**The Holocaust 3 – Resistance**

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| **Aim:** | **Date:** |
| **Key Words:**  **1.**  **2.** |  |

**A. Hiding and Escape from the Nazis**

During the Holocaust, the Germans banned harboring Jews or refugees, but some people defied the law such as the village of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon in France. Members took Jews into their homes, fed and clothed them, provide money and forged identification papers and educated their children. It is said that between 1940 and 1943 there was not a wine cellar or hay stack or attic in the entire town that had not sheltered a Jewish child. In the dark of the night, villagers would hide children in their hay wagons and transport them across the mountains to safety in Switzerland. No resident ever turned away, denounced or betrayed a single Jewish refugee. It is estimated that the town saved more than 5,000 from the Holocaust. An old villager later recalled. “We didn’t protect Jews because we were moral or heroic people. We helped them because it was the human thing to do.”

*How would you describe the situation in this French town?*

*Why would people risk their own lives to save others?*

**B. Resistance in the Ghettos**

In January 1943, Warsaw (in Poland) ghetto fighters (Jews) fired upon German troops as they tried to round up a group for deportation. These people were being sent to extermination camps. Fighters (Jews) used a small supply of weapons that had been smuggled into the ghetto. After a few days, the troops (Germans) retreated. This small victory inspired the ghetto fighters (Jews) to prepare for future resistance. On April 19, 1943, the Warsaw Ghetto uprising began after German troops and police entered the ghetto to deport everyone left. Seven hundred and fifty fighters (Jews) fought heavily armed and well-trained Germans. The ghetto fighters (Jews) were able to hold out for nearly a month, but on May 16, 1943, the revolt ended. The Germans had slowly crushed the resistance. Of the more than 56,000 Jews captured 7,000 were shot and the remainder were sent to concentration or extermination camps.

*What claim can be made about the resistance in the ghettos? Use evidence!*

*From the POV of a German Officer (SS), how would you feel towards the Jews after this uprising?*

**C. Resistance in the Concentration and Extermination Camps**

In August 1943, an uprising took place at the Treblinka extermination camp. Many buildings were burnt to the ground, and 70 people escaped. The Germans had to shut down gassing operations for a month and 1,500 people were killed.

In October 1943, another uprising took place at Sobibor extermination camp. In this uprising 11 German SS officers were killed and 300 of 700 people escaped. The escape forced the Nazis to shut down the camp.

*What claim can be made about the resistance in the camps? Use evidence!*

**D. Art in the Ghettos and Camps**

“The last, the very last, So richly, brightly, dazzlingly yellow. Perhaps if the sun's tears would sing against a white stone...Such, such a yellow Is carried lightly way up high It went away I' m sure because it wished to kiss the world goodbye. For seven weeks I've lived in here, Penned up inside this ghetto but I have found my people here The dandelions call to me And the white chestnut candles in the court. Only I never saw another butterfly. That butterfly was the last one, Butterflies don't live in here, In the ghetto.”

- Pavel Freidman (June 4, 1942) died September 29, 1944

*What is the purpose of this poem? (Persuade, Inform, Entertain) Explain.*

*Based on the video, what claim can you make about art in the ghettos and camps? Use Evidence!*

*How is art a form of resistance?*

**E. Fictional Resistance**

*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie* *Society* is a fictional book about a group of people living in the town of Guernsey who lie and create a book club when they were discovered breaking curfew by the occupying Germans. The group have weekly book club meetings and create odd dishes from the rationed food they have.

“We begun to meet--for the sake of the Commandant at first, and then for our own pleasure. None of us had experience with literary societies, so we made our own rules: we took turns speaking about the books we'd read. …We read books, talked books, argued over books, and become dearer and dearer to one another. . .we could almost forget, now and then, the darkness outside.”

*What is the purpose of creating fictional resistance stories in modern times? (Persuade, Inform, Entertain) Explain.*