

History Work Booklet

Year 9

The Holocaust

Who is to Blame for the Holocaust & Have we
learnt from History

WHO IS TO BLAME FOR THE HOLOCAUST?

Activity 1:

Source 1 - *The only thing necessary for evil to flourish is for good men to do nothing* -
Edmund Burke

1. What do you think this quote means?

2. Do you agree with it?

Many people believe only Hitler and high-ranking Nazi officials were responsible for the Holocaust. But a crime of such enormous scope and scale, with millions of victims across vast geographical territory, required help from countless ordinary individuals. It is important to acknowledge the widespread involvement of people at all levels of society who witnessed the persecution and systematic elimination of Jews from their communities and either actively or passively tolerated what they saw.

Ordinary people behaved in a variety of ways during the Holocaust. Motives ranged from pressures to conform and defer to authorities, to opportunism and greed, to hatred. In many places, the persecution of Jews occurred against a backdrop of centuries of antisemitism. In Germany, many individuals who were not zealous Nazis nonetheless participated in varying degrees in the persecution and murder of Jews and other victims. Following German occupation, countless people in other countries also cooperated in the persecution of Jews.

Everywhere, there were witnesses on the side-lines who cheered on the active participants in persecution and violence.

Most, however, remained silent.

Activity 2:

1. Find the definitions to the following words and put them in the correct place on the image

Bystander

Perpetrator



someone who

someone who

2. Can you think of another example of a Bystander and a Perpetrator?

3. What about another example from history?

Activity 3: Each box below describes the acts of nine people who were involved in the Holocaust.

1. In the pink boxes number the acts from 1 to 9 to show which people you feel were the most (9) and least (1) responsible for the Holocaust.
2. Colour code each box to show which people you think were bystanders and which were perpetrators.

Emptying Zyklon B into the opening of a gas chamber.	Watching from the other side of the street as a Jewish shopkeeper clears up the smashed glass from his shop window.	Being an Auschwitz guard.
Noticing long trains made up of cattle cars full of people passing your house and returning empty.	Being a council office worker who compiles lists of Jews to be sent to the gas chambers.	Reporting a Jew to the Nazis who you found in hiding in your attic.

	The Allies (British, French and American forces) knowing about the transportation of Jews to Auschwitz but doing nothing to stop them.		Being a person who shoots Jews as part of the Einsatzgruppen (Nazi killing groups) but doesn't want to.		Designing a gas chamber.
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Activity 4: Answer the following questions based on what you already know about the Holocaust

1. Who do you think is responsible for the Holocaust?

2. Why?

Activity 5: Read the brief profiles of individuals involved in the Holocaust that follow

1. Decide if they were a **perpetrator** or a **bystander** and colour the boxes to indicate this

a) Heinrich Himmler	Himmler was head of the SS. The SS were the people who made up the Einsatzgruppen (killing squads) and ran the death camps.
b) Reinhard Heydrich	Heydrich organised the murder of the Jews in Europe. He personally planned the places where Jews would be killed.
c) Rudolf Höss	Höss was commandant (in charge) of Auschwitz. He did not personally kill anyone but he made sure the camp could kill as many Jews as quickly as possible.
d) Adolf Hitler	Hitler was leader of Nazi Germany and hated the Jewish people. He did not organise or order the Jews to be killed but he must have known what was happening.
e) Karl Kretschmer	Kretschmer was a German family man and member of the Einsatzgruppen. He took part in the shooting of Jews even though he did not enjoy it.

f) Irma Grese	Grese was a guard at Belsen concentration camp. She shot Jews and helped select victims for the gas chambers. She enjoyed inflicting pain on the camp prisoners.
g) Jaqueline Hering	Hering and her husband owned a furniture company who would buy Jewish hair from the camps to stuff their products with.
h) Josef Mengele	Mengele was an SS officer and chief doctor at Auschwitz. He led and organised experiments on human subjects. He was particularly interested in twins and would carry out painful and often deadly tests on any twins that entered the camp.
i) Charlotta Elias	Elias was a Polish woman who told SS officers about a Jewish family hiding in the woods close to her home.
j) Jurgen Stroop	Stroop was commander of the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw. When the people of this ghetto rebelled he led a very violent and aggressive attack to control and punish them.
k) Kurt Prufer	Prufer was from the Topf and Sohne company. He designed the gas chambers and helped build them at Auschwitz for his company.
l) Christoph Giess	Giess was a Jewish prisoner at Auschwitz. He helped the Nazis convince the Jews getting off the trains to go into the gas chambers by saying they were going to take a shower.
m) Johannes Klein	Klein was an 18 year old German boy who was involved in the violence on Kristallnacht.
n) Dr. J Murach	Murach carried out the euthanasia experiments which were used to develop techniques to kill disabled people.
o) Kurt Gerstein	Gerstein joined the SS to find out if the rumours of the murder of Jews were true. He visited Treblinka death camp and then left the SS.
p) Oscar Schindler	Schindler used Jews from the nearby labour camp to work in his factory for free so he could get rich. He also helped some escape the death camps by giving them jobs.
q) Karl Bischoff	Bischoff was a train conductor who sold Jews tickets for the train journey to Auschwitz.

Answer the following Questions:

3. Who is most responsible for the deaths during the Holocaust? Why?

I think _____ was the most responsible because...

4. Who is least responsible for the deaths during the Holocaust? Why?

I think _____ was the least responsible because...

5. How could the Holocaust have been prevented?

I think the Holocaust could have been prevented by....

6. **“All Germans must take the blame for the Holocaust”**

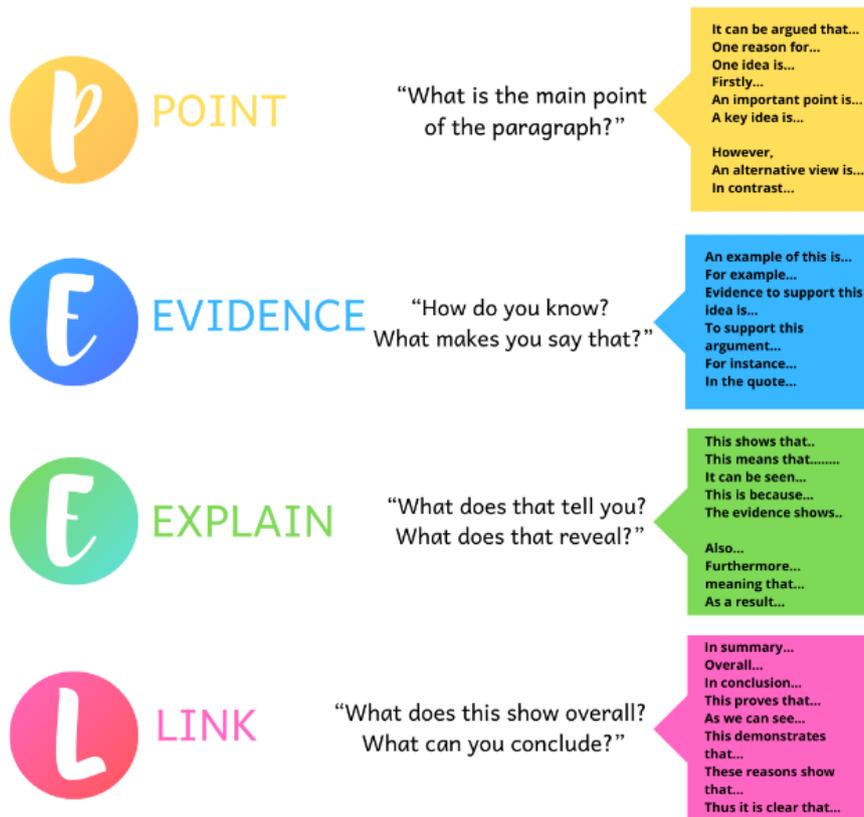
-Gerhard Schroder, German Chancellor, 2005

How far do you agree with this statement? Answer in a PEEL paragraph

In many ways I agree with _____ the German public caused it by _____

However in many ways _____ was just as much to blame because _____

Overall I feel _____ caused the Holocaust because _____



Examining the role and responsibility of the ordinary people who participated in this devastating event allows us to better understand how ethics can shift and bend in challenging contexts. It illustrates how susceptible human beings are to rationalisation, to pressures to conform, to a desire to please those in positions of authority, and to value an in-group we belong to above a group being targeted.



Be A Star Extension – Video

How Did Ordinary Citizens Become Murderers? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92UfAJr7790>

Watch and make notes.

WHO IS TO BLAME FOR THE HOLOCAUST?

Activity 1:

Source 1- *The only thing necessary for evil to flourish is for good men to do nothing* -
Edmund Burke

3. What do you think this quote means?

In history, there are examples of significant and awful events which have happened because nobody spoke out to protect people from being hurt. The Holocaust is a prime example of a case where fear and ignorance meant millions of Jews and other groups were murdered because they did not support the same ideals of the Nazis.

4. Do you agree with it?

What is your opinion?

Many people believe only Hitler and high-ranking Nazi officials were responsible for the Holocaust. But a crime of such enormous scope and scale, with millions of victims across vast geographical territory, required help from countless ordinary individuals. It is important to acknowledge the widespread involvement of people at all levels of society who witnessed the persecution and systematic elimination of Jews from their communities and either actively or passively tolerated what they saw.

Ordinary people behaved in a variety of ways during the Holocaust. Motives ranged from pressures to conform and defer to authorities, to opportunism and greed, to hatred. In many places, the persecution of Jews occurred against a backdrop of centuries of antisemitism. In Germany, many individuals who were not zealous Nazis nonetheless participated in varying degrees in the persecution and murder of Jews and other victims. Following German occupation, countless people in other countries also cooperated in the persecution of Jews.

Everywhere, there were witnesses on the side-lines who cheered on the active participants in persecution and violence.

Most, however, remained silent.

Activity 2:

- Find the definitions to the following words and put them in the correct place on the image

Bystander

Perpetrator



someone who

A bystander is a person who is present at an event or incident but does not take part

someone who

A perpetrator is a person who carries out a harmful, illegal or immoral act

- Can you think of another example of a Bystander and a Perpetrator?

A perpetrator could bully someone at school. A bystander within the social group of the bully could watch it happen and not speak up to help the victim.

- What about another example from history?

South Africa and the Apartheid era – Many white people and government members created a society based on racial prejudice and injustice. This awful treatment of black South Africans continued from 1948 until 1994 and was allowed due to the continuing belief that white people were superior to black people and because international governments became bystanders. It was very unlikely that the end of the Apartheid era and change in government policy would have occurred without an international boycott.

Activity 3: Each box below describes the acts of nine people who were involved in the Holocaust.

- In the pink boxes number the acts from 1 to 9 to show which people you feel were the most (9) and least (1) responsible for the Holocaust. **Your opinion**
- Colour code each box to show which people you think were **bystanders** and which were **perpetrators**.

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Noticing long trains made up of cattle cars full of people passing your house and returning empty.	Being a council office worker who compiles lists of Jews to be sent to the gas chambers.	Reporting a Jew to the Nazis who you found in hiding in your attic.
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Activity 4: Answer the following questions based on what you already know about the Holocaust

3. Who do you think is responsible for the Holocaust?

Your opinion

4. Why?

Activity 5: Read the brief profiles of individuals involved in the Holocaust that follow

7. Decide if they were a perpetrator or a bystander and colour the boxes to indicate this

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v) Karl Kretschmer	Kretschmer was a German family man and member of the Einsatzgruppen. He took part in the shooting of Jews even though he did not enjoy it.
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Answer the following Questions: Your opinion

9. Who is most responsible for the deaths during the Holocaust? Why?

I think _____ was the most responsible because...

10. Who is least responsible for the deaths during the Holocaust? Why?

I think _____ was the least responsible because...

11. How could the Holocaust have been prevented?

I think the Holocaust could have been prevented by....

12. **"All Germans must take the blame for the Holocaust"**

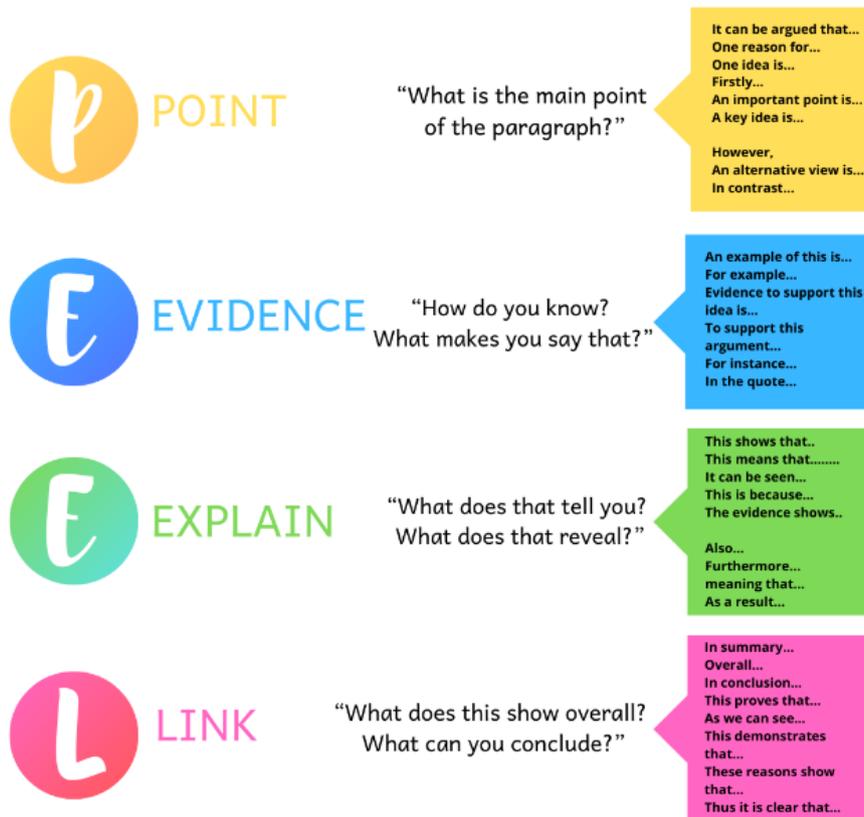
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