

## The Holocaust

### 1. Before you read

1. What does the word "Holocaust" suggest to you?
2. What does the word "Holocaust" mean?
3. What do you know about Holocaust?
4. Design a Holocaust spidergram on your exercise-books.

### 2. Listen to the song and complete with the following words: Bible – green – gypsies - Jews - trade unions – wore.

#### Yellow Triangle – Christy Moore

*Black triangle, pink triangle*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ triangle, red triangle

*Blue triangle, lilac triangle*

And they 2. \_\_\_\_\_ the yellow triangle

*When first they came for the criminals I did not speak*

Then they began to take the 3. \_\_\_\_\_

*When they fetched the people who were members of 4. \_\_\_\_\_*

*I did not speak*

*They took away the 5. \_\_\_\_\_ students, rounded up the homosexuals*

Then they gathered up the immigrants and the 6. \_\_\_\_\_

*I did not speak, I did not speak*

*Eventually they came for me but there was no one left to speak*

*Black triangle, pink triangle*

*Green triangle, red triangle*

*Blue triangle, lilac triangle*

And they wore the yellow triangle

*I did not speak*

#### Glossary

fetch – andare a prendere  
gather up – raccogliere  
eventually - poi  
fabric – tessuto  
overlap – sovrapporre  
trade-unionist - sindacalista  
gypsies – zingari  
striker - scioperante

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Over one million Jewish children were killed in the Holocaust.

The song is by **Christy Moore** and it is based upon a poem by the **Pastor Martin Niemöller** (1892-1984). It is very sad, melancholic. In a few words it explains how in the Nazi camps the prisoners were obliged to wear **fabric triangles** on their uniforms, painted in different colours according to the category they belonged to in order to be immediately identified. Jews wore a yellow triangle **overlapped** by a David star. Political prisoners (communists and **trade-unionists**) wore a red triangle, homosexuals a pink triangle and Jehovah's Witnesses a purple triangle. Green triangles belonged to the "common criminals", black triangles to the so-called "asocials", brown triangles to **Gypsies**, white triangles to work **strikers** and, finally, blue triangles to war prisoners from occupied countries.

**3. Match items from the left column with items from the right column.**

1. yellow triangle	A. homosexuals
2. black triangle	B. common criminals
3. red triangle	C. work strikers
4. blue triangle	D. Jews
5. brown triangle	E. political prisoners (communists and trade-unionists)
6. pink triangle	F. Jehovah's witnesses
7. purple triangle	G. asocials
8. white triangle	H. gypsies
9. green triangle	I. war prisoners

Holocaust is a Greek word which means "total destruction". It is used to refer to the death of millions of Jews during WWII. In fact, the Holocaust was the persecution and mass murder of Jewish people by the Nazis.

<p><b>Glossary</b>  get rid of – liberarsi di</p>
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Hitler believed Jews, gypsies, homosexuals, the mentally ill and the disabled did not deserve a place in the German empire. This is why he wanted to **get rid of** them in an atrocious plan called the Final Solution.

In 1935, Hitler passed the Nuremberg Laws, which stopped Jews being German citizens and banned marriage between Jews and non-Jews.

From 1940s on, Jewish people were forced to move into ghettos, like the one in Warsaw – districts which were walled in and policed by armed guards and where living conditions were terrible.

In 1941, the Nazis started to build big concentration camps in German-occupied countries in Eastern Europe, where more than 12 million people were then shot, poisoned in gas chambers or starved to death. One of these death camps was Auschwitz, in Poland. The horror of Hitler's camps was fully revealed at the end of the war, in 1945, when the Allies marched into them.

**4. Read the text and complete the following notes.**

- Holocaust is a Greek word which means \_\_\_\_\_.
- The word Holocaust refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Jewish people were persecuted by \_\_\_\_\_.
- Hitler's plan was called \_\_\_\_\_.
- In 1935 Hitler \_\_\_\_\_.
- From 1940s on Jewish people \_\_\_\_\_.
- Ghettos were \_\_\_\_\_.
- In 1941 the Nazis \_\_\_\_\_.
- In concentration camps Jews \_\_\_\_\_.
- The horror of Hitler's camps finished in \_\_\_\_\_.