Every year on Jan. 27, people around the world remember the victims of the Holocaust in World War II. This date was chosen because people in the concentration camp at Auschwitz, Poland, were liberated, or freed, on that day in 1945. This week, The Mini Page learns more about the United Nations’ International Holocaust Remembrance Day and the events it observes.

**World War II**

Although the war started in September 1939, the United States didn’t become involved until Dec. 7, 1941, after a surprise attack by the Japanese destroyed many airplanes and ships at the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. It was called a war because so many countries all around the globe were involved in it. In 1941, a politician in Germany, Adolf Hitler, declared himself Führer, or leader, of the country and directed the government away from democracy.

A dreadful goal

Part of Hitler’s plan was to take over Poland and the Soviet Union, along with other European nations, and eliminate Jewish people from the region. Jewish people had been discriminated against for hundreds of years, and after World War I, Hitler’s Nazi Party in Germany wanted to create a world where there weren’t any Jews.

Hitler’s plan for enacting laws that prohibited Jewish people from owning businesses and homes. They were forced to wear a gold Star of David on their clothing to identify them as Jews. Jewish neighborhoods were attacked, and the people massacred.

Eventually, the Nazis started rounding up Jewish people and moving them to concentration camps. They were told they’d have good jobs and be taken care of, but the camps were crowded, dirty and full of disease. Many people were killed as soon as they arrived at the camp.

By the time the war ended, the Nazis had murdered 6 million Jewish people, along with disabled people, other ethnic minorities and LGBTQ people. Many of the concentration camp victims were children.

**What does Holocaust mean?**

The word Holocaust comes from the Greek language. It means “burnt offering.” This word is now used to refer to the extermination, or killing, of Jewish and other people during World War II.

Mini Fact:

Anne Frank’s father, Otto, survived the Holocaust and made sure his daughter’s diary was published.

One girl’s story

Have you read a book called “The Diary of a Young Girl”? The book collects the writings of Anne Frank, a 13-year-old Jewish girl who went into hiding with her family in July 1942.

Anne was born in Germany, but her family moved to Amsterdam, the Netherlands, after Hitler came into power. She and her parents, along with her sister, Margot, lived in secret rooms behind a bookcase in the building where her father’s business was. Anne kept a diary and wrote about their two years in hiding. Another family, the Van Pels, joined them in the hiding place, and later, a family friend named Fritz Pfeffer also moved in. Four people who worked for the business knew that the Jews were hidden there and supplied them food and other necessities.

The families were discovered on Aug. 4, 1944, and in September, Anne’s family was moved to Auschwitz. Later, Anne and her sister were transferred to another camp, where Anne died in February or March, 1945. Her sister also died there.

**Try ’n’ Find**

Words that remind us of Holocaust Remembrance Day are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

ANNE, AUSCHWITZ, BUSINESS, CAMP, CONCENTRATION, DIARY, FUHRER, GERMANY, HIDDEN, HITLER, HOLOCAUST, HOME, JEWISH, LAWS, LIBERATED, MASSACRE, NAZI, POLAND, WAR.

**Cook’s Corner**

**Butter Pudding Parfait**

You’ll need:

- 2 tablespoons reduced-fat milk
- 3 tablespoons chunky peanut butter
- 1 1/4 cups light whipped topping
- 2 cups reduced-fat milk

What to do:

1. Stir the 2 tablespoons milk with the peanut butter until well mixed. Gently blend in the whipped topping.
2. Make pudding according to directions with 3 cups of milk in a separate bowl.
3. Spoon whipped topping mixture and pudding alternately into parfait glasses.
4. Chill for 1 hour before serving. Serves 6 to 8.

**7 Little Words for Kids**

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. They fly in a “V” (5)
2. not straight (7)
3. hold in your arms (5)
4. Chill for 1 hour before serving. Serves 6 to 8.
5. opposite of straight, as in hair (5)
6. a place to write your thoughts (7)
7. thick sheet of ice (7)

**Mini Jokes**

Poppy: How does a polar bear build his house?
Paul: Igloo it together!

**Eco Note**

The caterpillar larvae that metamorphose into butterflies are struggling to survive climate change, a new study concludes. Researchers at the University of Cambridge say that the larvae are unable to regulate their temperature, leaving them helpless against weather extremes. They warn that this could mean fewer “beautiful, Chattanooga butterflies,” which could impact pollination and the birds that eat the larvae. Scientists suggest creating microclimates and structures in green spaces, such as backyard gardens and parks, so these creatures can have a bit of shade.

**For later:**

Look for your newspaper or items about the U.N. Holocaust Remembrance Day.

**Teachers:** Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!

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