

# WHAT IS THE HOLOCAUST?

Episode 4 • Vocabulary Worksheet • Noa Tishby Video Series • Grades 6–8

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

*Directions: Study each vocabulary word below. Read the definition, example sentence, and connection note. Then complete the 'Write It' section in your own words. These words will appear on your exit ticket and future tests.*

## Genocide (*JEN-oh-side*)

*noun*

**Definition:** The deliberate and systematic killing of a large group of people because of who they are — their race, religion, ethnicity, or nationality.

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

**Example:** *The Holocaust was a genocide because the Nazis deliberately planned and carried out the murder of the Jewish people.*

■ **Connection:** *The word genocide was created after World War II because no word existed for what the Nazis had done.*

—■ **Write It:** In my own words, genocide is when...

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

*noun*

**Definition:** Hatred, discrimination, or prejudice directed toward Jewish people.

**Word roots:** *Anti-* (against) + *Semitic* (relating to Jewish people and other Middle Eastern peoples)

**Example:** *Antisemitism in Europe was centuries old — the Nazis didn't invent it, but they used it as a weapon.*

■ **Connection:** *Antisemitism is one example of a broader pattern: targeting a group of people with blame and hatred.*

—■ **Write It:** I can identify antisemitism when...

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Nuremberg Laws (*NUR-em-berg*)

*proper noun*

**Definition:** Laws passed in Nazi Germany in 1935 that stripped Jewish people of their citizenship, banned them from public life, and made marriage between Jews and non-Jews illegal.

**Word roots:** Named after Nuremberg, Germany, where Nazi rallies were held and the laws were announced.

**Example:** The Nuremberg Laws turned Jewish Germans into legal non-persons — they were no longer citizens of their own country.

■ **Connection:** The Nuremberg Laws show how discrimination can become law — and why laws that target a group are so dangerous.

—■ **Write It:** The Nuremberg Laws were harmful because they...

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

noun

**Definition:** Information — often false or exaggerated — that is spread widely to shape what people believe and how they feel about a group, cause, or idea.

**Word roots:** Latin *propagare* — to spread or extend

**Example:** Nazi propaganda used posters, films, and newspapers to make ordinary Germans see Jews as dangerous enemies.

■ **Connection:** Propaganda is still used today — in advertising, politics, and social media. Learning to spot it is a critical skill.

—■ **Write It:** I can tell something might be propaganda if...

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## Ghetto (*GET-oh*)

noun

**Definition:** A section of a city where a minority group is forced to live, often with poor conditions, overcrowding, and little food. In the Holocaust, ghettos were walled-off areas where Nazis confined Jewish communities before deporting them to death camps.

**Word roots:** Possibly from the Venetian ghetto — the area of Venice where Jews were forced to live in 1516.

**Example:** Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto lived in extreme overcrowding, with little food — conditions designed to weaken and kill them.

■ **Connection:** The ghettos were not the end of Nazi persecution — they were a step toward something even worse.

—■ **Write It:** Life in the ghettos was difficult because...

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## Final Solution

proper noun / euphemism

**Definition:** The Nazi plan to systematically murder all Jewish people in Europe. This was a deliberate code phrase — a 'nice-sounding' term for mass murder.

**Word roots:** A Nazi bureaucratic term. A **euphemism** is a mild or indirect word used to replace something shocking or unpleasant.

**Example:** The Nazis called their plan the *Final Solution* to hide its real meaning — the extermination of the Jewish people.

■ **Connection:** Pay attention when powerful people use vague, sanitized language — sometimes the words are designed to hide the truth.

—■ **Write It:** The Nazis used the term 'Final Solution' as a euphemism because...

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

noun

**Definition:** A political and national movement that advocated for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in the Land of Israel, where Jewish people could live safely and govern themselves.

**Word roots:** From *Zion* — a biblical Hebrew name for Jerusalem and the Land of Israel.

**Example:** After the Holocaust, Zionism became urgent for survivors who had no home to return to and needed a safe place to rebuild their lives.

■ **Connection:** In the video, Noa Tishby calls Zionism 'a progressive movement' — it was about a persecuted people claiming the right to self-determination.

—■ **Write It:** Zionism became more urgent after the Holocaust because...

## Scapegoat (SKAPE-goat)

noun / verb

**Definition:** A person or group unfairly blamed for problems that are not their fault, often as a way to distract from real causes or to unite people against a common 'enemy.'

**Word roots:** From the ancient Hebrew Bible: a goat sent into the wilderness symbolically carrying the sins of the people.

**Example:** For centuries, Jews were scapegoated in Europe — blamed for plagues, economic problems, and even bad weather.

■ **Connection:** Scapegoating is a warning sign: when a leader blames one group for everything that goes wrong, history shows where that can lead.

—■ **Write It:** Scapegoating is dangerous because...

## BONUS: MATCH EACH TERM TO ITS MEANING

Draw a line to connect each word on the left to the correct meaning on the right.

1. Genocide	A. A walled-off section of a city where Jews were forced to live
2. Ghetto	B. A movement to establish a Jewish homeland in Israel
3. Propaganda	C. A person or group unfairly blamed for other people's problems

4. Scapegoat	D. The deliberate killing of a people because of who they are
5. Zionism	E. Biased information spread to control what people believe