

READ: This is a huge topic to cover thoroughly and *responsibly*, but we'll try to gain a quick understanding of this event through this exercise. Please skim as many of the readings as possible and follow directions carefully. The goal is not to finish quickly, but to LEARN and to THINK at some length about what you'll be reading. This is NOT PARTNER WORK - you need to work through these materials on your own, because the information you'll be reading today will affect each of you differently. It takes a great deal of reading and time to understand what went on during the Nazi era: how did Hitler gain power, why were the Jews and other groups the target of the Nazis, how did the killing begin, what went on during the war, what have we learned since then and how has Germany dealt with its past and made changes. Consider this the first small step on your way to learning more and developing the ability to discuss these issues intelligently, respectfully, responsibly. Please keep in mind that this is ancient history for German kids your age but German schools are also required by law to teach about the Holocaust. The past is always present.

1. START AT WHITE BOX at the top of the web page:

- a. What did Hitler try to do in 1923?

- b. What other recent important event happened on Nov 9 in German history?

2. QUICK READ ONLY - the first highlighted article

3. View the highlighted video – any thoughts or impressions? What did it make you think or feel? If not, move on.

4. YELLOW Overview of Kristallnacht

1. What does *Kristallnacht* mean and how is it usually translated into English?

2. In what year did Kristallnacht take place and in which two countries?

3. The damage to shop windows was estimated at \$_____ million U.S. dollars.
_____ Jews were murdered while _____ Jews were arrested and sent to camps such as Dachau, Sachsenhausen, and Buchenwald.

4. What did the term *Judenfrei* mean?

5. What were the Nazis trying to do to the 50,000 Polish Jews living in Germany?

5. Brief summary of the events surrounding Kristallnacht.

1. The attack came after Herschel Grynszpan, a 17 year old Jew living in Paris, _____ a member of the German Embassy staff there in retaliation (revenge) for the poor treatment his father and his family suffered at the hands of the Nazis in Germany.
2. On October 27, Grynszpan's family and over _____ other Jews, originally from Poland, had been expelled from Germany without any warning. They were forcibly transported by train in boxcars then dumped at the Polish border.
3. For Hitler and Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels, the shooting in Paris provided an opportunity to incite Germans to " _____ against Jews."
4. SS leader Reinhard Heydrich reported _____ businesses destroyed, _____ synagogues burned (with _____ totally destroyed) and _____ Jews killed.
5. Regarding the economic impact of the damage from Kristallnacht and the resulting massive insurance claims, Hermann Göring stated the _____ would be billed for the damage and that insurance money due them would be confiscated (taken) by the State.

6. US Holocaust Memorial Museum's comprehensive Kristallnacht website.

1. Click 1st picture. What did the fire dept. do about the synagogue fire?
2. Click and **skim** the section on **SYNAGOGUES** and then **BUSINESSES**. Click on any pictures.
3. Click on **JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM GERMANY**:
 - a. In the ten months following Kristallnacht, more than _____ Jews emigrated from the Reich (German empire).
 - b. Why didn't many countries want to allow the Jews to enter their countries?
 - c. Click on the little girl's passport. What happened to her family?

7. Simon Wiesenthal Learning Center on Kristallnacht. VIEW ONLY. Work your way slowly through the photos in order. CLICK **NEXT**

a. Describe one picture that made an impression on you and why.

8. Jewish Student Online Research Center Kristallnacht Site.

a) The Destruction of Synagogues on Kristallnacht – fill in the blanks.

Kristallnacht - refers to the violent anti-Jewish pogrom of November _____ and _____, of the year 19_____ that occurred throughout Nazi-occupied Germany, including _____, _____ and the _____ region of Czechoslovakia.

b) SKIM ONLY – how did people view the event? Some odd perspectives.

c) Look at some photos. Note any that create a strong reaction in you.

d) FYI Kristallnacht: This entire page is an excellent summary well worth reading carefully. What legal actions were taken against the Jews and what laws were passed? Skim through this page and go all the way to the bottom to see more rules and laws.

9. SKIM/READ - Kristallnacht: timeline of events, photos, map of destruction. This site provides a timeline of main events of the Hitler era. **Skim/read** through them if you wish or go to 1938 Kristallnacht. Look at the photos/video. It would be worth reading this site on your own

10. November 2005 - How does Germany deal with those who say the Holocaust never happened?

11. WHITE links are suggested, but you are free to pursue any of the topics there.

Describe two more sites that you looked at and what you learned.