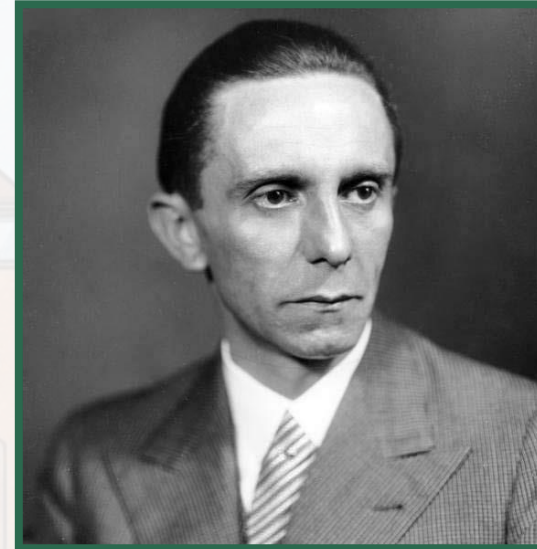


The Holocaust





Both of these men lived during World War II.

What do you think is similar and different about them?

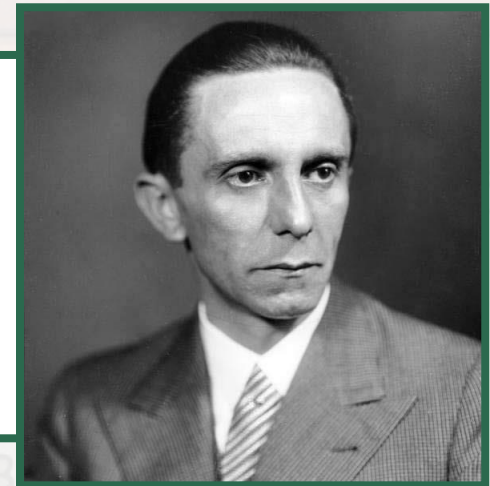
Do you think one man is better than the other? Which one?

What are they like 'on the inside'?



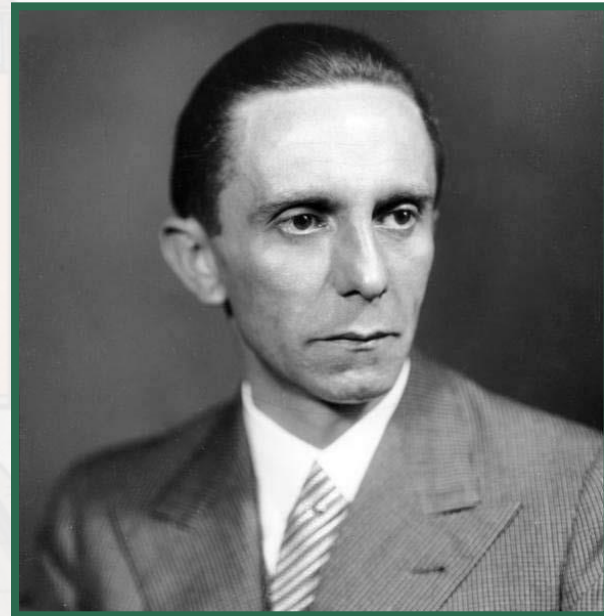
This man is called Arnost Rosin. He was a Slovak Jew (from Slovakia) . During the war, Rosin was detained at a death camp in Auschwitz, Poland because he was Jewish and the Nazi regime believed he, and thousands of other Jews, deserved to die – just because they were Jewish. Luckily, Rosin escaped from Auschwitz on 27th May, 1944.

This man is called Joseph Goebbels. He was a close friend of Adolf Hitler and member of the Nazi party. Goebbels had a strong hatred for the Jewish people and believed they should be exterminated. He was in charge of propaganda during the war that aimed to promote and justify this extreme form of prejudice.





How do you feel reading about Rosin and Goebbels?



The Holocaust

The Holocaust describes the killing of over six-million Jews before and during World War II.

These killings were organised by the German Nazi party and were directed by the party leader, Adolf Hitler.

Hitler blamed the Jews for Germany losing the First World War and for the financial problems in Germany during the 1920s. In fact, Hitler sought to blame the Jews for many of his country's problems.

He made the Jews a **scapegoat** and sought to promote a widespread public hatred of them.

This prejudice against Jews is called **antisemitism**.

scapegoat – person(s) blamed for the wrongdoing or mistakes of others



The Jews pictured here are being made to walk with antisemitic signs during a boycott of Jewish shops. The year is 1933.

The Holocaust

The discrimination against Jewish people in Germany had begun before the war. Jews were made to sit on designated seats on buses and trains, people were stopped from buying goods at Jewish shops and even school children were openly bullied and humiliated by other pupils and their teachers.

Hitler's antisemitic propaganda campaign utilised radio, newspapers and leaflets to incite hatred towards the Jews and promote the supposed superiority of the pure German race.

During the war, the persecution of Jews became much worse. Millions of Jews in Germany and other occupied countries were subjected to horrific abuse, exploitation and death.



This picture shows Nazi soldiers forcing Jews out of hiding in Warsaw, Poland.

The Holocaust

The Jewish people lived in constant fear of being captured. Those who tried to fight back were shot or publically humiliated and tortured by the Nazi soldiers. Jews found in hiding were rounded up and sent on cramped buses and trains to meet an unknown fate. Families were often separated.

Many Jews were sent to concentration camps where they were forced to work like slaves. Many died through infection, starvation or exhaustion. Others were sent to death camps where they were killed in gas chambers. This form of mass killing is called genocide.



Death camp at Auschwitz, Poland

The Holocaust

At the end of the war, mass graves were revealed containing the bodies of thousands of people, who had been mercilessly executed. The Jews and prisoners of war living in concentration camps were liberated and revealed the horrific truth about their treatment. Most were starving and badly beaten.

It was not just Jewish people that were victims. Hitler also targeted people from certain countries like Poland and the Soviet Union and minority groups, such as, homosexuals and disabled people.

The atrocities committed during the Holocaust are still as shocking today as they were during the war.

You can read some Holocaust survivor stories [here](#).



The Holocaust

Anne Frank

Anne Frank was a Jewish girl, who was born in Germany on 12th June 1929.

During the war, Anne's family were forced to go into hiding in Amsterdam and during this time, Anne kept a diary about her experiences.

Eventually, the family were captured and sent to a concentration camp.

Anne's father, Otto, was the only member of the family to survive. He decided to share his daughter's diary, which was first published in 1947.

You can watch an interview with Anne's father [here](#).



Learning from the Holocaust



Talk to the other children in your group and discuss the following:

- How can learning about the Holocaust help us today?
- Is it not better to forget the evil of the past and move on?
- Can you think of any similarities between the Holocaust and events happening in the world today?



Now, list five things we can learn from the Holocaust.

How might we apply these values to situations in our lives today?

e.g. tolerance – how might you show tolerance towards others in school or at home?

Lessons to Live by poster



Design your own poster to promote one of the important values you have identified.

You could include:

- a slogan or rhyme;
- pictures;
- statistics;
- quotes.



