



NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL ON THE HOLOCAUST

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
www.ncpublicschools.org/holocaust-council/

Holocaust Fact and Fiction

Mark each statement below true or false:

- _____ 1. Approximately six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.
(TRUE)
- _____ 2. Other victims of Nazi persecution included Roma (Gypsies), many Slavic nationalities, the disabled, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals and political opponents such as Communists and socialists.
(TRUE)
- _____ 3. Jews made up 25 percent of the population in pre-World War II Germany.
(FALSE) *In 1933, Germany had a population of 70 million people, about 550,000 of whom were Jewish. Thus, Jews made up less than 1% of the total German population.*
- _____ 4. Jews are a race as well as a religious group.
(FALSE) *Jews are not a race. Jews are a religious group as are Catholics, Protestants and Muslims.*
- _____ 5. Most of the concentration camps were located in Germany.
(FALSE) *A majority of camps were located in Poland; only about 20% of the camps were in Germany.*
- _____ 6. If Jews converted to Christianity, they were not sent to ghettos or concentration camps.
(FALSE) *Jews were not permitted to convert to Christianity. Children born to a Jewish mother or father were considered racially Jewish by the Nazis.*
- _____ 7. The Nazis established ghettos as havens against the anti-Semitism of local populations in Poland and other Eastern European countries.
(FALSE) *Jews were herded into ghettos with very limited food, housing and medical supplies and almost all were eventually sent to their deaths in concentration camps.*
- _____ 8. Before 1939, the United States, Canada and western European countries had an open-door policy for all German-Jewish refugees, but Hitler refused the Jews permission to immigrate.
(FALSE) *Jews were allowed to leave Germany up to 1939, but most European countries limited or forbade their entrance. The US government refused to change the very small American quota to admit Jewish refugees from Europe.*

- _____ 9. The government of the United States was aware of the mass executions of Jews during the war.
(TRUE)
- _____ 10. The Holocaust would not have been possible without the support of local populations in countries occupied by the Nazis.
(TRUE)
- _____ 11. Genocide as practiced by the Nazis was similar to such anti-Semitic outbreaks as the Russian pogroms (organized violent, often murderous assaults on local Jewish communities) or the attacks on Jews in medieval Europe.
(FALSE) *Pogroms were organized locally, sometimes with police or government encouragement, targeting Jewish communities in cities and towns, but these were not attempts to murder all the Jews of Europe. In contrast, the Nazi Genocide was a state sponsored, systematic and bureaucratic attempt to annihilate all European Jews.*
- _____ 12. Students study the Holocaust solely to learn about the persecution of Jews.
(FALSE) *The study of genocide and the Holocaust help students understand the persecution of a number of different nationalities and ethnic groups historically and in the current world. The study of the Holocaust teaches students what happens to a society when it is taught to hate and to systematically persecute other people.*
- _____ 13. Hitler was partly Jewish.
(FALSE) *There is no credible evidence to support the idea that Hitler was partly Jewish.*
- _____ 14. The Nuremberg Laws generally protected Jews from being arrested.
(FALSE) *The Nuremberg Laws were racial laws that consisted of two pieces of legislation: the Reich Citizenship Law and the Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor. These laws institutionalized Nazi racial ideology and provided the legal framework for the systematic persecution of Jews in Germany.*
- _____ 15. There was no Jewish resistance during the Holocaust.
(FALSE) *Jews carried out acts of resistance against impossible odds--in ghettos, concentration camps and killing centers and in many ways. Organized armed resistance was the most forceful form of Jewish opposition to Nazi policies. Jews used armed resistance in over 100 ghettos in occupied Poland and the Soviet Union. Jews also sabotaged equipment and spied on German activities.*
- _____ 16. The Final Solution was ordered by the USA to end the war against the Nazi regime.
(FALSE) *The term "Final Solution" refers to the Nazi plan to annihilate European Jewry.*

- _____ 17. Before World War II, most Jews lived and worked on farms and few lived in urban areas.
(FALSE) *Most of the Jews of Western Europe lived in cities. In Eastern Europe, Jews also lived in urban areas, but others lived in smaller cities or marketing villages known as "shtetls".*
- _____ 18. Many Jewish men and women who survived the Holocaust say they did so because of luck.
(TRUE)
- _____ 19. There were few Christian bystanders during the Holocaust.
(FALSE) *Bystanders were those individuals, groups and nations who knew about the persecution of Jews and others, but decided to remain silent. As the vast majority of the population of Europe was Christian, many Christians were bystanders.*
- _____ 20. The word bystander also refers to businesses and countries.
(TRUE)
- _____ 21. The only way any people can resist is by having guns and other weapons.
(FALSE) *Resistance can take many forms besides armed resistance, including escaping, hiding, creating written records or art that live on beyond the death of the creators, assisting others, rescue, spiritual resistance and sabotage.*
- _____ 22. The *Righteous Among the Nations* refers to countries that fought alongside the USA, France and England against the Nazis and their collaborators.
(FALSE) *Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial, grants the title of Righteous Among the Nations to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust.*
- _____ 23. Kristallnacht, also called "the night of broken glass," was the beginning of the end of Jewish life in Germany.
(TRUE)
- _____ 24. Most of the people who rescued Jews during the Holocaust were other Jews.
(FALSE) *People in every European country and from all religious backgrounds risked their lives to help Jews. Rescue efforts ranged from the isolated actions of individuals to small or large organized networks.*
- _____ 25. The Nazis believed that racial purity was required to build the new German Empire.
(TRUE)
- _____ 26. The latest research indicates that the Nazis and their allies ran over 42,000 camps, ghettos, and other sites of detention, persecution, forced labor and murder during the Holocaust.
(TRUE)