

Name _____



Date _____

Adolf Hitler

By Sharon Fabian

Adolf Hitler was the fourth child of a customs official and a farmer's daughter. He was born on April 20, 1898 in Braunau, Austria, a small town across the river from Germany.

During high school, he did poorly in school and eventually dropped out. He said that he wanted to be an artist.

In 1907, Hitler moved to Vienna, Austria, where he planned to attend art school. However, he was not accepted into art school. Hitler remained in Vienna anyway, living among art students.



In 1913, as World War I was beginning, Hitler moved to Germany and joined the German army. Army records show that he took on dangerous assignments in the army and was awarded medals for bravery.

As we know, Germany was defeated in World War I. Hitler, like many other Germans, was angry about the defeat and about the conditions imposed on Germany by the Versailles Treaty. The Versailles Treaty said that Germany must pay reparations, or payments for the costs of the war, to other countries.

Hitler began to attend meetings of a group that agreed with his views, the German Workers Party - which eventually became the Nazi Party.

Soon, Hitler worked his way up to a leadership role in the party. He made speeches in which he promised the people what they wanted - jobs, a better economy, and a country that would once again become great. At first, he was not an especially good speaker, but he got better with practice. Soon, he knew how to get people to listen to him. He developed a loud, dramatic speaking style. Larger and larger crowds came to hear him attack the injustices against the German people. At that time, some people saw the Nazi swastika as a symbol of hope for their future. To them, the Nazi Party was the one way of getting back the respect that Germany had once had.

When the German economy declined even further during the depression of the 1930's, Hitler attracted even more people with his promises of jobs and financial security. His party became the largest political party in Germany, and by 1933, Hitler had become chancellor of Germany.

Name _____



Date _____

Once he was in charge, Hitler quickly began to take control of more and more aspects of German life. He placed his people in key government positions. He gained control of the police and the military.

He outlawed meetings by groups who were not sympathetic to the Nazi cause. He outlawed newspapers and other publications that could have criticized the Nazis.

He had his enemies arrested or killed.

He also began his long-term plans - building concentration camps, imprisoning and killing Jews, and preparing for war.

Soon, Hitler's country was involved in another war, World War II.

At the end of the war, when he knew that Germany was about to be defeated, Hitler committed suicide. He had never been able to restore German pride in the nation as he had once hoped to do. Instead, the horrors of the Holocaust and World War II became his legacy.

Adolf Hitler

Questions

- _____ 1. Adolf Hitler was born in Germany.
 - A. true
 - B. false

- _____ 2. Hitler wanted to be an art student.
 - A. false
 - B. true

- _____ 3. At the time when the Nazi Party was growing, before World War II, nearly all Germans were afraid of Hitler.
 - A. false
 - B. true

- _____ 4. Hitler was killed in battle during World War II.
 - A. true
 - B. false



Name _____

Date _____

- _____ 5. Hitler was able to rise to power because he had much popular support.
- A. true
 - B. false
- _____ 6. Hitler became _____.
- A. leader of the Nazi Party
 - B. chancellor of Germany
 - C. both A and B
 - D. neither A nor B
- _____ 7. Hitler's rise to power happened _____.
- A. After World War II
 - B. Before World War I
 - C. In 1898
 - D. between the two world wars
- _____ 8. Hitler and many other Germans were angry about _____.
- A. the threat of another war
 - B. the terms of the Versailles Treaty
 - C. the slow growth of the Nazi Party
 - D. all of the above

Name _____

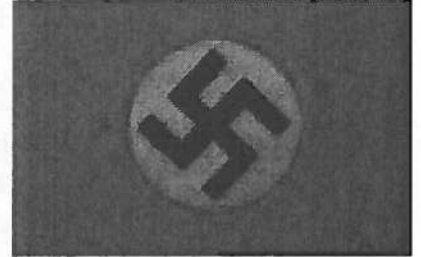


Date _____

The Nazi Party

By Sharon Fabian

When World War I ended, many people in Germany were shocked and disappointed that their country had been defeated. German soldiers who had fought for their country must have been especially disappointed. After the end of the war, a small group of these Germans formed a new party - the German Workers Party. The German Workers Party believed strongly in German nationalism. To them, the most important thing was to restore German pride and prosperity.



Adolf Hitler joined the German Workers Party in its early days when the total membership of the party numbered less than 100 people. He became one of its leaders and also the main speaker at the party's rallies.

In 1920, the German Workers Party changed its name to the National Socialist German Workers Party, which later became known by the shorter name - Nazis. The Nazis wanted to restore pride and prosperity to their country, but only for people of "German blood." They looked down on people from other groups, especially the Jews.

Under Hitler's leadership, the Nazi party began to grow. His speaking style attracted larger crowds to Nazi Party rallies. He appealed to young men who were out of work and still angry about Germany's defeat in World War I. By 1923, tens of thousands of people were showing up for Nazi rallies. Hitler began to build his power even more. He began his own private army, known as Hitler's storm troopers, within the Nazi party.

Next, Hitler called for the Nazis to overthrow the current German government and planned his first takeover for the city of Munich. The attempt was a failure, and Hitler was jailed.

On his release from jail, Hitler began to build up the Nazi party again. This was during the time of the worldwide depression, and the economy in Germany had become even worse. Many Germans workers had no jobs. They were attracted by Hitler's promise to make Germany rich and powerful again, and he convinced many young men to join the Nazi Party.

The Nazis were patriotic to the extreme. They persecuted minorities to get what they wanted. They believed in using military-style force to achieve their aims. They used

Name _____



Date _____

terrorist tactics.

They were also extremely loyal to Hitler. Nazis pledged their loyalty and obedience to only one person, and that person was Hitler.

Today, people wonder why anyone would pledge loyalty to a person like Hitler, but it has happened more than once in history. After defeat in a war, after an economic collapse, or after another disaster, people look for someone who can lead them to a better life again. When a leader makes promises that sound convincing, sometimes people follow him. Sometimes people make poor choices.

However it happened, more and more people joined Hitler's Nazi Party. As the party became larger, it also became more powerful. By the 1930's, The Nazis had become the most powerful party in Germany.

They became infamous for their violence. They did not allow opposing views. Anyone who disagreed with the Nazis knew to keep his views quiet for his own safety. Hitler's storm troopers killed anyone he considered his enemy. The Nazis forced Jews and others that Hitler hated into concentration camps. By the end of World War II, they were responsible for the deaths of millions of people.

Nazi oppression was only stopped after Germany suffered another defeat in World War II.

The Nazi Party

Questions

- _____ 1. The original name of the Nazi Party was _____.
 - A. German Workers Party
 - B. Hitler's Party
 - C. German Party
 - D. German War Party

- _____ 2. When the Nazi Party started, _____ people joined.
 - A. 10,000
 - B. millions
 - C. many
 - D. few



Name _____

Date _____

- _____ 3. Hitler convinced more people to join by _____.
- A. fighting
 - B. using the Internet
 - C. running for office
 - D. giving speeches
- _____ 4. Many of the Nazis were _____.
- A. young women
 - B. young men
 - C. Jews
 - D. retired people
- _____ 5. The depression led many people to _____ the Nazi Party.
- A. join
 - B. ignore
 - C. oppose
 - D. none of the above
- _____ 6. Nazi Party violence occurred _____.
- A. after World War II
 - B. before World War I
 - C. before and during World War II
 - D. all of the above
- _____ 7. The members of the Nazi Party looked up to _____.
- A. many leaders
 - B. leaders of Germany and the US
 - C. European leaders
 - D. Adolf Hitler
- _____ 8. Which happened last?
- A. Germany is defeated in World War II
 - B. Hitler leads the Nazi Party
 - C. Worldwide depression
 - D. German Workers Party is formed

