

THE NAZI PARTY



GRADE 5-6

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Classroom Procedure:

1. Display the term *Nazi Party*. Ask students what they know about the Nazi Party? Where did it begin? Who was involved?
2. Allow for responses and discussion. Ask students to share information about Adolph Hitler, Germany, and the Holocaust.
3. Allow for responses and discussion. Introduce *The Nazi Party* to the class.
4. Distribute *The Nazi Party* content pages. Read and review the information with the students. Save the final question for the lesson closing. Use the additional resources to enhance understanding.
5. Distribute Activity pages. Read and review the instructions. Group students in 3s or 4s. Allow sufficient time for the students to discuss a New Youth Group that would combat the Nazi's Hitler Youth Group. Remind students it must be positive and inclusive. Encourage cooperation among the students and remind them to respect each other's opinions.
6. Once completed, the students will share the New Youth Group with the class. The students may ask questions during the presentations.
7. Distribute Practice page. Check and review the students' responses.
8. Distribute the Homework page. The next day, check and review the students' responses.
9. In closing, ask students: *Do you believe a group like the Nazi Party could ever exist again? Why or why not?*
10. Allow for responses and discussion. Encourage students to give examples of groups of people who may be like the Nazi Party. Responses may include terrorist groups, hate groups, etc.

Approximate Grade Level: 5 – 6

Objectives: The students will be able to identify the Nazi Party, its impact and influence on Germany and the world, and other characteristics of the party.

State Educational Standards*

LB.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.3

LB.ELA-Literacy.SL.6.2

Class Sessions (45 minutes):

At least 2 class sessions.

Teaching Materials/Worksheets:

The Nazi Party content pages (3), Activity pages (2), Practice page, Homework page

Student Supplies:

handouts

Prepare Ahead of Time:

Group students in 3s or 4s for the activity.
Copy handouts.

Options for Lesson: Students may work alone or in pairs for the activity. Following the activity, students may vote for the group they would most likely join, vote for the best new symbol, etc. Students research more information about the Hitler Youth and present it to the class. Assign students the leaders of the Nazi Party to research and present to the class. Invite a history expert to the class to speak with students about the Nazi Party and Hitler.

*Lessons are aligned to meet the education objectives and goals of most states. For more information on your state objectives, contact your local Board of Education or Department of Education in your state.



Teacher Notes

The lesson introduces students to the Nazi Party and its influence and impact on Germany and the rest of the world. Many students may be aware of the term *Nazi* but likely do not know its origin or the devastation and death its members caused during World War II. The lesson may be used in conjunction with lessons related to WWII, the Holocaust, and Adolph Hitler.

Nazi Party Origin

Most likely you may have heard of the **Nazi Party** and its relationship to Adolph Hitler, Germany, World War I and II, and the Holocaust. The Nazi Party was a political party founded in Germany in 1919 and later brought to power by Adolph Hitler in 1933. The Nazi Party was also called the National Socialist German Workers' Party and the German Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (NSDAP).

Many people believe the party was founded by Adolph Hitler. However, in 1919, a Munich locksmith named **Anton Drexler** founded it as the German Workers' Party. In that same year, Hitler did attend one of the party meetings, joined as its 55th member, and eventually took over its leadership and created a 25-point program that became the permanent basis for the party. By 1921, Hitler ousted the previous leaders as the group became a more Nationalist, racist, anti-Semitic, anti-capitalist, and anti-communist group.

Highlights of the Nazi 25-Point Program

- A demand for land and territory
- Only a single race (white) can be citizens, no Jews
- All non-Germans must leave
- Press is controlled
- Physical fitness is encouraged



The group sought support from the working-class people of Germany and were seeking to expand the German territory which was thwarted by the Treaty of Versailles which was a peace document signed at the end of World War I. Hitler and the group were unhappy with the treaty and the party grew steadily in its home base of Bavaria, Germany. At the same time, the party adopted the swastika as its symbol, and **Hitler Youth** had been formed for children of party members and other supporters of the party.

For the next few years, during party meetings and rallies, the group organized strong-arm groups (bodyguards who used excessive force) for protection. Many members of the groups were WWI veterans and from **paramilitary** organizations (rebels or terrorists) and were organized under the name Sturmabteilung (SA). In 1923, the party tried to take over the Bavarian state government hoping it would lead to a nationwide rebellion against the **Weimar Republic** (the government of Germany from 1919 to 1933).





The takeover failed, and the Nazi Party was temporarily banned as Hitler was sent to prison for most of 1924. After his release in 1925, Hitler was determined to regain power using non-violent, legitimate methods. The SA separated from the main party and took on the role of a support group as did the SS, Hitler's personal bodyguard.

Overall membership grew from 25,000 in 1925 to about 180,000 in 1929, and many of the leaders began contesting local, state, and federal elections. In the beginning, they gained only a small number of seats in the German Parliament, but the Nazi Party gained much more support following the financial crisis and the Great Depression in 1929. In January of 1933, Adolph Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany.

Rise to Power

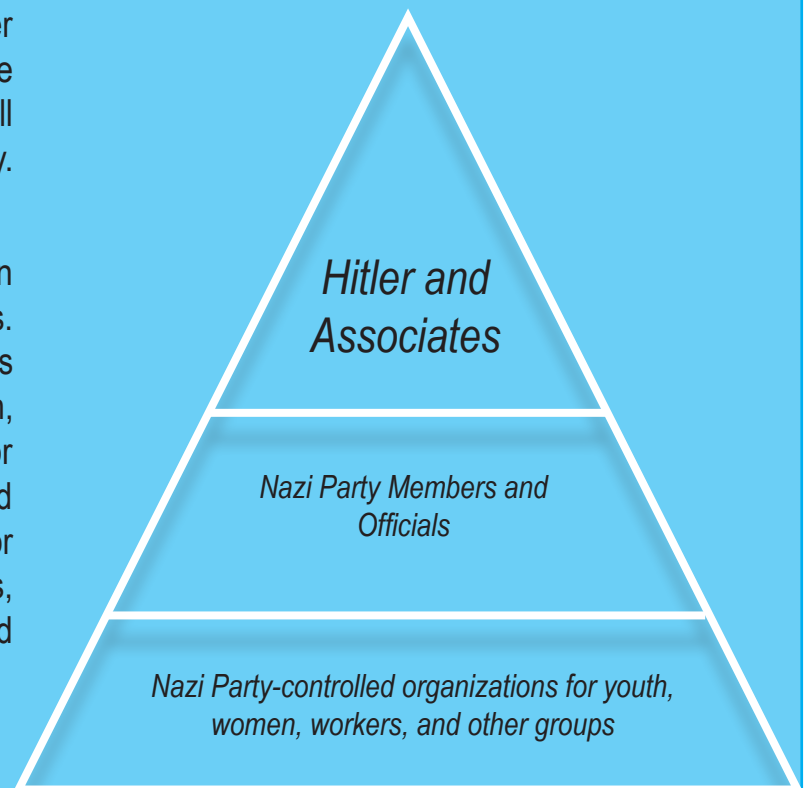
The Nazis now had a clear majority in Parliament, and in March 1933, the **Enabling Act** gave Hitler the power to make laws without consulting parliament. It was at this time, the first step of Hitler's dictatorship began, and one of his first orders was banning all political parties other than the Nazi party. In addition, all teenagers had to join **Hitler Youth**, local governments were taken over by the Nazis, trade unions were banned, and the secret police called **The Gestapo** were formed. And in 1934, any of the SA leaders who disagreed with Hitler policies were murdered.[Image: small map of Germany]

Also, in the same year, following the death of Germany's President, Paul von Hindenburg, the posts of president and chancellor were combined by Hitler and he officially became **Fuhrer** (leader) of Germany. Hitler was the dictator of Germany and would remain in power until 1945. The Nazi Party leaders retained their positions only if they were favored by Hitler. The other leaders of the party included:

- Rudolph Hess, Deputy leader
- Hermann Goering, Minister for Air
- Heinrich Himmler, Head of the SS
- Josef Goebels, Propaganda Minister
- Reinhard Heydrich, Head of the Gestapo
- Joachim von Ribbontrop, Foreign Minister

Nazi Party membership was mandatory for all higher civil servants, bureaucrats, and others in the state and the federal government. The party took over all political, social, and cultural activities in Germany. The party was organized like a pyramid:

In 1933, the Nazis opened their first concentration camp in Dachau, Germany to hold political prisoners. The facility evolved into a death camp where thousands of Jews were murdered. They were starved to death, suffered from untreated diseases, overworked, or simply executed. The prisoners of the camp included members of other groups Hitler considered unfit for the new Nazi Germany such as artists, intellectuals, Gypsies, physically and mentally handicapped and homosexuals.



Under Hitler and the Nazi Party, Germany's foreign policy was to undo the Treaty of Versailles and to restore Germany's standing in the world. He withdrew Germany from the League of Nations in 1933 and rebuilt the Germany army, reoccupied previously lost land, annexed Austria in 1938, and invaded Czechoslovakia in 1939.

Nazi Germany then set its eye toward Poland, but Great Britain and France interceded by guaranteeing Polish security. However, on September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland leading Great Britain and France to declare war on Germany which ignited World War II.

Poland was conquered, the war expanded, and the Nazi Party formed alliances with Japan and Italy, and later in 1941, they launched an invasion of the Soviet Union. Their goal was to crush the world's major communist power. The United States then entered the war in 1941, and Germany was fighting in North Africa, Italy, France, the Balkans, and in the Soviet Union. At the beginning of World War II, Hitler and Nazi Party were trying to dominate Europe, but five years later, they were fighting to exist.



Jewish Persecution

One of the worst atrocities carried out by Hitler and the Nazi Party was the persecution of Germany's Jewish citizens. In 1933, a series of measures were instituted against the Jewish people, and by 1938, Jews were banned from most public places in Germany.

After the invasion and occupation of Poland, the persecution and killing of the Jewish people escalated in that country as well. The German troops shot thousands of Polish Jews, confined them to ghettos where they starved to death, and most were sent to the concentration camps or death camps in various parts of Poland. They were either killed or forced into slave labor. And later, in 1941, following the invasion of the Soviet Union, Nazi death squads machine-gunned tens of thousands of Jews in Soviet Russia's western region.



The Nazi Party became bolder against the Jewish people and decided on the last phase of what it called the "Final Solution" of the "Jewish problem". They wanted to systematically murder all European Jews, and in 1942 and 1943, thousands of Jews in western occupied countries of France and Belgium were sent to death camps across Europe. One well-known camp called **Auschwitz** began operating in Poland where thousands and thousands of Jews were murdered daily. Over 6 million Jews were murdered by Hitler and the Nazi Party.

The murders finally stopped during the final months of the war as German armies began retreating toward Berlin. Hitler committed suicide in April of 1945. After the war, the Allies occupied Germany and outlawed the Nazi Party. Germany began to eliminate Nazi influence from every aspect of German life. The swastika flag has become a symbol of evil in modern postwar culture. Hitler never faced a trial for his part in the murders, but other Nazi officials were convicted of war crimes in the **Nuremberg** trials between 1945 and 1949.

In summary, Adolph Hitler joined the Nazi Party in 1919 and almost immediately took control of the group. During the following years, the actions of the party and Hitler led to the beginning of World War II and the systematic murder of millions of Jews. Today, the symbol of the party and the term *Nazi* is a clear representation of evil in most parts of the world.



Do you believe a group like the Nazi Party could ever exist again? Why or why not?





The Hitler Youth membership reached about 2 million by the end of 1933. The young people wore uniforms, attended meetings and rallies, and were indoctrinated with and instructed in Nazi views and beliefs. Many of the young people like had no choice to join or not, and the youth also participated in sports and outdoor activities, as well as parading and marching.

You and your group must create a new Youth Organization that would be the opposite of the Hitler Youth group. Discuss the rules, activities, and the views the leaders would pass along to its members. Use the space below to cooperatively complete the assignment.

Name of the New Youth Group: _____

List Ten Rules the Youth must follow:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____

List activities for the Youth:



List at least five views or beliefs the Youth Group might be taught:

1

2

3

4

5

Create a symbol for the New Youth Group below:



Tell the significance of each person, place, or thing as it relates to the Nazi Party.

- 1 Anton Drexler _____
- 2 Weimar Republic _____
- 3 Swastika _____
- 4 Enabling Act _____
- 5 Hitler Youth _____
- 6 The Gestapo _____
- 7 Dachau, Germany _____
- 8 Auschwitz _____
- 9 Nuremberg _____
- 10 Poland _____
- 11 Treaty of Versailles _____
- 12 Fuhrer _____
- 13 Paramilitary _____
- 14 Paul von Hindenburg _____
- 15 Jewish people _____

Match the person to their title in the Nazi Party.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 16 _____ Hermann Goering | A Head of the SS |
| 17 _____ Joachim von Ribbontrop | B Deputy Leader |
| 18 _____ Rudolph Hess | C Head of the Gestapo |
| 19 _____ Josef Goebels | D Minister for Air |
| 20 _____ Heinrich Himmler | E Propaganda Minister |
| 21 _____ Reinhard Heydrich | F Foreign Minister |



Homework

Name _____ Date _____



Answer each question.

1. What year was the Nazi Party founded as the German Workers' Party? _____
2. Besides being Nationalist, what else was the Nazi Party? _____
3. Where was the base of the Nazi Party in Germany? _____
4. What was signed at the end of WWI thwarting German expansion? _____
5. What was the SA? _____
6. What year did Hitler mostly spend in jail? _____
7. What took place in 1929 which helped increase enrollment in the Nazi Party? _____
8. In January of 1933, what was Hitler appointed as in Germany? _____
9. What was the name of the secret police? _____
10. What two posts were combined following the death of Hindenburg? _____
11. List the hierarchy of the Nazi Party: _____
12. What groups of people did Hitler and the Nazi Party feel unfit for the new Germany? _____

13. What land did Hitler annex in 1938? _____
14. What country was invaded by the Nazis in 1939? _____
15. What country did Germany invade which triggered the start of WWII? _____
16. What two countries interceded to help Poland? _____
17. What year did the United States enter WWII? _____
18. What did the Nazi Party call the "Jewish problem"? _____
19. How many Jews were killed by Hitler and the Nazi Party? _____
20. What has the swastika and the word *Nazi* come to civilize in the modern world? _____

Why do you believe many people in Germany, including young people, easily followed Hitler and joined the Nazi Party?



Tell the significance of each person, place, or thing as it relates to the Nazi Party.

1 Anton Drexler	Founded the German Workers' Party, later became the Nazi Party
2 Weimar Republic	The government of Germany which the Nazi Party tried to take over
3 Swastika	The Nazi Party symbol
4 Enabling Act	Parliament decision to give Hitler the power to make laws
5 Hitler Youth	Nazi Party group formed for children of party members, teenagers
6 The Gestapo	The secret police of the Nazi Party and Hitler's government
7 Dachau, Germany	Location of 1 st concentration camp opened by the Nazis
8 Auschwitz	Poland-located death camp operated by Nazis killing thousands of Jews
9 Nuremberg	Trials held in Germany prosecuting ex-leaders of the Nazi Party
10 Poland	Country Hitler Germany invaded in 1939 igniting WWII
11 Treaty of Versailles	Hitler and the party wanted the treaty overturned and fought against it
12 Fuhrer	Hitler became the leader or Fuhrer of Germany
13 Paramilitary	Rebels or terrorists used by the party for protection
14 Paul von Hindenburg	German President, died in 1934, Hitler and party take control of Germany
15 Jewish people	Over 6 million persecuted and murdered by the party and Hitler

Match the person to their title in the Nazi Party.

16 <u>D</u> Hermann Goering	A Head of the SS
17 <u>F</u> Joachim von Ribbontrop	B Deputy Leader
18 <u>B</u> Rudolph Hess	C Head of the Gestapo
19 <u>E</u> Josef Goebels	D Minister for Air
20 <u>A</u> Heinrich Himmler	E Propaganda Minister
21 <u>C</u> Reinhard Heydrich	F Foreign Minister



Answer each question.

1. What year was the Nazi Party founded as the German Workers' Party? **1919**
2. Besides being Nationalist, what else was the Nazi Party? **Racist, anti-Semitic/capitalist/communist**
3. Where was the base of the Nazi Party in Germany? **Bavaria**
4. What was signed at the end of WWI thwarting German expansion? **Treaty of Versailles**
5. What was the SA? **Sturmabteilung, organized strong-arm groups used for Nazi protection**
6. What year did Hitler mostly spend in jail? **1924**
7. What took place in 1929 which helped increase enrollment in the Nazi Party? **Great Depression**
8. In January of 1933, what was Hitler appointed as in Germany? **Chancellor**
9. What was the name of the secret police? **The Gestapo**
10. What two posts were combined following the death of Hindenburg? **Chancellor and President**
11. List the hierarchy of the Nazi Party: **Hitler & Associates, Party members & officials, organizations**
12. What groups of people did Hitler and the Nazi Party feel unfit for the new Germany? **Artists, intellectuals, Gypsies, physically and mentally handicapped, homosexuals**
13. What land did Hitler annex in 1938? **Austria**
14. What country was invaded by the Nazis in 1939? **Czechoslovakia**
15. What country did Germany invade which triggered the start of WWII? **Poland**
16. What two countries interceded to help Poland? **France and Great Britain**
17. What year did the United States enter WWII? **1941**
18. What did the Nazi Party call the "Jewish problem"? **the Final Solution**
19. How many Jews were killed by Hitler and the Nazi Party? **6 million**
20. What has the swastika and the word *Nazi* come to civilize in the modern world? **Evil**

Why do you believe many people in Germany, including young people, easily followed Hitler and joined the Nazi Party?
