**World History**

**Measurement Topic 4: The Causes and Effects of WW2**

**Learning Target #4:** The Final Solution and the Holocaust

**Directions:**

1st- Number the paragraphs

2nd - Independently read the passage, and circle words you don’t know. Predict the meaning of the words.

3rd- Read the passage a second time with a partner, highlight information and write side notes.

4th- Answer the questions on the back in complete sentences.

**Nazi Ideology**

The Nazi party believed that people were racially unequal. In their ideology Germanic people, who they called Aryans, were the “**master race**”, while other races were considered inferior especially Jews. Jews are a group of people who believe in **Judaism (religion),** and can trace their heritage to the Hebrews from before the birth of Christianity. The Nazis believed that other races threatened the “purity” of the Aryan race; they wanted to increase the Aryan race and limit other races.

Nazis’ beliefs about **racial purity** had several consequences. For example, they used it to justify their drive making room/area for their own population (Aryan) to grow, by invading the eastern European lands of Slavic people (Czechoslovakia, and Poland) who were seen as lesser people. But the most violent Nazi ideology was aimed at the Jews.

**Persecution of the Jews (racial purity)**

Soon after Hitler took power in 1933, Jewish **persecution (harassment**) began. These feelings are known as **anti-Semitism** (hatred/persecution of Jews). Under Hitler, Jews were:

* Forced to follow the Nuremberg Laws(1935)
  + Stripped of their citizenship, only allowed them to marry their own “kind” , forced to wear the star of David to show they were a Jew
* Terrorized by attacks on their homes, churches and businesses, example Kristallnacht –Night of broken glass (1938)
* Deprived of property and forced to live in Ghettos, crowed, isolated areas of city blocked off for Jews to live
  + Many died of diseases and starvation (1940)

**The final solution**

After World War II broke out in 1939, Jewish persecution spread. In Eastern Europe, the Nazis began to send our killing squads. They also built brutal slave-labor camps. This type of persecution (harassment) is known as **genocide** (an effort to kill an entire group of people). The Nazis built death camps that served as centers for the mass murder of Jews. Hitler called this his “final solution” for the Jewish people.

**The Holocaust**

The persecution and mass murder of European Jews during World War II has become known as the Holocaust. The word Holocaust means total destruction. The Nazis killed millions of Jews and non-Jews, including many Polish, Romani (Gypsies) and Russians. More than half of European Jews perished in the Holocaust.

**Directions: Read the hand out and use it and your power point notes to answer the following questions.**

1. What was the idea of racial purification and how was racial purification accomplished?
2. What was the final solution and how was the final solution accomplished?
3. What happened at the death camps?
4. What were the results of the Holocaust/final solution?
5. What is genocide?
6. What change did the Nuremberg laws make on the lives of Jews in Germany?
7. What other groups were targeted by the Nazis?

**Directions: The following questions are based on the accompanying documents/graphs/maps/quotes. As you read and analyze (think about) each document/graph/map/quote be sure to:**

1nd - Independently read the chart, passage, and/or map

2nd- Circle words you don’t know. Predict or find the meaning of the words.

3rd- Read the chart, passage and/or map a second time with a partner, highlight information and write side notes.

4th- Answer the questions in complete sentences.

**Document 1**

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| If my memory serves me right about thirty to forty women were gassed in one gas chamber. The Jewish women were forced to undress in an open place close to the gas chamber and were driven into the gas chamber by the above mentioned SS members and the Ukrainian auxiliaries. When the women were shut up in the gas chamber I and Bolender set the motor in motion. The motor functioned first in neutral. Both of us stood by the motor and switched from "Neutral" (Freiauspuff) to "Cell" (Zelle) so that the gas was conveyed to the chamber. At the suggestion of the chemist  I fixed the motor on a definite speed so that it was unnecessary henceforth to press on the gas. About ten minutes later the thirty to forty women were dead.  - From the testimony of SS- Wilhelm Bahr in his trial at Hamburg. Quoted in "Truth Prevails" 4) |

1. Based on the testimony of this SS officer, what happened to the women prisoners of this Concentration camp?

**Document 2: A Gestapo Officer’s Justification**

Maximilian Grabner was the head of the Gestapo, or secret police, at the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. After the war’s end, he tried to explain his actions.

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| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif |
| |  | | --- | | To kill three million people is in my view the greatest crime of all. I only took part in this crime because there was nothing I could do to change anything. The blame for this crime lay with National Socialism [the Nazi Party]. I myself was never a National Socialist. Nevertheless, I still had to join the Party.  … I only took part in the murder of some three million people out of consideration for my family. | |

1. Explain how does Grabner try to justify his actions?
2. Analyze what does Grabner mean by saying he took part in the murder “out of consideration for my family”?

**Document 3: A German Witness**

Herman Graebe was a German engineer working in the Ukraine. On October 5, 1942, he accidentally discovered a Nazi mobile killing unit executing Ukrainian Jews. He later described what he saw.

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| I heard rifle shots in quick succession from behind one of the earth mounds … I walked around the mound and found myself confronted by a tremendous grave. People were closely wedged together and lying on top of each other so that only their heads were visible. Nearly all had blood running over their shoulders from their heads. Some of the people shot were still moving. Some were lifting their arms and turning their heads to show that they were still alive. The pit was nearly two thirds full. I estimated that it already contained about a thousand people. I looked for the man who did the shooting. He was an SS [Nazi military police] man, who sat at the edge of the narrow end of the pit, his feet dangling into the pit. He had a tommy-gun on his knees and was smoking a cigarette. |

1. Recall How many bodies does Graebe say were in the mass grave?
2. Infer What was the executioner’s attitude toward the mass murder? How can you tell?

**Document 4: Nazi Jewish Laws**

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| **PROCLAMATION Regarding**: *Aiding/keeping hidden Jews*  Be warned that in regard to Decree 3 regarding physical restrictions within the General Government of 1 5 October 1941…Jews leaving the Jewish zone without permission are subject to the penalty of death. According to this decree individuals who knowingly provide shelter to such Jews, deliver food to them, or sell them food products, are likewise subject to the penalty of death. The local non-Jewish population is hereby warned against:  1) providing Jews with shelter;  2) delivering them food;  3) selling them food products.  The City Chief Dr. Franke Czestochowa (Poland) 24.9.42 |

1. What acts were made illegal by this proclamation?
2. What was the punishment for breaking the law described in the proclamation?

**Doument 5: Testimony of Iosif Georgievich, who was saved by the Patuta family**

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| My mother learned about the Nazi order for Jews to gather in a particular place and sent me with a kettle (as if for water) to her friends the Ukrainian family Patuta. She put a little note in the kettle and the Patuta family kept me with them. My mother went to Babi Yar. Later I learned that the Paputa family tried to rescue my mother and transport her to their daughter’s village and then to partisans. But for some reason they were not successful. The punishment for rescuing a Jew was execution. In spite of this fact these brave and noble people accepted me into their family. Five people  including a newborn infant (the night before the daughter Praskovia had given birth to a son) risked their lives to save mine. I won’t describe all the difficulty danger and tragedy of living under occupation. The remarkable thing was the Patuta family shared all the hardships of this life with me. I became their son and grandson. Everything that belonged to them belonged to me. For the rest of my life I have been related to them their children and grandchildren. |

1. What risks did the non-Jews take by harboring Jews?

**Document 6: Nazi Message**

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| Message from SS-Grupenführer Heydrich to all State Police Main Offices and Field Offices, November 10 1938  Regards: Measures against Jews   1. Only such measures may be taken which do not jeopardize German life or property (for instance, burning of synagogues only if there is no danger of fires for the neighborhoods). 2. Business establishments and homes of Jews may be destroyed but not looted. The police have been instructed to supervise the execution of these directives and to arrest looters. 3. In Business streets special care is to be taken that non-Jewish establishments will be safeguarded at all cost against damage.   As soon as the events of this night permit the use of the designated officers, as many Jews, particularly wealthy ones, as the local jails will hold, are to be arrested in all districts. Initially only healthy male Jews, not too old, are to be arrested. After the arrests have been carried out the appropriate concentration camp is to be contacted immediately with a view to a quick transfer of the Jews to the camps |

- Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression - Washington, U.S Govt. Print. Off., 1946, Vol. III, p. 545-547.

1. How would this Message from SS-Grupenführer Heydrich change life for the Jews?
2. Why do you think this message was sent out by the Nazi government?

Using the information from your PowerPoint notes, and handout #3.

**Prompt:** Write a one page summary describing the holocaust: Who was involved, ideas and beliefs as well as the effects of specific actions.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Be sure to cite evidence from handout#3!\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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