

HOLOCAUST DEFINITIONS: SORTING IT OUT



As you read the *Holocaust Definitions*, note key words or phrases on the chart that help you discover the common threads running through the definitions. Then answer the questions that follow.

Definition	Who are the victims? How are they described or categorized?	Who are the perpetrators? What are their motives or aims?	What terms are used to emphasize the nature of the Holocaust?
UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S.			
YAD VASHEM JERUSALEM, ISRAEL			
IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM LONDON, UK			

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QUESTIONS

1 Were there any major differences among the definitions that stood out to you? Explain.

2 What do you notice about the language dealing with Jews as opposed to other persecuted groups? How is it different?

3 The perpetrators are described as the Nazis and their “collaborators.” What is a collaborator? What do you think it means for groups or nations to collaborate during times of war?

4 The terms “racial” and “racist” are used to describe the Nazi’s motivations. How do you think the idea of racism connects to the targeting of Jewish people during the Holocaust?

5 What does it mean for something to be “systematic”? Why might it be important to understand that the Nazis behaved in a systematic as opposed to an unplanned way?