

# **HOLOCAUST MINI RESEARCH PROJECT**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** You and your group will be assigned one of six different research topics centered around the holocaust and be tasked with analyzing a source that will be provided to you. Guided questions will direct your thinking and aid in your understanding of what may be the most essential information. With the information that you acquire, you will work together to construct a short presentation that will be delivered collaboratively to the entire class.

## **YOUR PRESENTATION SHOULD...**

- Be presented in concise **bullet points**
- Include **images** pertaining to your topic
- Be made collaboratively with moments planned for **each student** to speak
- Thoroughly **address** the guided questions/parameters
- Incorporate pieces of information from your assigned book that you **found on your own**
- Include enough content to be at least **five minutes** in length



## **CATEGORIES: COLOR CODED TO LITERATURE**

1. **Auschwitz as an Institution for Mass Murder**
2. **The Aftermath for Survivors**
3. **Hitler Background/Coming To Power**
4. **Livia Bitton-Jackson Background**
5. **Josef Mengele**
6. **Inhumane Experimentation**

## **LITERATURE SOURCE: COLOR CODED TO CATEGORIES**

1. **The Death Camps by William W. Lace**
2. **Holocaust: The events and their Impact on Real People by Angela Gluck Wood**
3. **Adolf Hitler: A Study in Hate by Jeremy Roberts**
4. **We Survived the Holocaust by Elaine Landau**
5. **Joseph Goebbels: Nazi Propaganda Minister by Jeremy Roberts**
6. **WWII: Weapons of War by American War Library**

## **LINKS**

1. <https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/auschwitz>
2. <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/the-aftermath-of-the-holocaust>
3. <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/how-did-adolf-hitler-happen>
4. <https://www.whisc.center/Livia-Bitton>
5. <https://urologichistory.museum/the-scope-of-urology-newsletter/issue-1-spring-2020/mengeles-experiments>
6. <https://remember.org/educate/medexp>

## GUIDED QUESTIONS/PARAMETERS

### Auschwitz:

- What was the final solution? What different groups did it target?
- Who were the primary targets of the final solution?
- What is a concentration camp? What is a death camp? What is the difference?
- Where is Auschwitz located?
- Why was Auschwitz the ideal location for a death camp?
- Why does Auschwitz stand out among the various death camps?
- What were the fates of the living prisoners of Auschwitz? What were they made to do? What was done to them?
- What are the differences between Auschwitz 1, Auschwitz 2, and Auschwitz 3?
- How did the Nazis execute their prisoners? What chemical did they use?
- Why is it difficult to calculate the true total of deaths at Auschwitz?
- How many people are projected to have died in Auschwitz according to the website?
- When the defeat of the Nazis was certain, how did they respond? What did they do with their prisoners and the evidence of all that transpired?

### The Aftermath:

- When did allied troops enter the concentration camps to free the captive prisoners?
- Why did Jewish survivors fear to return to their homes?
- Did antisemitism disappear after the defeat of Hitler and the Nazi party?
- What are pogroms? Provide an example.
- Where did many displaced persons have to live in allied controlled territories immediately after the war?
- How many Jewish displaced persons were there in 1946?
- What does it mean to be a displaced person?
- What two places saw the most immigration of displaced persons?
- Was there unlimited immigration at this time? What was the status of the borders of most European countries at the time?
- What was Aliyah Bet?
- What happened with the ship Exodus 1947?
- With the establishment of Israel in 1948, how many Jewish displaced persons immigrated to the new state by 1953?
- What did American president Harry Truman do to support the survivors of the war in 1945? What was the result?
- What were some other countries that received prominent immigration from survivors post WWII?

### Hitler:

- When was he born?
- When did he die?
- How did he die?
- When was he appointed chancellor?
- What triggered the start of WWII and when did it occur?
- What is the meaning of führer?
- Who enabled Hitler's rise to power?
- What after effects of the first world war led to the creation of the Nazi party due to German outrage?
- What was Hitler's "New Order" plan for the government of Germany? What did it mean for individual rights?
- What was the ultimate aim of the Nazi party?
- What claim did Hitler make about the Jewish and communist minorities?
- What was Hitler's quote discussing eternal war and eternal peace?
- What did the Nazi party have in 1921? What did they try to do to the government that same year? What happened to Hitler as a result?
- What percentage of the vote did the Nazi party receive back in the Reichstag elections of 1928? What was the political standing of the Nazi party just four years later in 1932?
- What three factors led to an increased number of Germans turning towards the Nazi party?
- What did Hitler pledge to do with governmental power?
- Who was Paul Von Hindenburg? What did Hitler convince him to do and how did he do so?
- What happened as a result of the declaration of an emergency decree?
- How did Hitler respond to the death of Hindenburg? What titles did he take upon himself?
- What three things did Hitler do to violate the Treaty of Versailles from the moment he took power?
- Why did many Germans go along with the full range of Hitler's policies?
- What happened with the Czechs that should have been a warning sign for Hitler's planned conquest?

### Author:

- Where was she born?
- When was she born?
- What was her name at birth?
- How old was she when she arrived at Auschwitz
- What are some details about her overview of the novel?
- What is the central message of her story?
- What kind of harassment did she and her family receive from the military and the regular members of the community? What forms did their oppression take?
- What was her reaction to finally being liberated?
- How did she look at the time she was liberated? What did she lose as a result of her experience?
- When/Where did she die?

### Josef Mengele:

- What medical background did he possess before the start of WWII?
- When did he join the Nazi party?
- When did he join the SS?
- What is his connection to Auschwitz? What did he do there?
- How concerned was Mengele about the safety of his test subjects?
- What power did Mengele hold over the fates of prisoners arriving at Auschwitz? What resulted from him pointing in one direction or another?
- How did Mengele feel when he was pointing prisoners in different directions?
- What was Mengele's nickname? How did he earn it?
- What have some witnesses had to say about the behavior of Mengele as he experimented on human beings?
- What group of people did Mengele have an obsession with due to genetics?
- What three vulnerable groups did most of Mengele's experiments focus on?
- What were some of the experiments that Mengele performed on twins?
- In what ways is Mengele shown to view his experiments as objects and not real people?
- Was Mengele ever held in captivity? Was he set free?

### Experimentation:

- How did the practice of Nazi doctors violate everything that doctors are supposed to stand for?
- Provide an overview of every experiment mentioned in the article
- Provide your own personal reactions to the horrors described
- Explain and explore three different weapons of war from your assigned piece of literature.