

Yom HaShoah: Understanding the Holocaust

6th Grade



Essential Question

Understanding Injustice and Responsibility

How do systems of injustice develop and escalate into genocide? It is crucial to recognize our responsibility in preventing future atrocities by learning from history and taking action against hatred.



Learning Goals

01 **Prejudice**

Understanding its growth into widespread violence and hatred.

02 **Injustice**

Identifying warning signs that lead to serious consequences.

03 **Remembrance**

Understanding Yom HaShoah as a call to honor victims.

04 **Responsibility**

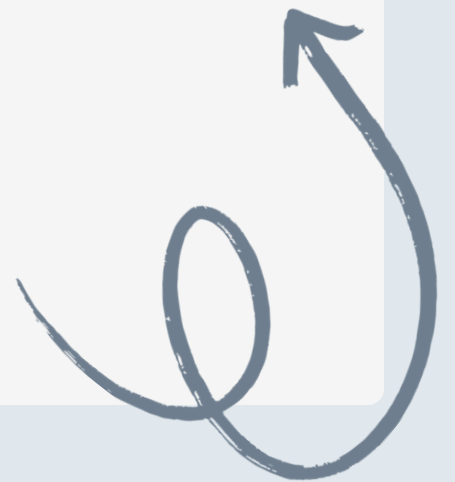
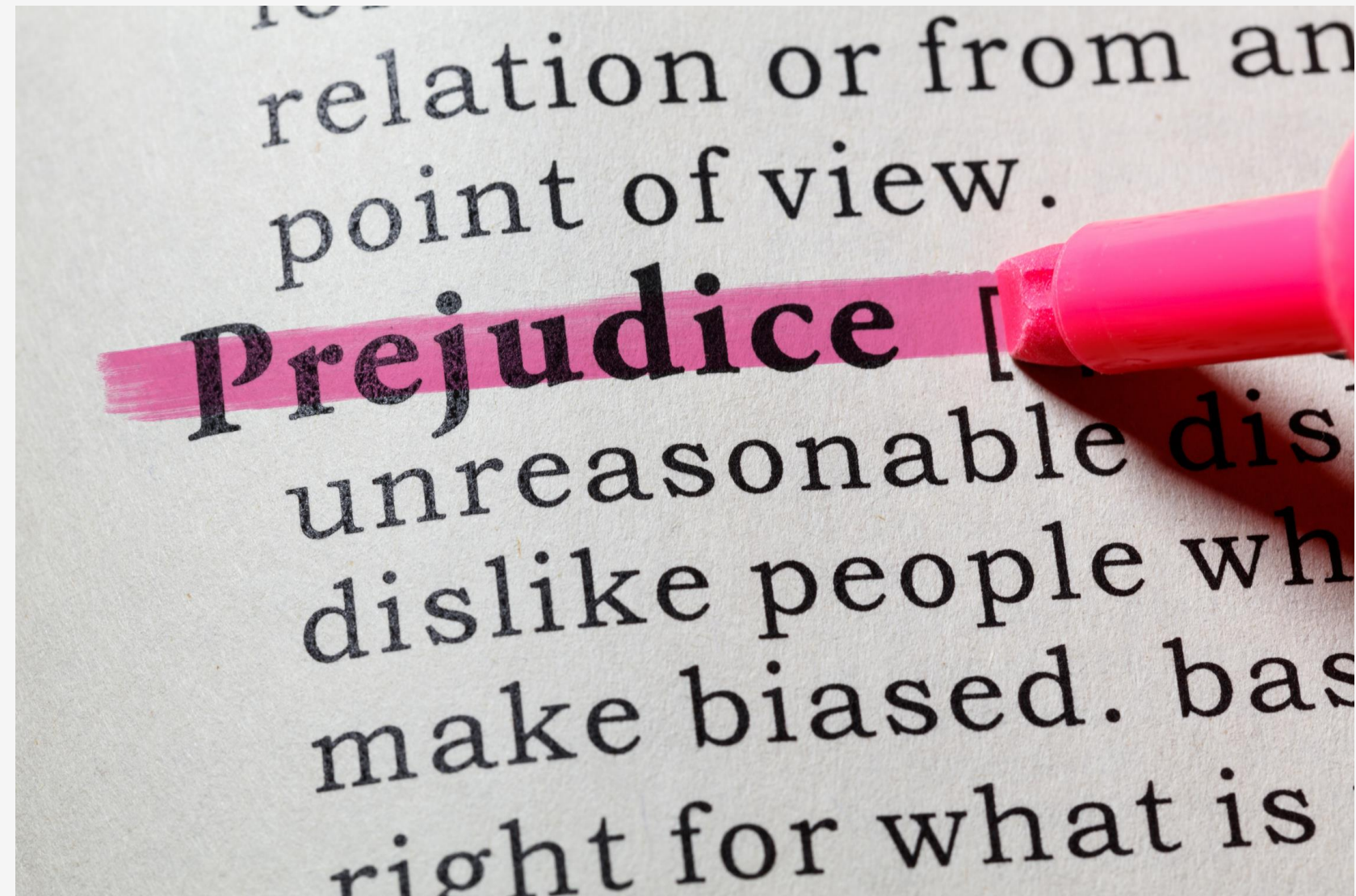
Recognizing our duty to remember and act against injustice.

05 **Resistance**

Exploring the choices that individuals can make in crises.

From Prejudice to Genocide

Understanding the gradual escalation of hate



Progression of Persecution

Prejudice & Propaganda

Discrimination & Laws

Segregation & Ghettos

Concentration & Camps



From 1933 to 1935, anti-Semitic propaganda spread lies and stereotypes, fostering a culture of hatred and prejudice against Jewish people throughout Germany.

Between 1935 and 1939, discriminatory laws stripped Jewish individuals of their rights, excluding them from jobs, schools, and public life, further marginalizing them within society.

In 1939, Jewish people were forcibly relocated into overcrowded ghettos, isolating them from the rest of the population and worsening their living conditions under harsh regulations.

From 1941 to 1942, the establishment of concentration camps led to forced labor, starvation, and mass death, marking a devastating escalation in the persecution of Jewish people.

Systems of Injustice

How society enabled genocide to flourish



Government

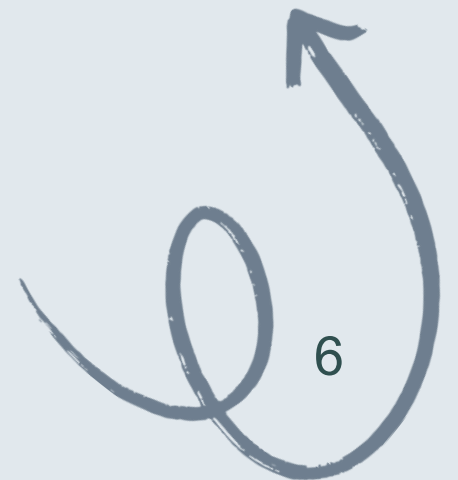
Governments enacted **discriminatory laws** that marginalized targeted groups, stripping away rights and freedoms, creating a legal foundation for persecution and oppression.

Military

The military played a **critical role** in executing orders for arrests, deportations, and violence, enforcing government policies through brute force and intimidation.

Police

Police forces enforced **discriminatory measures** and instilled fear in communities, actively participating in the oppression of marginalized groups and suppressing any form of resistance.



The Courageous Journey of Bayla and Henry

Bayla and Henry Mann, married in 1939, faced the horrors of the Holocaust when Nazis invaded their hometown in Lithuania, enduring forced relocation to the Kovno Ghetto before escaping to rebuild their lives in America.

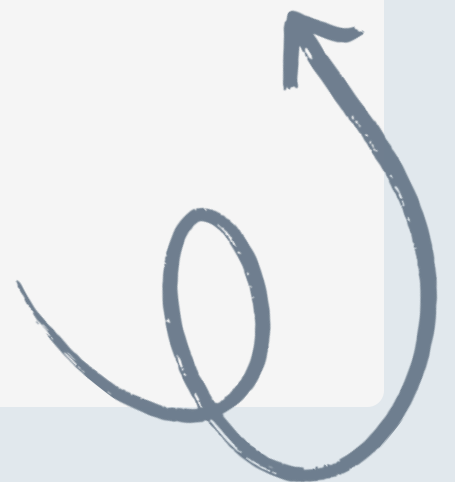


Reflection Questions

Exploring choices and responsibility

Reflect on pivotal moments when individuals could have intervened.

Consider the choices made by Bayla, Henry, and the farmer, and discuss how their actions shape our understanding of moral responsibility today.



Understanding Moral Agency in History

Moral agency is the ability to make choices and take action. During the Holocaust, individuals faced options to do evil, do nothing, or do good, highlighting the significance of personal responsibility.



Choices and Consequences

Perpetrators

● Perpetrators were individuals who actively participated in the genocide, carrying out orders and committing atrocities against victims, driven by ideology or personal gain, contributing to immense suffering.

Collaborators

● Collaborators aided the perpetrators by providing support, information, or resources, often motivated by self-interest or pressure, and they played significant roles in implementing oppressive policies.

Bystanders

● Bystanders remained silent during the atrocities, choosing not to intervene, which allowed the persecution to escalate unchecked, illustrating the dangers of inaction in the face of injustice.

Resisters

● Resisters actively opposed the genocide, risking their lives to protect victims and fight against oppression, exemplifying moral courage through acts of defiance against the regime.

Bayla and Henry's Courageous Escape

Bayla and Henry Mann demonstrated immense courage as they escaped the ghetto, hiding their identities while relying on a brave farmer who risked everything to help them survive against all odds.



Rebuilding Lives After the War

Survivors of the Holocaust rebuilt their lives with resilience and determination. They started families and businesses, instilling values of strength and faith that have enriched our community to this day.



Moral Agency

Understanding choices and actions

Having moral agency means recognizing our power to make choices and act. It's crucial to reflect on how our decisions can influence ourselves and others positively.



Yom HaShoah: Remembering and Acting

Yom HaShoah, the **Day of the Holocaust**, is a significant observance that reminds us of our duty to remember history and ensure the prevention of future atrocities through our actions today.



Understanding “Never Again”

01 **Hate**

Recognizing warning signs is crucial for prevention.

02 **Solidarity**

Standing with victims shows courage and support.

03 **Education**

Teaching history fosters awareness and responsibility.

04 **Discrimination**

Speaking up helps protect those unjustly targeted.

05 **Freedom**

Protecting democracy is vital for all communities.



Genocides Throughout History

Armenian Genocide

The Armenian Genocide occurred in 1915, where approximately 1.5 million Armenians were killed by the Ottoman Empire, marking one of the first modern genocides in history.

Holocaust

The Holocaust, from 1933 to 1945, resulted in the systematic murder of six million Jews by Nazi Germany, representing a significant and catastrophic event in human history.

Cambodian Genocide

During the Cambodian Genocide from 1975 to 1979, the Khmer Rouge regime killed around two million people through starvation, forced labor, and execution, profoundly impacting the nation.

Rwandan Genocide

In 1994, the Rwandan Genocide led to the mass murder of approximately 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu individuals within a span of just 100 days, fueled by ethnic tensions.

Warning Signs of Genocide

01 **Blame**

Groups often become scapegoats for societal problems.

02 **Propaganda**

Misinformation spreads fear and hatred against groups.

03 **Rights Erosion**

Legal protections are taken away from targeted groups.

04 **Dehumanization**

Language reduces groups to subhuman status and worth.

05 **Segregation**

Isolating groups makes discrimination easier and justified.

Honoring Holocaust Survivors' Strength

Many survivors came to America, **building new lives** and families, contributing to our community. Their stories of resilience remind us of the strength that emerges from profound hardship and loss.



Marta Wise, Holocaust Survivor

Our Responsibility as Global Citizens

01 **History**

We must learn and teach about our past.

02 **Hate**

Speaking up against hate is crucial for equality.

03 **Human Rights**

Protecting human rights ensures dignity for all.

04 **Peace**

Supporting justice promotes harmony in our communities.

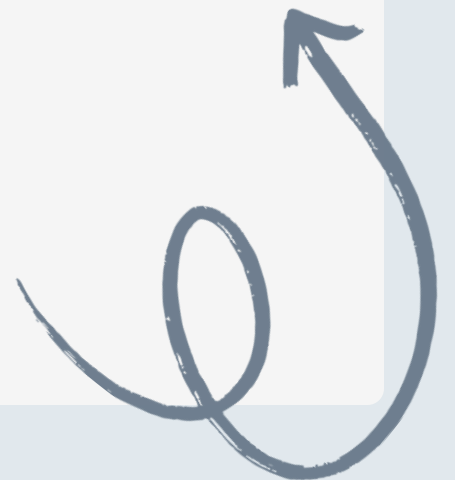
05 **Kindness**

Making choices that promote kindness fosters understanding.

Global Citizenship

Understanding Our Role and Responsibility

Being a global citizen means recognizing our responsibility to stand against injustice, support survivors, and promote a world where kindness and understanding prevail over hatred and discrimination.



Engaging with Guest Speakers

It's essential to listen **with empathy** and respect during guest speaker sessions. Remember to engage thoughtfully by asking kind questions and expressing gratitude for their shared experiences and stories.



Reflection on Learning and Responsibility

After the visit, you are encouraged to **reflect on your experiences**. They will consider how the stories connect to their studies, deepening their understanding of history and their role in preventing injustice.



Personal Commitment to Remember

In this letter, you will reflect on your learning journey and **commit to honoring** the stories of those affected by the Holocaust, embracing moral responsibility, and promoting justice in their communities.

COMMITMENT

Commitment refers to the prolonged state of being dedicated to a cause, community, person, company, and so on.

OVERVIEW

Commitment is a steadfast dedication or obligation. It involves a strong sense of responsibility and the willingness to prioritize and invest resources, whether they be time, energy, or other assets, to fulfill commitments. It is characterized by a deep sense of loyalty, discipline, and determination, even in the face of challenges or obstacles.

EXAMPLES

- **Athlete's Dedication:** A dedicated athlete wakes up at dawn every day to train rigorously, pushing through fatigue and setbacks.
- **Employee's Extra Mile:** An exemplary employee consistently goes above and beyond their assigned tasks to ensure the success and growth of their company.

Empowering the Next Generation

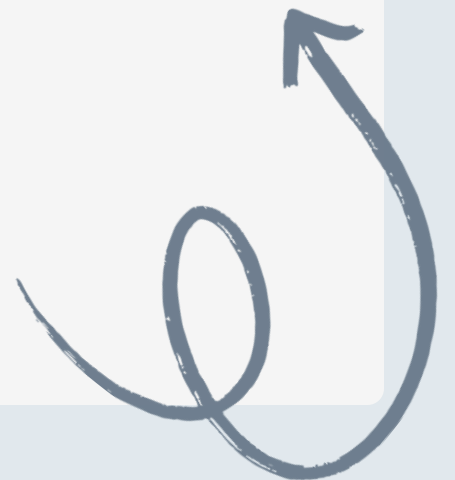
Remembering our past is essential to **honoring** those lost. By speaking up against injustice and taking action today, we empower ourselves to shape a future where our voices truly matter.



Thank You

Learning and remembering together

We appreciate your engagement in this important topic. **Any questions or thoughts** about what we've discussed? Your participation is vital in keeping these memories alive.



Remembering

Together, we learn
and act

