# The Holocaust

ESSENTIAL QUESTION: What choices do people make that allow collective violence do happen?

## **TEKS and Objectives**

We will...

(22D) identify examples of genocide, including the Holocaust...

#### I will...

 Analyze children's poetry written during the Holocaust in order to understand the Jewish experience

### Important Vocabulary

 Genocide: an effort to murder an entire people or nationality

 Holocaust: the attempted genocide of European Jews during World War II



### Nazis Target European Jews



- The Final Solution
  - Hitler's plan to execute all European Jews
  - At first, Jews were machine gunned next to open trenches they were forced to dig themselves or gassed in trucks
- Concentration Camps
  - Built all over Europe
  - Jews sent in cramped railroad cattle cars
  - Inmates subjected to inhumane conditions
  - Most victims <u>killed with poison gas; bodies</u> <u>burned in large ovens</u>
  - Some spared to work of running camp

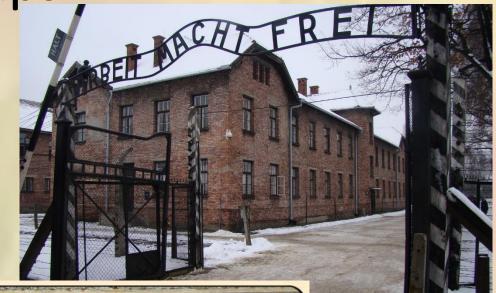
Infamous Concentration Camps

#### Auschwitz

- One of the <u>largest concentration camps</u>
- Located in <u>Poland</u>
- 3 Main camps: administrative center, death camp, and labor camp

#### Terezin

- Transit camp for Czech Jews
- Originally designated as <u>"model community"</u> (propaganda)
- Promoted a rich cultural life: lectures, recitals, poetry readings, concerts





### WWII Refugee Crisis



- Heightened Security Concerns
  - Fear that Nazi spies could be smuggled as refugees
  - Immigration officials tightened visa policies
  - Careful vetting of applicants
- United States
  - Took in about 200,000 Jews
  - Reduced number of refugees after 1941
  - Americans did not believe rumors of genocide
  - Newspapers did not typically report on the Holocaust until after 1945

### **Human Toll**

- Jews Killed in WWII
  - Estimated 6 million (2/3 of European Jews)
- 6 million Other Holocaust Victims
  - Gypsies, Slavs, political prisoners, elderly, and mentally-disabled





Hundreds of Jewish communities in Europe,

## The Butterfly Project

Select a poem from the book, I Never Saw Another Butterfly. After analyzing the poem, decorate you butterfly using inspiration from the author. Be ready to present your poem and butterfly during the next class period.