**Lesson 12**

**Title: How did the Nazis seek to implement their ‘Final Solution’ and what were the consequences for European Jews?**

**What is meant by the Holocaust?**

* Hitler is believed to have given the order to begin the attempted extermination of Europe’s 11 million Jews in 1941. This so-called ‘Final Solution’ to the question of what to do with Europe’s Jews.
* During the Holocaust, approximately 6 millions Jews were murdered by the Nazis, this is known as a genocide
* Victims were not only from Germany but from all Nazi occupied territories in WW2 (E.g. Poland, Hungary, Russia)
* There was a broader genocide which refers to at least five million prisoners of war, Romany, Jehovah’s Witnesses, homosexuals, and other victims

**Starter:** The persecution of the Jews and other minorities worsened after the start of World War Two in 1939. Why might the start of the war enable the Nazis to escalate their plans? Explain your answer.

**Activity 1: Match up the heading with the method of Nazi persecution:**

**\*Concentration (C) \*Extermination Camps (EC) \*Einsatzgruppen killing squads (EKS) \*Ghettos (G)**

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| **How did the Holocaust escalate after 1939?** | **Label** |
| * From 1939 ghettos started being built and Jews were rounded up and confined within them.
* They were guarded in these overcrowded and unhygienic areas of the towns and cities.
* People regularly starved to death or died of illnesses that spread easily through the overcrowded houses.
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| * Concentration camps were built from 1933, the first in Dachau. They were originally for political prisoners. Jews were sent to camps from 1934, but these were more for forced labour and detention.
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| * Death camps or extermination camps were established from 1939 and were predominantly for Jews, though many other people were sent there including Communists, homosexuals, ‘a-socials’ and others.
* Some of the most famous extermination camps are Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka, Sobibor, Belzec and Chelmno. These were purely for extermination. Other camps included Dachau, Bergen-Belsen, Buchenwald and many more. Most were in Poland.
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| * It was the aim of the Nazis to destroy all Jews in Europe.
* The Einsatzgruppen killing squads were sent into Poland and Russia to kill the Jews there.
* Typically they did this by rounding up Jews from towns and villages and taking them to nearby woods, where they would be made to dig their own graves before being shot into them.
* Russian Jews were seen as the lowest of all Jews.
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**Challenge:** Label the information above with these methods of persecution: Segregation, Control, Dehumanisation, Collection, Extermination

**Activity 2: We are going to listen to personal accounts of Holocaust experiences. Please make sure you are showing complete respect while listening and watching the videos.**

History KS3 / GCSE: Heinz's Story - Kristallnacht and escape to Britain

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks3-gcse-from-kristallnacht-to-Britain/zddfcqt>

Arek’s story: Survival in Auschwitz-Birkenau | BBC Teach <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAhFcf5uVr4>

Suzanne’s story: Hiding from the Nazis in occupied France | BBC Teach <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmw39gMkkFI>

Ruth's story: Escaping the Nazis as war began | BBC Teach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Era_O5PS0bA>

**Activity 3: use the writing structure below to write a letter to one of the people from the video.**

Dear ????,

**Paragraph 1** - Thank XXXX for sharing your experiences. Explain to what you have learnt in school about the Holocaust and what learning about this has meant to you.

**Paragraph 2** - Explain to XXXXX what you learnt from their experience. What helped to reinforce your existing knowledge/give you a better understanding? What was surprising? Questions you might ask.

Yours sincerely,

Your name