

Holocaust Memorial Day

Primary school assembly



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

Teachers please note this assembly is suitable for Key Stage 2 or equivalent.

It explains what Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is, and how we can mark it. It can be delivered on or around 27 January, as suits your school and student needs.

We have provided a script and accompanying PowerPoint to support teachers in the delivery of this assembly. Please deliver the core content of this assembly as it is provided, but if you would like to add slides, for example showing work that your students have done, please feel free to do so.

Assembly script:

Slide 1 - Title

Display as students enter.

Slide 2 - Holocaust Memorial Day

Every year on 27 January people across the UK mark Holocaust Memorial Day by putting on events, assemblies, candle lightings, performances and many other activities.

We do this to remember some events in the past when people were treated badly, and even killed, because of their religion or the colour of their skin.

Slide 3 - Jewish people

The Holocaust is the word for when Jewish people in Europe were treated badly and killed, around the time of World War Two. Jewish people follow a religion called Judaism. They worship in buildings called synagogues, their leaders are called Rabbis, and their holy book is called the Torah. Jewish people lived all across Europe before the Holocaust.

Slide 4 – The Nazis

In the 1930s, a man called Adolf Hitler was the leader of the Nazi Party in Germany. The Nazis believed that Jewish people weren't as good as German people. They made laws so that Jewish people couldn't go to school and could only do a few jobs. For example, Otto Deutsch was no longer allowed to play football in the park, because he was a Jew. The Nazis started planning ways to make it very difficult for Jews to live in Europe.

Slide 5 - Discrimination

When you treat a group of people badly because of who they are – their race, or religion, or because they are different from you, this is called discrimination. The Nazis discriminated against the Jews because they were different from them. Discrimination still exists in our society today.

Slide 6 - The Holocaust

The Nazis tried to kill all the Jewish people in Europe. They forced them to leave their homes and live in horrible places called ghettos and concentration camps. They worked them very hard and didn't give them enough food. They murdered lots of people.

Some people, like Anne Frank, went into hiding. Some people, like Bernd Koschland, managed to escape to another country. Some people, like Susan Pollack, were taken by the Nazis, but survived.

Slide 7 - After the Holocaust

After the Holocaust, the world said 'This must never happen again!' But sadly, similar crimes have happened in many countries around the world, and still happen today.

This is why we have to learn about what happened, remember it on Holocaust Memorial Day, and think about how we can make a world where people aren't discriminated against.

Slide 8 - Poetry reading (this could be read by a student, or group of students)

This poem is called *Racism*, and was written by Rose Young, when she was eight years old. Rose sent it to Holocaust Memorial Day Trust for a poetry competition and was one of the winners.

If hate was an animal,
It would be a green eyed python
If hate was a place,
It would be the bottom of the ocean
If hate was an illness,
It would be the black plague

If love was a season,
It would be a warm summer
If love was a food,
It would be a birthday cake with six candles
Love is like a big fat juicy yellow mango

Slide 9 - What happens on Holocaust Memorial Day?

Across the UK, thousands of local events and activities take place every year, in schools, communities, libraries, prisons, museums and galleries, faith groups and more. These activities include candle lightings, performances, art projects, readings, talks and much more.

Slide 10 - What can we do?

On the screen are lots of ideas of things that schools have done in the past to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. By having this assembly, we are already doing something to learn and remember. Do you have any ideas of something else you would like to do?

Slide 11 - Your voice is amazing

We will end with a short film, reminding us of the power we all have to stand up and speak out against hatred and prejudice today.

Slide 12 - End

Find out more... HMDT's resources for educators: hmd.org.uk/education
Life stories of those affected by genocide: hmd.org.uk/lifestories