

**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 10.8.5***The Holocaust*

Specific Objective: Analyze the Nazi policy of pursuing racial purity, especially against the European Jews; its transformation into the Final Solution; and the Holocaust that resulted in the murder of six million Jewish civilians.

Read the summary to answer questions on the next page.

Nazi Ideology

The Nazi party believed that people were racially unequal. In their ideology, Germanic peoples, whom they called **Aryans**, were the “master race.” Other peoples were considered inferior—especially Jews. 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 inequality had various implications. For example, they used it to justify their drive for **Lebensraum**—“living space,” or room for their own population growth—by invading the eastern European lands of Slavic peoples, whom they deemed inferior. But the most violent Nazi ideology targeted the Jews.

Persecution of the Jews

Soon after Hitler took power in 1933, Jewish persecution began. Under Hitler, Jews were:

- stripped of citizenship and other rights under the **Nuremberg Laws** (1935)
- terrorized by attacks on their homes and businesses, such as **Kristallnacht** (1938)
- deprived of property and forced into **ghettos**—crowded, isolated areas where many died of starvation and disease (1940)

The “Final Solution”

After World War II broke out in 1939, Jewish persecution spread. In Eastern Europe, the Nazis began to send out killing squads. They also built brutal slave-labor camps.

Around 1942, the persecution became a **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. Most of the killing took place at six camps in Poland. Hitler called this his “**final solution**” to the Jewish question.”

The Holocaust

The persecution and mass murder of European Jews during World War II became known as the **Holocaust**. The word *holocaust* means total destruction. The Nazis killed six million Jews—and five million non-Jews, including many Polish, Romani (Gypsies), and Russians. More than one half of European Jews perished in the Holocaust.



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The Holocaust

Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

- 1 Nazi ideology was based on ideas about**
 - A free enterprise.
 - B racial inequality.
 - C religious superiority.
 - D working-class revolution.

- 2 The term *Lebensraum* translates roughly as**
 - A “living space.”
 - B “final solution.”
 - C “total destruction.”
 - D “pure blood.”

- 3 The Nuremberg Laws can be seen as a step toward the Holocaust because they**
 - A gave Hitler absolute power.
 - B resulted in the building of labor camps.
 - C deprived Jews of citizenship.
 - D described the Nazi policy of genocide.

- 4 *Kristallnacht* was a defining event in the Holocaust because it was**
 - A a Nazi death camp.
 - B an area where Jews were confined.
 - C a set of racial laws.
 - D an attack on Jewish homes and businesses.

- 5 Where were most of the Nazi death camps located?**
 - A Belgium
 - B Germany
 - C Poland
 - D Russia

- 6 In April 1943, Jews in the Warsaw ghetto, in Poland, resisted the Nazi army for more than a month, which**
 - A proved the ineffectiveness of the Nuremberg Laws.
 - B stood out as a unique uprising of confined and impoverished people.
 - C showed that labor-camp inmates could defeat their oppressors.
 - D meant that the Nazis were unable to establish complete control in Poland.