**METHODS OF PERSECUTION &**

**PERSECUTED GROUPS**

Directions: Use the readings provided to answer the following questions

**Group 1: Jehovah’s Witnesses**

1. Why did the Nazis target Jehovah’s Witnesses?

*They were unwilling to accept the authority of the state, because of their international connections, and because they were strongly opposed to both war and organized government.*

1. Where were Jehovah’s Witnesses sent for disobeying the Nazis?

*They were sent to prisons and concentration camps.*

1. What position did some Jehovah’s hold in the camps?

*Some camp officers and guards used them as domestic servants.*

1. How many Jehovah’s died in the concentration camps?

*1,000 Germans and 400 from other countries died in the camps.*

**Group 2: Homosexuals**

1. Why did the Nazis target Homosexuals?

*The Nazis saw homosexuals as unlikely to produce children and increase the German birthrate.*

1. Approximately how many men were arrested as homosexuals during the Holocaust?

*An estimated 100,000 men were arrested as homosexuals.*

1. How was homosexuality “cured”?

*Homosexuality was cured through humiliation and hard work. Guards ridiculed and beat homosexual prisoners upon arrival, often separating them from other inmates.*

1. How was the program of “curing” homosexuality expanded?

*The program was expanded to include medical experimentation on homosexual inmates of concentration camps. The experiments caused illness, mutilation, and even death, and yielded no scientific knowledge.*

**Group 3: Blacks**

1. What was the fate of Blacks in Nazi Germany?

*The fate of Blacks ranged from isolation to persecution, sterilization, medical experimentation, incarceration, brutality, and murder.*

1. How did racist propaganda depict black soldiers?

*Black soldiers were depicted as rapists of German women and carriers of venereal and other diseases. The children of black soldiers and German women were called “Rhineland Bastards.”*

1. How were African-German mulatto children treated?

*Mulatto children were decreased in German society, isolated socially and economically, and not allowed to attend university. Many were sterilized and some subjected to medical experiments and some mysteriously disappeared.*

1. What did Black POWs (Prisoners of War) face when captured?

*Black POWs faced illegal incarceration and mistreatment at the hands of the Nazis. Some were worked to death on construction projects or died as a result of mistreatment in concentration camps or killed immediately.*

**Group 4: Polish Victims**

1. Why did the Nazis target the Poles?

*The Nazis considered the Poles to be racially inferior.*

1. What types of people did the Germans kill?

*The Germans shot thousands of teachers, priests, and other intellectuals in mass killings.*

1. How many children were taken from their families?

*Approximately 50,000 children were taken from their families, transferred to the Reich, and subjected to “Germanization” policies.*

1. Approximately how many Polish civilians were killed by the Germans?

*It is estimated that the Germans killed at least 1.9 million non-Jewish Polish civilians during World War II.*

**Group 5: Genocide of European Roma**

1. What were the Gypsies subjected to?

*German authorities subjected Roma to arbitrary internment, forced labor, and mass murder.*

1. What types of Gypsies were exempted from deportation?

*Exceptions for certain categories included people of “pure Gypsy blood,” persons of Gypsy descent who were considered integrated into German society and did not behave like Gypsies, and person who had distinguished themselves in German military service.*

1. Describe the conditions at the “Gypsy Family Camp.”

*Conditions in the Gypsy compound contributed to the spread of disease and epidemics-typhus, smallpox, and dysentery, which severely reduced the camp population.*

1. Approximately how many Gypsies were murdered in the gas chambers?

*The SS murdered approximately 1,700 Roma in the gas chambers.*

**Group 6: Ghettos**

1. What was a ghetto during World War II?

*Ghettos were city districts in which the Germans concentrated the municipal and sometimes regional Jewish population and forced them to live under miserable conditions. Ghettos isolated Jews by separating Jewish communities form the non-Jewish population and from other Jewish communities.*

1. How many ghettos were established during this time?

*Germans established at least 1,000 ghettos in German-occupied and annexed Poland and the Soviet Union alone.*

1. What was the outcome for those living in ghettos?

*The Germans and their auxiliaries either shot ghetto residents in mass graves located nearby or deported them to killing centers/death camps where they were murdered.*

1. What types of actions did Ghetto residents engage in?

*Ghetto residents frequently engaged in so-called illegal activities such as smuggling food, medicine, weapons, or intelligence across the ghetto walls. In some cases, members staged armed uprisings.*

**Group 7: Killing Centers**

1. How many Jews were killed at the centers and by what methods?

*German SS and police murdered nearly 2.7 million Jews in the killing centers either by asphyxiation with poison gas or by shooting.*

1. What was the first killing center?

*The first killing center was Chelmno, which opened in December 1941.*

1. What was the largest killing center and how many were gassed each day?

*The largest killing center was Auschwitz. Up to 6,000 Jews were gassed each day.*

1. How did the SS conceal the killing centers?

*To obliterate all traces of gassing operations, special prisoner units were forced to remove corpses from the gas chambers and cremate them. The grounds of some killing centers were re-landscaped or camouflaged to disguise the murders.*

**Group 8: Concentration Camps**

1. What does the term concentration camp mean?

*The term concentration camp refers to a camp in which people are detained or confined usually under harsh conditions, and without regard to legal norms of arrest and imprisonment.*

1. What was the purpose of the first camps?

*German authorities established camps to handle the masses of people arrested as alleged traitors.*

1. Who was the leader of the Reich SS?

*The leader of the Reich SS was Heinrich Himmler*

1. What types of goal-oriented labor did prisoners perform?

*Prisoners performed backbreaking and dangerous labor in stone quarries and coal mines, and construction labor.*

**Group 9: Mobile Killing Units**

1. What types of people became victims of the Mobile Killing Units?

*Victims included Jews, Roma, and officials of the Soviet state and that Soviet Communist party.*

1. What was different about how the murders were carried out from traditional operations?

*In contrast to the methods instituted of deported Jews from their own towns and cities or from ghetto settings to killing centers, the mobile units came directly to the home communities of Jews and massacred them.*

1. What were some victims forced to do?

*In some cases the captive victims had to dig their own graves. After the victims had handed over their valuables and undressed, victims were shot, either standing before the open trench or lying face down in a prepared pit.*

1. What was the new convenient mode of killing that was developed?

*The result was the gas van, a mobile gas chamber surmounted on the chassis of a cargo truck, which employed carbon monoxide from the truck’s exhaust to kill its victims.*

Notes: