

# Holocaust

## Background

The Second World War was nasty on the battlefield, but the worse violations of human rights happened miles away from the fighting.

Today you will study the grim history of the Holocaust.

You will get most of the important information from reading your *Student Reader*, but it is my job to provide a broad generalization.

Let's begin . . .

Notions of racial superiority were core elements of the Nazi Party.

When Hitler passed the Enabling Act in 1933, he created an environment where Nazi ideology could be applied in the real world.

Anti-Semitism was state sponsored by the Nuremburg Laws!

Germans were expected to be Anti-Semitic!

Jews lost their civil rights. They were forced to abandon their professions, and eventually they were required to surrender their homes.

They were pooled in ghettos . . . waiting for resettlement.

This was the opening stage of the Holocaust.

The second stage began with resettlement. Jews were placed in freight cars, and shipped away to concentration camps.

Jews were expected to work. When they were unable to work, they were marched into the gas chamber and killed with Zyklon B.

The evidence was burned, and the ashes were used as fertilizer.

The lesson is pretty clear . . . civilized people are capable of uncivilized action, especially when those actions are state sponsored!

The Holocaust has had a profound impact on the modern world.

The Nuremburg Trials established an important legal precedent for the prosecution of war criminals.

The United Nations passed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

International support grew for a Jewish homeland in the Middle East . . . Israel.

## **Assignment**

Your mission is to gather information about the Holocaust.

Step 1 – Referring to your PLOS, read each section in your *Student Workbook*.

Step 2 – Take notes, focussing on specifics.