

WHAT IS THE HOLOCAUST?

Episode 4 • Vocabulary Worksheet • Noa Tishby Video Series

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

Directions: Study each vocabulary word below. For each term, complete the 'Use It' section by writing your own original sentence. Pay attention to the part of speech. These words will appear on your exit ticket and future assessments.

Genocide (*JEN-oh-side*)

noun

Definition: The deliberate and systematic killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular ethnic, national, or religious group.

Etymology: Greek *genos* (race/tribe) + Latin *cide* (killing)

Example sentence: *The Holocaust was the most well-documented genocide in history, resulting in the murder of six million Jews.*

Use It: Write your own sentence using *Genocide*:

Sentence starter: "The word 'genocide' was created to describe the Holocaust because..."

Antisemitism (*an-tee-SEM-ih-tiz-um*)

noun

Definition: Hostility, prejudice, or discrimination directed against Jewish people.

Etymology: *Anti-* (against) + *Semitic* (relating to a group of Middle Eastern peoples, used to refer to Jews)

Example sentence: *For centuries, Jews were scapegoated and attacked — antisemitism was not invented by the Nazis, but they weaponized it.*

Use It: Write your own sentence using *Antisemitism*:

Sentence starter: "Antisemitism is dangerous because..."

Aryan Supremacy (*AIR-ee-an soo-PREM-ah-see*)

noun phrase

Definition: The Nazi ideology that people of so-called 'Aryan' (white Northern European) heritage were racially superior to all other groups.

Etymology: *Aryan* (from Sanskrit *■rya*, meaning noble) — misused and distorted by Nazi ideology

Example sentence: *Hitler built his platform on Aryan supremacy — claiming white-skinned, blonde-haired, blue-eyed people were a master race.*

Use It: Write your own sentence using *Aryan Supremacy*:

Sentence starter: "The Nazis used the idea of Aryan supremacy to justify..."

Nuremberg Laws (*NUR-em-berg*)

proper noun

Definition: Antisemitic laws passed in Nazi Germany in 1935 that stripped Jews of citizenship, banned them from public life, and criminalized marriage between Jews and non-Jews.

Etymology: *Named after Nuremberg, Germany, where the Nazi rallies and legal announcements took place.*

Example sentence: *The Nuremberg Laws of 1935 turned Jewish residents of Germany into legal non-persons overnight.*

Use It: Write your own sentence using *Nuremberg Laws*:

Sentence starter: "The Nuremberg Laws were significant because they..."

Propaganda (*prop-uh-GAN-duh*)

noun

Definition: Information, often biased or misleading, that is spread systematically to promote a particular cause or point of view and manipulate public opinion.

Etymology: *Latin propagare — to spread or extend*

Example sentence: *The Nazis used propaganda to spread vile stereotypes, conditioning the German public to see Jews not as neighbors but as enemies.*

Use It: Write your own sentence using *Propaganda*:

Sentence starter: "Nazi propaganda was effective because..."

Ghetto (*GET-oh*)

noun

Definition: A part of a city, especially a slum area, occupied by a minority group or groups. In the Holocaust context, walled-off city sections where Nazis forcibly confined Jewish communities in overcrowded, disease-ridden conditions.

Etymology: *Possibly from Venetian gheto (foundry) — the area of Venice where Jews were confined in 1516*

Example sentence: *Jews were rounded up and forced into ghettos — later used as staging areas for deportation to death camps.*

Use It: Write your own sentence using *Ghetto*:

Sentence starter: "The purpose of the ghettos was to..."

Final Solution

proper noun / euphemism

Definition: The Nazi plan to systematically exterminate all Jewish people in Europe. The term was a deliberate euphemism — a softer-sounding phrase used to disguise mass murder.

Etymology: *A Nazi bureaucratic term designed to disguise the reality of genocide.*

Example sentence: *The ghettos became staging areas for the Final Solution — the Nazis' plan to exterminate the Jewish people.*

Use It: Write your own sentence using *Final Solution*:

Sentence starter: *"The Nazis used the term 'Final Solution' as a euphemism because..."*

Zionism (*ZY-oh-niz-um*)

noun

Definition: The political movement that advocated for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in the Land of Israel, allowing Jews to govern themselves and live in safety.

Etymology: *From Zion — a biblical name for Jerusalem and the Land of Israel*

Example sentence: *The Holocaust reinforced the case for Zionism and made it crystal clear that the reestablishment of a Jewish state was an urgent necessity.*

Use It: Write your own sentence using *Zionism*:

Sentence starter: *"The Holocaust made Zionism feel urgent because..."*

Displaced Persons (DP) Camps

noun phrase

Definition: Temporary facilities set up after World War II to shelter people who had been forced from their homes, including hundreds of thousands of Holocaust survivors.

Etymology: *Displaced = forced out of one's home; these camps were operated by Allied forces and the United Nations after 1945.*

Example sentence: *With nowhere to return, many survivors sought refuge in displaced persons camps scattered across Europe.*

Use It: Write your own sentence using *Displaced Persons*:

Sentence starter: *"Holocaust survivors ended up in DP camps because..."*

Scapegoat (*SKAPE-goat*)

noun / verb

Definition: A person or group blamed for the mistakes or problems of others, especially as a means of shifting responsibility.

Etymology: *From the Hebrew Bible ritual of a goat sent into the wilderness carrying the sins of the people.*

Example sentence: *For centuries, Jews had been scapegoated, blamed for plagues, economic problems, and even the weather.*

Use It: Write your own sentence using *Scapegoat*.

Sentence starter: *"Throughout history, Jews have been scapegoated by..."*

BONUS: MATCH THE TERM

Draw a line to match each term with its correct description:

1. Genocide	A. Walled-off city area where Jews were forced to live
2. Ghetto	B. Nazi plan to exterminate the Jewish people
3. Nuremberg Laws	C. 1935 laws that stripped Jews of citizenship
4. Final Solution	D. Movement to establish a Jewish homeland in Israel
5. Zionism	E. The deliberate killing of a people