Allies
Ten-twenty-six nations led by Britain, the United States, and the Soviet
Union that joined in war against Nazi Germany, Italy, Japan, and their
allies, known as the Axis powers.

Annex
To take a piece of land into the territory of a different country or
state, sometimes forcibly.

Anti-Jewish Decrees
Laws passed beginning immediately after the Nazi Party's rise to
power in Germany through the end of the Second World War, which
took away Jews' political rights and economic viability, ostracized Jews
from German society and dehumanized them, marking the beginning
of the Holocaust.

Antisemitism*
Expressed hostility to Jews as individuals, to Judaism as a religion, and
to the Jewish people as a group. It manifests itself through social
ostracism, economic boycotts, legislative restrictions, physical attacks,
exile, and murder.

Aryan
Originally, a term for peoples speaking the languages of Europe and
India. This term was twisted by Nazis, who claimed that traits of
people with a Germanic background were examples of a “superior,”
“Aryan race.” These traits included blonde hair and blue eyes.

Auschwitz-Birkenau
Largest Nazi camp, located 37 miles west of Cracow, Poland.
Established in 1940 as a concentration camp, it included a killing
center, at Birkenau, in 1942. Also part of the huge camp complex was
I. G. Farben's slave labor camp, known as Buna-Monowitz.

Belzec
Nazi killing center in eastern Poland where an estimated 550,000 Jews
were killed between March 1942 and December 1942. Earlier, Belzec
functioned as a forced-labor camp.

Bergen-Belsen
Located in northern Germany, transformed from a prisoner-exchange
camp into a concentration camp in March 1944. Poor sanitary
conditions, epidemics, and starvation led to deaths of thousands, including Anne and Margot Frank in March 1945.

**Boycott**
To stop buying from a person or business in order to intentionally do economic harm.

**Buchenwald**
Concentration camp in north-central Germany, established in July 1937. One of the largest concentration camps on German soil, with more than 130 satellite labor camps. It held many political prisoners. More than 65,000 of approximately 250,000 prisoners perished at Buchenwald.

**Chancellor**
Chief (prime) minister of Germany, head of the government.

**Chelmno**
Nazi killing center in western Poland where at least 150,000 Jews, about 5,000 Roma, and several hundred Poles, as well as Soviet prisoners of war were killed between 1941 and March 1943 and between April and August 1944.

**Collaborator**
Person and/or government that complied and worked with Nazi Germany to carry out the Holocaust.

**Crematorium**
Ovens or furnaces where concentration camp inmates’ gassed bodies were burned to ashes.

**Concentration Camps**
Prison camps constructed to hold Jews, Roma, political and religious opponents, resisters, gay men and lesbians, and other Germans considered “enemies of the state,” where inmates were subjected to forced labor, extreme brutality, starvation, disease, and murder. Thousands of concentration camps were created across German-occupied Europe during the Second World War.

**Dachau**
First concentration camp, established in March 1933 near Munich, Germany. At first, Dachau held only political opponents, but over time, more and more groups were imprisoned there. Thousands died at Dachau from starvation, maltreatment, and disease.

**Death Marches**
Forced marches of concentration camp prisoners as the Nazis tried to keep ahead of the Allied forces; approximately one third of those in the death marches died as a result of either disease, starvation, overexposure to the elements, or being shot by their guards.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deportation</td>
<td>Forced removal of Jews from their homes in Nazi-occupied lands; under the pretense of resettlement, victims were sent to death centers and labor camps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination</td>
<td>Harmful and unequal treatment of a person because of a group they belong to.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Displaced Person</td>
<td>Term generally used for people who survived the concentration camps and were left homeless.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Einsatzgruppen</td>
<td>Mobile units of SS and SD (Security Service) which followed German armies into the Soviet Union in June 1941. They were ordered to shoot all Jews, Communist leaders and Roma in newly-occupied territories. At least one million Jews were killed by Einsatzgruppen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emigrate</td>
<td>To leave one country or region to settle in another.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enabling Act of 1933</td>
<td>An amendment to the German Constitution passed on March 24, 1933, stating that laws (including unconstitutional laws) may be enacted by Chancellor and Cabinet member Adolf Hitler, without approval of the president or the parliament. Also known as &quot;The Law to Remedy the Distress of the People and the Reich.&quot; This amendment passed in Germany's parliament after those opposed to it were imprisoned in Nazi-controlled detention camps by members of the Nazi party.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugenics</td>
<td>A set of beliefs and practices that favors certain human traits over others, which encourages or forces those with favored traits to reproduce, and/or discourages or forcibly prevents those with undesired traits from reproducing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euthanasia</td>
<td>A euphemistic term for the Nazis' first mass systematic killing program, whose goal was to kill all mentally and physically disabled people living in Germany and German-occupied territories beginning in 1939. When the public and German clergy found out about the program, they demanded the Nazis' cease in late 1941, however the program continued in greater secrecy and with the aid of death center facilities until the end of the Second World War. Historians estimate that the &quot;Euthanasia&quot; Program, in all its phases, claimed the lives of 200,000 individuals.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Evian Conference**  Conference organized by President Franklin Roosevelt and held Evian-les-Bains in France in 1939, to discuss the plight of Jews trying to escape the Nazi persecution; thirty-two nations were represented, but the conference did little to solve the problem.

**Killing Center**  Nazi camps or centers, equipped with gassing facilities, for mass murder of Jews. Located in Poland at Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibor, and Treblinka. Up to 2,700,000 Jews were murdered at these six centers, as were tens of thousands of Roma, Soviet prisoners of war, Poles, and others.

**Final Solution**  Refers to “the final solution to the Jewish question in Europe.” Nazi code for physical destruction of European Jews.

**Gas Chamber**  A unit or room frequently disguised as a shower, where ventilation was sealed so that death could be induced through the use of poison gas.

**Genocide**  The deliberate and systematic destruction, in whole or in part, of a social, political, cultural or religious group.

**Gestapo**  The secret police organization in Nazi Germany. The Gestapo used terror and torture to subjugate any opposition to the regime and to any of its policies.

**Ghetto**  The walled-off or fenced section of a city to which Jews were restricted. This enabled governments to maintain strict control over all Jewish activities and effectively prevented any from evading Nazi round-ups. Ghettos became a stopping place before deportation to concentration camps and killing centers.

**Holocaust (The)**  The systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of approximately six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. During the era of the Holocaust, German authorities also targeted other groups because of their perceived “racial inferiority”: Roma, the disabled, and some of the Slavic peoples (Poles, Russians, and others). Other groups were persecuted on political, ideological, and behavioral grounds, among them Communists, Socialists, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and homosexuals.

**Inflation**  An increase in the amount of money in circulation that triggers a rise in the prices of goods, resulting in the loss of the value of the currency.
**Immigrate**
To settle in a country or region to which one is not native.

**Jehovah's Witnesses**
Religious sect that originated in the United States and had about 20,000 members in Germany in 1933. Witnesses, whose religious beliefs did not allow them to swear allegiance to any worldly power, were persecuted as “enemies of the state.” About 10,000 Witnesses from Germany and other countries were imprisoned in concentration camps. Of these, about 2,500 died.

**Jewish Council**
In German, *Judenrat*. Council of Jewish leaders established on Nazi orders in German-occupied towns and cities.

**Juden**
German word for “Jews.”

**Kapo**
A prisoner appointed by the Nazis to oversee labor details in the concentration camps.

**Kristallnacht**
German for “Night of Broken Glass.” Nazi state-sponsored and government-mandated mob violence to destroy Jewish businesses, synagogues, and some private homes in all land under German control on the evening of November 9th-10th, 1938. Over 1,000 synagogues and 7,000 Jewish businesses were destroyed, 91 Jews were killed and about 30,000 were imprisoned in concentration camps where they endured forced labor, extreme brutality, starvation, disease, and murder.

**Labor Camp**
A Nazi concentration camp predominately designed for slave labor.

**Liberators**
Soldiers (mostly Allied) who freed the prisoners of the concentration and death camps.

**Majdanek-Lublin**
Located near Lublin in eastern Poland, at first a labor camp for Poles and prisoner-of-war camps for Soviets, it existed as a concentration camp from April 1943 to July 1944. Tens of thousands perished there from starvation, maltreatment, and shootings. Also a killing center where at least 500,000 Jews were gassed.

**Nazi**
Short term for National Socialist German Workers Party, a Right-wing, nationalistic, and antisemitic political party formed in 1919 and headed by Adolf Hitler from 1921 to 1945.
| **Nazism** | The political system in Germany from 1933-1945. It was a totalitarian dictatorship based on the use of political terror as the means of maintaining control. |
| **Nuremberg Race Laws** | Laws devised by the government of Germany from racial theories prevalent in Nazi ideology and announced at a Nazi Party rally in Nuremberg, Germany in 1935. This set of laws took away Jews’ citizenship in German and German-occupied places, and prohibited Jews from marrying or having relations with persons of “German or related blood.” |
| **Occupation** | Control of a country taken over by a foreign military power. |
| **Partisans** | Members of a resistance group operating secretly within enemy lines, using hit-and-run guerilla tactics against occupying forces. |
| **Persecution** | Act of causing others to suffer, especially those who differ in background or lifestyle or hold different political or religious beliefs. |
| **Pogrom** | Russian word for “devastation.” Organized violence against Jews, often with understood support of legal authorities. |
| **Prejudice** | An attitude toward a person, group of people, or ideas formed without adequate information. |
| **Processing Camp** | Persons that were considered fit for heavy physical work, but were not assigned to a particular work camp, were sent to a Processing camp for screening and for subsequent distribution to a concentration camp. Gross Rosen is a typical example of one of those processing camps. |
| **Racism** | Practice of discrimination, segregation, persecution, and domination on the basis of race. |
| **Reich** | German word for “empire.” |
| **Reichstag** | Germany’s lawmaking body, its parliament. |
| **Reichsmark** | Currency used in Germany from 1928 until 1948. The Reichsmark saw extreme inflation during the interwar period, causing unprecedented levels of poverty, unemployment, and political and social unrest. |
**Resistance**  
Opposition to Nazi policies and activities in any of the following forms: armed fighting, aid and rescue of Nazi victims, covert actions by slave laborers to damage Nazi armaments and goods, and attempts to preserve spiritual and communal life under totalitarian Nazi oppression. (See also *Partisans.*

**Righteous Among the Nations**  
The term used for non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews from Nazi persecution without monetary reward. A permanent memorial has been declared by the Israeli Government to honor non-Jews who saved Jews during the Holocaust and is located in Jerusalem at the Yad Vashem, the World Documentation Center for the Holocaust.

**Roma and Sinti***  
Also referred to as the Romani people or Gypsies, Roma are any of several traditionally traveling clan-based groups whose migratory origins are thought to have stemmed from Northern India. Today Romani people live in many parts of the world including Asia, Europe, North and South America. The Sinti are a distinct Romani people with a unique spoken dialect who traditionally lived in Central European regions that were particularly affected by Nazi control.

**Roosevelt, Franklin** (1882-1945)  
Thirty-second president of the United States, serving from 1933-1945

**SA**  
In German, *Sturmabteilung.* Storm troopers. Also called “Brownshirts.” Members of a special armed and uniformed branch of the Nazi party.

**Scapegoat**  
A person, group, or thing that bears false blame for the mistakes or crimes of others. Jews have been scapegoats throughout history. Hitler blamed the Jews for the defeat of World War I and the post-war troubles in Germany.

**Shtetl**  
A small Jewish village in Poland.

**Sobibor**  
Nazi killing center in eastern Poland where up to 200,000 Jews were killed between May 1942 and November 1943.

**Sonderkommando**  
A German word for “special squad.” In the context of killing centers, it refers to units of Jewish prisoners forced to take away bodies of gassed inmates to be cremated and to remove gold fillings and hair.
SS  In German, *Schutzstaffel*. A protection squad with units formed in 1925 as Adolf Hitler’s personal bodyguard. After the Nazi Party's rise to power the SS was built into a giant organization that provided staff for police, camp guards, and military units serving with the German army.

St. Louis A ship carrying Jewish refugees to Cuba and the United States in June 1939; denied safe harbor, it eventually was forced back to Europe where many of its passengers met their deaths.

Star of David Star with six points, symbol of the Jewish religion.

Stereotype A reputation for an entire group of people based on few distorted characteristics

Swastika An ancient symbol, often used as an ornament or religious sign by Buddhists, Celts, Greeks, and North and South American Indians. It is the form of a cross with the ends of the arms bent at the right angles in a given direction, usually clockwise. In 1920 it was adopted as the symbol of the National Socialist Party of Germany and came to stand for all the evils associated with the Nazis. It is now banned in Germany.

Synagogue A sanctuary where Jews assemble to worship. The building is also used for educational purposes and social gatherings.

Theresienstadt Nazi ghetto located in Czechoslovakia; frequently called a “Model Ghetto” to show the outside world, including the Red Cross, how well the Jews were being treated; prisoners were kept here briefly before being transported to the death camps.

Third Reich Official name of the Nazi regime; ruled from 1933 to 1945 under the command of Adolf Hitler.

Town Square A plaza or gathering place in the central area of a town (especially in Europe), designed to be a hub of commerce, social interaction, transportation, news and information.

Treblinka Nazi killing center about 50 miles northeast of Warsaw. Up to 750,000 Jews and at least 2,000 Roma were killed at Treblinka between July 1942 and November 1943.
**Underground** Organized group acting in secrecy to oppose the government or, during war, to resist occupying enemy forces.

**Weimar Republic** German Republic (1919-1933), a parliamentary democracy, established after World War I, with its capital in the city of Weimar.

**Yiddish** A language that combines elements of German and Hebrew, usually written in Hebrew characters and spoken by Jews chiefly in eastern Europe and areas to which eastern Europeans have migrated.

* The term *antisemitism* is used instead of the hyphenated *anti-Semitism* because the word *antisemitism* was invented solely to describe attitudes toward Jews, and not in reference to the Semitic linguistic group. The word *antisemitism* was first used in the 1870s by the German thinker Friedrich Wilhelm Adolph Marr in his description of anti-Jewish sentiments that were popular at the time. This word quickly gained popularity in many languages because prejudice toward Jews was so pervasive. This word, *Antisemitismus* in German, never referred to Middle Eastern tribes that make up language group called *Semites*, but rather to European Jews.

** The Hebrew word Shoah (translated to mean “destruction”) is used by Jews to describe the Jewish experience during the Holocaust.

*** Romani activists use various Roma words to name their experience in the Second World War. Sometimes it is known as the Porajmos (the "Devouring"), Samudaripen ("Mass Killing"), Kalis Tras ("Black Fear") or as the Bersa Bibahtale ("Years of Misfortune"). Descendants of some Roma families living in the Pacific Northwest today include the clan names of Bashaldey, the Boyash, the Kalderasha, the Machwaya, the Romanichal, and the Sa Roma, among others.