillful propaganda, which **dehumanized** Jews as rats. Hitler’s **ethnic cleansing** to create a racially pure race was driven by a racial struggle in which the superior races must battle inferior races or be corrupted by them.
- Many Jews then fled to other parts of Europe to escape the misery of life in the Third Reich. Some also went to Britain and North & south America.
- Many more would have left but could not find anywhere to go. Most countries, including the U.S., limited the number of Jews they would take in. Families did try to send their children to safe places, with varying degrees of success.
- As the Nazis overran Europe, the Jews who had move to other European countries once again found themselves at Hitler’s mercy. The Nazis referred to the continuing presence of Jewish people in Europe as “the **Jewish problem**.”
- In 1942, Nazi leaders officially decided to murder all of the Jews of Europe. At the **Wannsee Conference** in January of that year, they worked out their plans for carrying out this “**final solution**”.
- In every country the Nazis conquered, they rounded up Jews and sent them to death camps. In Poland and the Soviet Union in particular, special killing squads rounded up and murdered more than a million people in mass shootings of Jews, Communist officials, religious leaders, & any opposition.
- People resisted, most notably the Jews in Warsaw (**Warsaw Uprising**), but the Nazi power was too great.
- One of the largest and most infamous death camps was **Auschwitz** in Poland. In this place alone, some 3 million Jews were murdered.
- In all, the Nazis killed at least 6 million Jews and an equal number of Poles, Russians, Romani, gays, disabled people, and others.
- The Holocaust is the systematic extermination of European Jewry by the Nazis.
- It is considered one of history’s worst human rights violation and a **genocide**- the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group.

Review Questions:

1. What steps did the Nazis take that led to the Holocaust?
2. Explain the importance of the Wannsee Conference?

Enduring Issue: Genocide- Human Rights Violation

The Holocaust

What was the Holocaust?

Directions: Read the text below and the rest of the article from the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's "Introduction to the Holocaust"](#), answer the questions below.

The **Holocaust** was **the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jewish people by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.** *Holocaust* is a word of Greek origin meaning "sacrifice by fire." The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in January 1933, believed that Germans were "racially superior" and that the Jews, deemed "inferior," were an alien threat to the so-called German racial community.

1. Based on the article, what was the Holocaust?
2. What other groups were targeted during the Holocaust? Why did the German target the Jewish people and these groups?
3. What methods did the Nazis use to separate Jewish people and other targeted groups from the rest of the population?
4. What methods did the Nazis use to separate Jewish people and other targeted groups from the rest of the population?
5. What ended the Holocaust?

What happened during the Holocaust?

Directions: Watch the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's video The Path to Nazi Genocide](#) (16:09-end) and answer the questions below.

1. What were the goals of the Nuremberg Laws?
2. According to Nazism, what was the "driving force in history?"
3. Based on the video, which groups were identified as "racially inferior" and "unworthy of life" by the Nazis?
4. How did life in Germany change for Jewish people after 1933?
5. Give three examples of actions taken by the Nazis from 1933 to 1939 that were anti-Semitic.
6. What was the goal of Nazi propaganda that targeted Jews?
7. What was Kristallnacht ("the night of broken glass")?
8. What actions taken by the Nazis prevented Jewish people from leaving Germany?
9. After declaring war on Russia and invading Eastern Europe, the Germans segregated Jewish people into ghettos. In this context, what were ghettos?
In the video, the narrator reads the following statement from Heinrich Himmler, the Chief of the SS, a military group responsible for surveillance and terror in German occupied territory:
"This invasion is an ideological battle and a struggle of races. Here in this struggle stands National Socialism [Nazism]—an ideology based on the value of our Germanic, Nordic blood... On the other side stands a population of 180 million, a mixture of races whose very names are unpronounceable, and whose physique is such that one can shoot them down without pity and compassion..."
10. Based on this quote, what were Nazis taught about other races? How do you think this affected the way that they interacted with people that were different than them?
11. What was the job of the mobile killing squads in Eastern Europe?
12. Why were Jewish people in areas of Europe occupied by German "resettled" to Eastern Europe?
13. Describe what happened when Jewish people arrived at a concentration camp?
14. What was the purposes of "killing centers"?
15. How did people outside of Germany react to reports from allied forces who liberated the camps?

Who was responsible for the Holocaust?

Directions: Read the poem below, then answer the questions that follow.

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.
Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.*

Poem by [Martin Niemöller](#) (1892–1984), a prominent Protestant pastor who emerged as an outspoken public foe of Adolf Hitler and spent the last seven years of Nazi rule in concentration camps.

1. Which historical event is referenced in the poem above? Why do you think that?
2. Who do you think they are in the poem above? Why do you think that?
3. According to the author this poem, who is responsible for the historical event that is referenced?