

Key Dates:

- 1933—Jews sacked from Government
- 1935—Nuremberg Laws
- 1936—Jewish teachers banned
- 1938—Kristallnacht
- 1939—Jews made to hand over valuables
- 1942 — Wannsee Conference
- 1348—Black Death reaches England

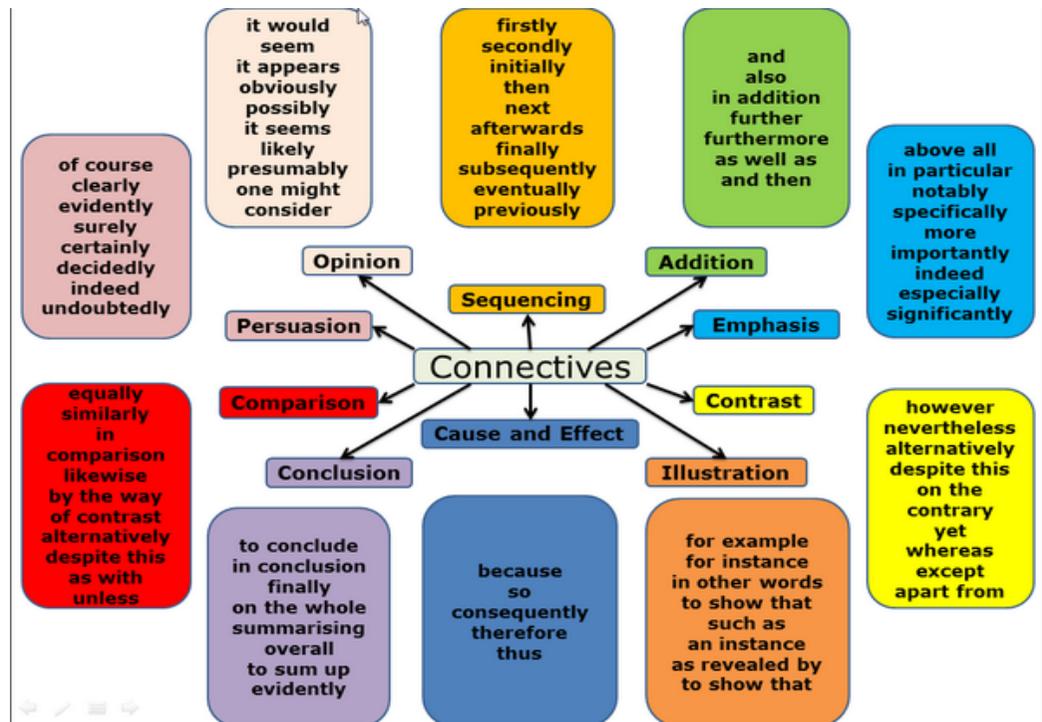


By the end of this Half Term I should know about:

- The meaning of antisemitism.
- Jewish life in Europe pre 1933.
- Jewish persecution under the Nazi's.
- How Jewish life changed in Germany.
- The impact of WWII on Europe's Jews.
- The 'Final Solution' and Holocaust/
- Jewish resistance to the Nazi's.

Key Terms

- Antisemitism** — Hostility of prejudice against Jews.
- Collaborators** —People that helped the Nazi's persecute Jews.
- Einsatzgruppen**—Special SS units who carried out mass murders.
- Genocide**—The intent to destroy a national, ethnic or religious group.
- Ghettos**—Areas where Jews were separated, by force, from others.
- Kristallnacht**— Jewish shops and synagogues were attacked.
- Liberation**—The act of setting someone free.
- Persecution**—Being treated badly due to your personal beliefs.
- Refugees**—People who have been forced out of their own country.





## Y9—History Knowledge Organiser— The Holocaust.



### What are the origins of antisemitism?

Life for Jews was not always easy. People across Europe have treated Jews differently for a long time and sometimes there were even violent attacks on Jews. This hostility goes back to Roman times. When Christianity became the official religion of the empire Judaism was seen as a rival religion. Lies about Jews spread and Jews became demonised and wrongly blamed for crises such as the plague. Rulers of different countries passed laws that were unfair towards Jews including making them wear identifying items of clothing.

### How did the Nazi's persecute Jewish people in Germany?

In Hitler's early beer hall speeches he wrongly blamed Jews for Germany's defeat in WWI. Antisemitism became a key part of Nazi ideology when they came to power in 1933. For much of the 1930s the Nazis made laws to exclude people from German society passing hundreds of Anti-Jewish laws including banning them from editing newspapers. In 1935 The Nuremberg laws went a step further and forbade Jewish people from having relationships with non-Jews. By the late 30s Jews were being forced into ghettos and camps.

### What was the 'Final Solution'?

When the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union in 1941 they decided that they needed to come up with a so called 'final solution to the Jewish problem'. After using the *einsatzgruppen* initially it was decided that due to their soldiers mental distress they would start to create gas chambers for the mass extermination. Chelmno, in Poland was the first death camp in history. It's sole purpose was to murder. By the end of WWII 6 million Jewish people had been murdered by the Nazis.

### What was life like in Europe pre-1933?

Europe has been home to Jewish people for over 2,000 years and during that time Jewish people have made significant contributions to their communities. The way Jews lived before WWII varied from person to person and place to place. Being Jewish was only part of people's identity and people's thoughts and beliefs changed throughout their lives. There was no one way to be a Jew. They were traditional, progressive and all in between. They were Nobel prize winners, they were tradesman. They were wealthy and they were poor.

### Which other groups were persecuted by the Nazi's?

Many minority groups were persecuted by the Nazis. The experiences of these groups differed from each other and there was no single form of persecution for all minorities. Some examples of Nazi persecution include forced sterilisation of people with disabilities. Subjecting homosexuals to hard labour in concentration camps. Black people were forbidden for having relationships with white Germans. The Nazis enacted a euthanasia programme on people with severe disabilities. Roma people were sent to death camps and murdered.

### How did Jewish people resist the Nazi's?

Against impossible odds, many Jews did fight back and resist the Nazis and their collaborators. Resistance occurred across Europe. It took place in ghettos, concentration camps and death camps in every German-occupied country. Simple acts of resistance included; taking photographs; teaching children; looking after the sick and hiding from the enemy. Armed resistance also took place against the Nazis, most famously the Warsaw ghetto uprising in 1943 where the resisters held out for over a month before being defeated.