The **SHOAH or HOLOCAUST** focuses on the Jewish people. The Holocaust was the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. *Holocaust* is a word of Greek origin meaning "sacrifice by fire." The Nazis, who came to power in Germany in January 1933, believed that Germans were "racially superior" and that the Jews, deemed "inferior," were an alien threat to the so-called German racial community.

Why were Jews persecuted	Key people
In Nazi Germany, many people disliked the Jews and treated them cruelly. They had negative attitudes towards the Jews; we call this anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism was not a new idea created by the Nazis. The specific hatred of Jews, however, preceded the modern era and the coining of the term *antisemitism*. Among the most common expressions of antisemitism throughout history were pogroms, violent riots launched against Jews and frequently encouraged by government authorities.	**Adolf Hitler:** The dictator sole leader of Germany and the Nazi Party. His anti-Semitic policies and racially motivated ideology resulted in the deaths of at least 6 million Jews, and millions of other people whom were deemed inferior. **Heinrich Himmler:** Controller of the SS, second in command of the Nazis. Himmler was one of the most powerful men in Nazi Germany and one of the persons most directly responsible for the Holocaust. As facilitator and overseer of the concentration camps Himmler directed the killings of six million Jews. Reinhard Heydrich was Heinrich Himmler's chief lieutenant in the SS, and was chief of the security police. He played a key role in organizing the Holocaust during the opening years of World War II. **Joseph Goebbels:** Rose to power in 1933 along with Hitler and the Nazi Party and he was appointed Propaganda Minister. One of his first acts was the burning of the books. Throughout his tenure he organized attacks on Jews and remained with Hitler in Berlin to the end. **Josef Mengele:** Doctor who performed medical experiments at Auschwitz on camp inmates, including children he was called "Angel of Death" **Eva Kor**: is a Holocaust survivor. Along with her twin sister Miriam, Kor was subjected to human experimentation under Josef Mengele at the Auschwitz concentration camp during World War 2. She lost both of her parents and two older sisters to the Holocaust; only she and Miriam survived. She has publicly forgiven the Nazis. **Paul Oppenheimer:** was a Holocaust survivor who was fortunate to survive for five years under the Nazis in Holland, and in the camps of Westerbork and Bergen-Belsen, and who finished up on 'The Last Train from Belsen'. Upon his liberation Paul came to England and eventually would start to share his story about his former life, his childhood and the Holocaust.

Ghettos
Ghettos were specially selected areas where Jews were forced to live; where they were segregated, controlled, and dehumanised. The Nazis' original aim to force Jewish emigration from Germany had to be reassessed after the invasion of Poland and outbreak of war. The millions of Jews living in Nazi-occupied areas were instead concentrated into ghettos. In spring 1940 the Nazis established ghettos in the larger towns and cities across Poland. The establishment of ghettos was a provisional measure to control and segregate Jews while the Nazi leadership in Berlin deliberated upon options to realise their goal of removing the Jewish population form Germany. Men, women and children were forced to leave their homes taking only the possessions they could carry and move into overcrowded houses and rooms. Leaving the ghetto was strictly prohibited.

Key events	Groups who were killed or persecuted
1935: In September, Nazi policy escalated. The Nuremberg Laws reduced Jews to second-class citizens because of their 'impure' blood. Defined by the religion of their grandparents rather than by their own beliefs, Jews were viewed as having impure blood lines. **1937:** Concentration camps began to incarcerate 'habitual criminals' in addition to political prisoners. Goebbels stepped up anti-Semitic propaganda with a traveling exhibition which cast Jews as the enemy. **1938:** In November, attacks erupted against Jewish businesses. At least 91 Jews died and 267 synagogues were destroyed in a centrally coordinated plot passed off as spontaneous violence across Germany. **1942:** More Jews were murdered in 1942 than in any other year of the Holocaust. Of the 430,000 sent to the first death camp at Bełżec in Poland, there were only two survivors. 700,000 were killed at Treblinka in just five months. **1943:** Uprisings broke out in some extermination camps. **1945:** As the Allies swept to victory in Europe and camps were liberated across the once Nazi-occupied territories, the full scale of the Holocaust emerged.	We know that the victims included: • Jewish people • Roma and Sinti people ('Gypsies') • Slavic people, especially in the Soviet Union, Poland and Yugoslavia. • Disabled people • Gay people • Black people • Jehovah's Witnesses • Political opponents

Camps	Remembering the Holocaust
By the early 1940s, the Nazis were looking for a way they could kill a great number people in a short amount of time in order to get rid of Europe's Jewish population. They came up with the idea of extermination camps in which they could kill lots of people. This is what they would call 'the final solution'. There were six extermination camps in total in areas of Poland controlled by the Nazis: Auschwitz-Birkenau (the largest), Belzec, Chelmno, Majdanek, Sobibor and Treblinka.	Now, the enormity of the Holocaust is recognised across the world and it serves as an example of the horrors of genocide and how certain behaviours can lead to it happening. But, sadly, the Holocaust is not the only genocide that has happened in history. In Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur millions of people have been killed because of who they are.Every year on 27 January, people in the UK mark Holocaust Memorial Day. It is held on this date because this is when the largest Nazi concentration camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, was liberated by soldiers of the Soviet Army in 1945.