

# Lesson Plan – The development of the Holocaust including the varied implementation of Nazi policy in different parts of the world

## Introduction

Student age range: 14-16

Subject: History

Time required: 50 minutes

## Overview:

This lesson considers how Jewish people in different European locations had different experiences of the Holocaust. It focuses specifically on Vichy France, using differentiated questioning to engage students at any level of learning. Students will use map work and Survivor testimony to learn about Death Marches.

## Essential questions:

- How did the Holocaust develop differently in different places?

## Learning Objectives

- Students will understand that the Holocaust developed differently in different places.

## Key issues/concepts:

- Continuity and change
- Cause and effect

## Materials:

Map of Europe, displayed as included below OR distributed as **Map – Development and Geographic Variations** (see Step Two)

Student pens, highlighter, notebooks

Student internet access

**Worksheet – The Holocaust in France**

## Teaching notes:

There were millions of victims affected by the atrocities of the Holocaust, from countries all across Europe. Each one of those victims has a personal story, unique to themselves. To begin to understand the scope of the Holocaust, students need to recognise the range of different victim experiences.

This lesson is supported by a site study on Babyn Yar, which can be accessed [here](#).

## Glossary:

- Death March
- Killing squad / Einsatzgruppen
- Vichy

## Lesson Instructions

### ONE – Knowledge Check and Introduction (5 minutes)

Teacher recaps previous learning:

- Germany aimed to kill the Jews of Europe
- Students have learned about labour and death camps in **Poland**
- They have heard about **Russian** Jews being killed by death squads

Teacher emphasises: Nazi strategies differed in different parts of Europe.

### TWO – Map work (10 minutes)

Students draw a map of 1930s Europe, from their memory. Tell them to include, if they can: England, France, Germany, Poland, Soviet Union.

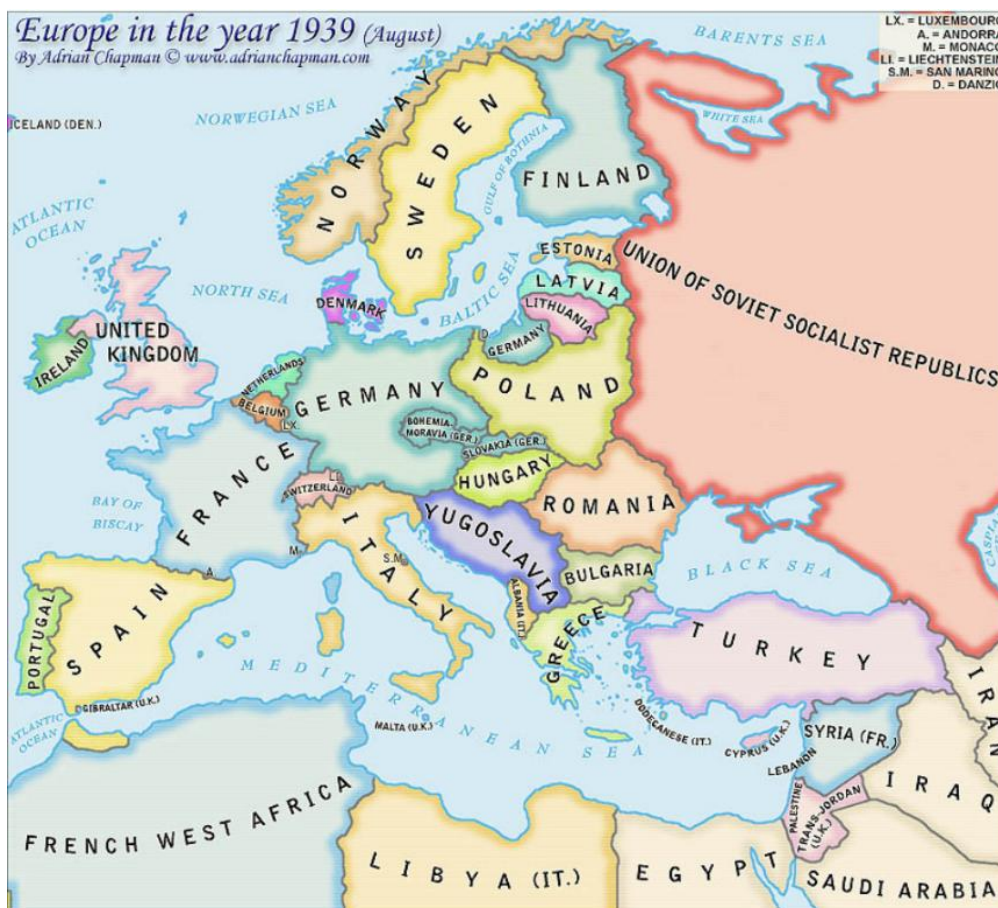
Teacher shows the map below and students draw a more accurate map.

OR, teacher distributes copies of **Map – Development and Geographic Variations**.

Students annotate their maps in the following ways:

- Colour or highlight a thick line around Germany.  
*Note how Germany sits alone, surrounded by enemies.*
- Draw an arrow from Germany into Poland, and label it 1939.  
*This indicates the German invasion of Poland. At this point Polish Jews are moved into ghettos.*
- Draw a line across the middle of France, separating north and south.

- Draw an arrow from Germany into the top half of France, and label it 1940.  
*This indicates the German invasion of Northern France. Germany took Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg at the same time. As a result, Germany controlled northern France. The French Vichy government controlled the south of France, which was known as the Free Zone.*
- Draw an arrow from Germany into Soviet Union, and label it 1941.  
*This indicates the German invasion of the Soviet Union. At this point Russian Jews are murdered by death squads. This soon leads to the Wannsee Conference, the Final Solution, and the establishment of death camps in Poland.*
- Students draw 5-6 crosses within Poland.  
*This indicates the establishment of death camps.*
- Draw an arrow from Germany into southern/Vichy France, and label it 1942.  
*This indicates Germany controlling all of France.*



[https://adrianchapman.com/maps/europe\\_1939aug\\_800x720.php](https://adrianchapman.com/maps/europe_1939aug_800x720.php)

## THREE – The Holocaust in France (20 minutes)

Students access information about France during the Holocaust, [here](#).

Students choose which level they would like to work at, and answer the corresponding questions on the [Worksheet – The Holocaust in France](#).

The four levels of questions are:

- Recall and Reproduction
- Skills and Concepts
- Strategic Thinking
- Extended Thinking

If students are not finished during the time period, they answer

## FOUR – Death Marches (15 minutes)

Return to the map from Step Two.

Students add arrows from the Soviet Union towards Poland and the camps. Label the arrows 1944/45.

Teacher explains: Towards the end of the war, Allied troops started to push into Poland, and towards Germany. As a result, Germany wanted to empty the camps. They still hoped to win, and wanted to retain the labour force. They also didn't want the atrocities of the camps to be discovered. There were not enough resources to move the prisoners with trains or trucks, so the prisoners were made to walk. These walks became known as 'Death Marches' because 1 in 3 prisoners died along the way.

Students choose a way to represent the death marches on their maps.

As a class view some or all of the Youtube videos at these links:

- Eliahu Hyman: [https://youtu.be/tW\\_dh7xq19o?si=C-p7r-RKGI\\_RunMG](https://youtu.be/tW_dh7xq19o?si=C-p7r-RKGI_RunMG) (2mins 24secs)
- Herta Zauberman: [https://youtu.be/TJqH7gtUOJg?si=R1xJ-m\\_FBVFeJoJJ](https://youtu.be/TJqH7gtUOJg?si=R1xJ-m_FBVFeJoJJ) (2mins 33secs)
- Bernard Igielski: <https://youtu.be/pAXOR530Yg8?si=Ca4st4UabQRm5fuf> (9mins 28 secs)
- Herta Goldman and Lea Frank Holitz: [https://youtu.be/jN54KXEnxf4?si=4YJY1cB6V78L\\_-Rw](https://youtu.be/jN54KXEnxf4?si=4YJY1cB6V78L_-Rw) (2mins 58secs)

## FINISHING UP

Instruction for homework activity: Form two or three sentences to reflect your learning today. Use all of these words at least once:

- Germany
- Vichy
- Different
- Death March
- France
- Locations
- East and/or North and/or South
- Jewish people OR Jews

## Additional Resources

France during the Holocaust:

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/france>

## Related lessons

This lesson is supported by a site study on Babyn Yar, which is a ravine near Kyiv where a significant massacre took place. [Click here](#) to see a lesson plan for that site study, as well as other Holocaust lesson plans.

[Click here](#) to see a suggested plan for teaching a full unit about the Holocaust.