

Holocaust Awareness

Course Overview I-III

The Holocaust Awareness mini-course provides a comprehensive and deeply impactful exploration of one of history's darkest periods, fostering understanding, empathy, and critical awareness. Each iteration of this course includes 10 lessons examining the Holocaust's causes, events, and lasting aftermath. Students will learn about the complex roles of perpetrators, victims, and bystanders, while also recognizing the courage of those who resisted and the selfless acts of rescuers who risked their lives to save others. The course delves into the historical context of anti-Semitism, the power of propaganda, and the profound experiences of Holocaust survivors. Through firsthand accounts and writings, students will gain a deeper understanding of the resilience of the human spirit and the crucial importance of remembrance. This course not only imparts essential historical knowledge but also emphasizes the ongoing need to learn from the past and actively work to prevent future atrocities.

Holocaust Awareness I

Lesson Title	Summary
The Holocaust, Part 2: Why Learn about Such a Dark Time in History?	Perpetrators of the Holocaust committed a crime called genocide. Heeding early warning signs can prevent genocide from happening again.
Victims of the Holocaust	Nazis labeled Jews and other racial groups as inferior, forced them from their homes, and subjected them to inhumane conditions and death.
Perpetrators: Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party	After Hitler and the Nazis came into power, German Jews went from being respected citizens to constantly fearing for their lives. How did this happen?
Holocaust Collaborators and Bystanders	The Nazis could not have killed two out of every three European Jews without the help of collaborators and bystanders.
Resisters: Resisting the Nazis	Despite the risks, some Jews in ghettos and camps resisted the Nazis in order to preserve their spirits and possibly save lives.

Lesson Title	Summary
Rescuers: Taking Risks to Save Jewish Lives	Despite the risks to their own lives, some people stepped up to rescue Jews from the Nazis.
Survivors: What Now?	After prisoners in Nazi concentration camps were liberated, survivors had to piece together new lives.
Survivors: Art and Writings	Art and written works by Holocaust victims help us understand their experiences. They also demonstrate the resilience of the human spirit.
Descendants: The Work of the Living	As time passes, it is the job of the living to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive and to build a better world.
The Holocaust, Part 2: Why Learn about Such a Dark Time in History?	Perpetrators of the Holocaust committed a crime called genocide. Heeding early warning signs can prevent genocide from happening again.

Holocaust Awareness II

Lesson Title	Summary
The Long History of Anti-Semitism	Anti-Semitism was the basis for Nazi Genocide, but the Nazis didn't invent it. Anti-Semitic ideas were evident for centuries.
Jews in Europe	Before 1933, many Jewish people enjoyed full lives in Europe and were recognized as full citizens in many countries. Still, anti-Semitism was evident.
Jews in Germany	There were 500,000 Jewish people living in Germany in 1933. Most did not anticipate the horrific events that were about to occur.
Propaganda: Creating the Nazis	Nazi propaganda played a huge role in preparing Germans for the mass murder of the Jewish people.
The Nazi Plan to Identify Victims and Remove Them from Society	Nazis used various means to locate and identify Jewish people in order to expel them from society.
Attempting Escape	Escape from the Nazis became more difficult as time went on, but a minority of Jews found some safe havens.
Ghettos	Ghettos were created to separate Jews from the rest of the population. Overcrowded and unsanitary, they were unbearable, and many didn't survive.
In Hiding	During the Holocaust, many Jewish people in Nazi-occupied countries went into hiding to avoid the horrors of concentration camps.
The Nazi Camp System	The Nazis created a system of over 44,000 camps that were used to imprison and exploit the labor of Jews and others, as well as commit mass murder.
Liberation	The liberation and end of World War II brought a stop to the immediate suffering, but the trauma and grief brought about by the Holocaust remained.

Holocaust Awareness III

Lesson Title	Summary
Conditions That Made the Holocaust Possible	The liberation and end of World War II brought a stop to the immediate suffering, but the trauma and grief brought about by the Holocaust remained.
Anti-Jewish Legislation in Prewar Germany	Adolf Hitler and the Nazis took advantage of poor economic conditions and centuries-old prejudices against Jews to begin a campaign of mass murder.
Law, Justice, and the Holocaust	The Nazis' anti-Semitic activities began with laws separating Jews from society and became more radical and violent throughout the 1930s.
The Roles of Professionals and Businesses	The Nazis passed a series of laws and decrees to make Germany a dictatorship in the 1930s with help from the legal system.
The Role of Teachers and Youth Leaders	Not all German professionals believed Nazi ideology, but they generally cooperated with Nazi leaders in the persecution and murder of Jews.
The Roles of Clergy and Church Leaders	The Nazis could take over German education because teachers cooperated in persecuting Jewish students. Nazi youth groups made youth loyal to Hitler.
Standing Up despite Great Risk	The Nazis persecuted the Jews with broad support from Christians. Church leaders were mostly silent. Many clergy welcomed the rise of Adolf Hitler.
Varian Fry Takes Action	During the Holocaust, people from all backgrounds risked their lives to help Jews. Rescuers ranged from individuals to large groups.
The Collective Rescue Effort of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon	After France surrendered to Nazi Germany in 1940, U.S. journalist Varian Fry helped some 2,000 people escape and immigrate to the United States.
Judgment in Nuremberg: The Postwar Trials	From 1940 to 1944, inhabitants of the French village of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon and the surrounding area provided refuge for an estimated 5,000 people.