

## History Year 9 Spring Term 1 'Knowledge Organiser: The Holocaust.



### Nazi beliefs about race:

The Nazis believed in a hierarchy of races. Hitler and the Nazi's believed that the Aryan Race was superior and destined to control. They believed that other ethnicities were inferior, in particular Jews. Nazis believed that inferior races were meant to either be ruled or destroyed by the "master race". Nazi persecution of Jews started when Hitler took power in January 1933. As the Second World War started, the Nazis became more aggressive with their policies, with forced deportations to ghettos. As they expanded eastwards, the Nazis started to encounter more Jews and started to murder thousands. After the Wannsee conference, the Final Solution began, which ended in 1945 after over 6 million Jews and other minorities were murdered.

### Key terms

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Anti-Semitism  | The persecution of the Jewish people, dating to before the Middle Ages for religious reasons.        |
| Final Solution | The industrial style plan initiated by the Nazis in early 1942 to end the Jewish presence in Europe. |
| Holocaust      | The term used to describe the murder of over 6 million Jews during WW2 – 'death by fire'.            |

### Key people.

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Adolf Eichmann    | SS officer who organised the transportation of Jew to the death camps.                  |
| Reinhard Heydrich | 2 <sup>nd</sup> in command in the SS. Key figure in the Final Solution.                 |
| Rudolf Hoess      | SS Commandant of Auschwitz Death Camp (1942 – 5)  |
| Oskar Schindler   | German industrialist and Nazi Party member who went on to save the lives of 1,200 Jews. |

### Timeline:

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 1933 - 1939 | Within Germany the steady process of identifying and discriminating against Jews to isolate them within German society. |
| 1939        | Germany invade Poland, Britain declares war.  |
| 1940        | First Ghettos are built in Polish cities – Krakow, Lodz, Warsaw.  |
| 1941        | Operation Barbarossa – with the use of 4 Einsatzgruppen Forces.   |
| 1942        | Wannsee Conference.<br>Auschwitz-Birkenau is developed into the largest death camp.                                     |
| 1943        | Warsaw Ghetto Uprising  |
| 1944        | Treblinka was dismantled as the Soviet's advance.   |
| 1945        | Liberation of camps begins with Auschwitz 27 <sup>th</sup> January.   |

### Key Words.

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Aryan Race            | Stereotypical German with blonde hair and blue eyes, seen as racially superior.  |
| Auschwitz             | Largest death camp used by Nazis, based in Southern Poland. Over 1 million Jews and other minorities were murdered there.                        |
| Death camps           | Built in Poland during WW2 to murder European Jews.  |
| Einsatzgruppen        | Mobile death squad of the SS that followed the German army rounding up and murdering Jews and communists.  |
| Genocide              | When one ethnic group are indiscriminately persecuted and killed.  |
| Ghetto                | Walled off part of a city where Jews were forced to live, separated from the rest of the city and in appalling living conditions.                |
| Kapo's                | Other prisoners (crimes of murder and theft) in the camps who were given special privileges by the SS guards, usually to oversee/persecute Jews. |
| Operation Barbarossa. | German invasion of the Soviet Union which began in June.   |
| Persecute             | To taunt, discriminate against or attack another group.  |
| Selection             | Jews were selected for work or death on arrival and periodically within the camp.  |
| Sonderkommando        | Units of Jewish prisoners forced to dispose of the bodies from the gas chambers and to use the crematoria  |
| SS                    | Hitler's personal protectors and the administrators of the camps.  |
| Wannsee Conference    | Meeting of senior Nazi officials who agreed the terms of the Final Solution of the so called 'Jewish problem'.                                   |
| Zyklon-B gas          | Industrial pesticide used to suffocate the Jews at Auschwitz.  |



Map of Nazi Death Camps.

Concept: Cause and Effect.