

GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR UPPER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS



ECHOES & REFLECTIONS

TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST. INSPIRING THE CLASSROOM.

Glossary of Terms for Grades 3-6

Antisemitism: Hatred of Jewish people as individuals or as a group.

Bystander: A person who is present at an event or who knows about it happening and has the ability or opportunity to take action, but makes the choice not to do so.

Discrimination: Unfair treatment of one person or group of people because of the person or group's identity.

Holocaust:

Option A: A time in history when the German government, run by the Nazi Party, discriminated against Jews and other people they thought were inferior. They ultimately took the lives of Jewish people and many others.

Option B: In the 1930s and 1940s, the Nazis, led by Adolf Hitler, were in control of Germany. They hated the Jewish people and passed laws to discriminate against them and make them feel like they were not part of Germany. During World War II, the Nazis decided to kill as many Jewish people as they could; in the end, during what became known as the Holocaust, they killed 6 million Jews. The Nazis also discriminated and killed millions of other individuals they felt were inferior.

Jews: People who practice Judaism and/or its ethnic and cultural traditions.

Judaism: A religion practiced by Jewish people. Jews were the first group to believe in one God.

Nazi Party: A political party that gained power in Germany after World War I. The party's leader, Adolf Hitler, was a forceful leader who hated Jewish people.

Prejudice: Prejudging or deciding about a person or group of people without enough knowledge or information. Prejudicial thinking is often based on stereotypes.

Scapegoat: Blaming a person or group of people for something based on that person or group's identity when the person or group is not responsible. Scapegoating is used to shift peoples' negative feelings, like anger and hostility, onto the person or group of people being blamed.

Stereotype: An oversimplified and general idea about a person or group.

Swastika: The swastika is an ancient symbol meaning good fortune and well-being. The Nazis used the symbol and changed its meaning to stand for their power and to scare those who they disliked. Today, the swastika is still used by some people and groups as a symbol of hate.

Synagogue: A building or place of meeting for worship for Jews.