

LESSON: Introduction to the Holocaust

NAME: _____

ANSWER KEY: Sample Annotated Definition for Teachers

Students construct an **annotated definition** of the Holocaust using the definition provided by the USHMM and adding information from Gerda's story and the additional individual's story. This annotated definition can be the basis for a paragraph summarizing what they learned from the two individuals' stories. Here's a sample annotation.

NOTE: Supplemental information not found on the ID card is highlighted.

For more support on the value of teaching annotation, [click here](#).

Gerda's story

Anne Frank's story

<p>THE HOLOCAUST was the systematic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its allies and collaborators.</p>	<p>Gerda was born to a Jewish middle-class family in Bielsko, Poland. This made her a target for Nazi persecution.</p>	<p>Anne was born to a Jewish family in Germany, making her a target for Nazi persecution.</p>
<p>The Nazis came to power in Germany in January 1933. They believed that the Germans belonged to a race that was "superior" to all others. They claimed that the Jews belonged to a race that was "inferior" and a threat to the so-called German racial community.</p>	<p>In the late 1930s, Germany annexed and occupied neighboring countries, bringing more Jews under its control. On Friday, September 1, 1939, German fighter planes appeared in Gerda's home town in Poland, causing many people to flee the city. Gerda's family remained and were forced by Germans occupying Bielsko to give up their home and move to a ghetto.</p>	<p>When Hitler came to power in 1933 Anne's family immigrated to the Netherlands. The Nazis invaded the Netherlands in 1940 and Anne was now under Nazi rule and seen as part of an "inferior" race. Anne's family went into hiding to resist Nazi persecution.</p>

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<p>By 1945, the Germans and their allies and collaborators killed nearly two out of every three European Jews as part of the "Final Solution." The "Final Solution" was the Nazi policy to murder the Jews of Europe.</p>	<p>1940-45: After being moved to Bielsko's ghetto, Gerda was deported in 1942 to work in a textile mill in Bolkenhain, Silesia. Gerda was later sent to slave-labor camps in Marzdorf, Landshut, and Gruenberg. She was liberated by the American army in May 1945 and immigrated to the United States in 1946. Gerda's brother and her parents along with many friends were murdered in the Holocaust.</p>	<p>In 1944, Anne's family was discovered and they were arrested. They were sent to the Westerbork camp and then to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Anne and her sister stayed together and after several months, were taken to Bergen Belsen, where they died, likely in February 1945. Anne's father was the only member of her family to survive.</p>
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