[Introduction to](http://mausintro.blogspot.com/2015/03/introduction-to-maus-by-art-spiegelman.html) *[Maus](http://mausintro.blogspot.com/2015/03/introduction-to-maus-by-art-spiegelman.html)* [by Art Spiegelman](http://mausintro.blogspot.com/2015/03/introduction-to-maus-by-art-spiegelman.html)

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| **Understanding the history and culture that is the setting for the literature we read is necessary if we are to truly comprehend the literature itself. Ask yourself the following questions:**  **1. *How* does learning about the historical period help you understand what you read?**  **2. Can you decide your own destiny?**  **3. Can one person really make a difference?**  **The time period in which Hitler was in power in Germany and Europe was filled with heartache and many horrific and horrendous events. There were many reasons why things happened the way they did, and why Hitler and the Nazi party was not stopped sooner by the rest of the world. In order for you to discover some of the historical settings for the graphic novel we are about to read about a Holocaust survivor and his son, you will have to do some research into the events leading up to the Holocaust.**  **Visit the following sites, and answer all the questions in complete sentences on a separate piece of paper.**  [What is genocide?](http://www.ushmm.org/confront-genocide/defining-genocide)  1. Define "genocide" in your own words.  2. When we refer to the "Holocaust", what time period are we talking about?  3. Study and prepare to present ONE of the genocides listed on the page.  4. What is happening right now to the Yasidi people? [Hitler Comes to Power](http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007671)  3. What levels of German society were most drawn to Hitler and the Nazi Party? [Nazi Racism](http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007679)  4. What was Hitler's term for the "master race"? Describe this type of person.  5. What types of German citizens were victims of the Nazi Party? [Antisemitism](http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007691)  6. Define antisemitism.  7. When did it begin?  8. What other nations treated Jews as scapegoats (blamed them for some trouble)? [The Nuremberg Laws](http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007695)  9. According to the Nuremberg Laws of 1935, how did the German government decide if someone was Jewish?  10. What did the German government require of Jews in German society? [Kristallnacht: The Night of Broken Glass](http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007697)  11. What happened on November 9, 1938? What caused the violence? [Refugee Map](http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/media_nm.php?ModuleId=10007698&MediaId=467)  12. Many Jews escaped Germany during this time. What countries accepted the most Jewish refugees? [Evian Conference](http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007698)  13. Why did the US not allow entrance to more refugees before WWII? [The Final Solution](http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007704)  14. What was the goal of the "Final Solution?" [Ghettos](http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/article.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10005059)  15. How many ghettos existed in German occupied territories? 16. Describe the largest ghetto. [Abe's Story: Kutno Ghetto](http://remember.org/abe/kutno.html)  17. Describe the picture and say how people are treated. [Abe's Story: Conditions Worsen](http://remember.org/abe/garfingal.html)  18. Describe how the conditions worsened.  19. What does Abe do? Where does he go? Why? [Concentration Camps](http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005474)  20. What were the first Nazi concentration camps? 21.  What was the primary purpose of these camps? [Forced Labor Camps](http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007732)  22. Describe what happens to most "workers". [Killing Centers](http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007327)  23. What happened at most of these camps? 24. How many people were killed at Chelmno? 25. What was "Operation Reinhard"? Describe it. 26. What was the largest killing center?  Describe it. [Death Marches](http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007734)  27. Why were people forced to go on "death marches"? [Liberation](http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007724)  28. When the Soviet soldiers liberated Auschwitz Death Camp, how many shoes did they find? [Survivors](http://www.ushmm.org/outreach/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007736)  29. Describe one hardship survivors had to face. [A Survivor's Prayer: A Poem](http://www.remember.org/malka.html)  30. Read the poem, and summarize what it is about in a few sentences.  31. Why do you think it's important to learn about the Holocaust? |