



Holocaust Memorial Day

27th January

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Aim: To understand why Holocaust Day is remembered.



What Is the Holocaust Memorial Day?

- Each year on or around 27th January, we learn about events that have happened in the past, when people were treated badly. This is so that we can learn from them and make sure they don't happen again.
- Holocaust Memorial Day is the day to remember the Holocaust, and genocides around the world.



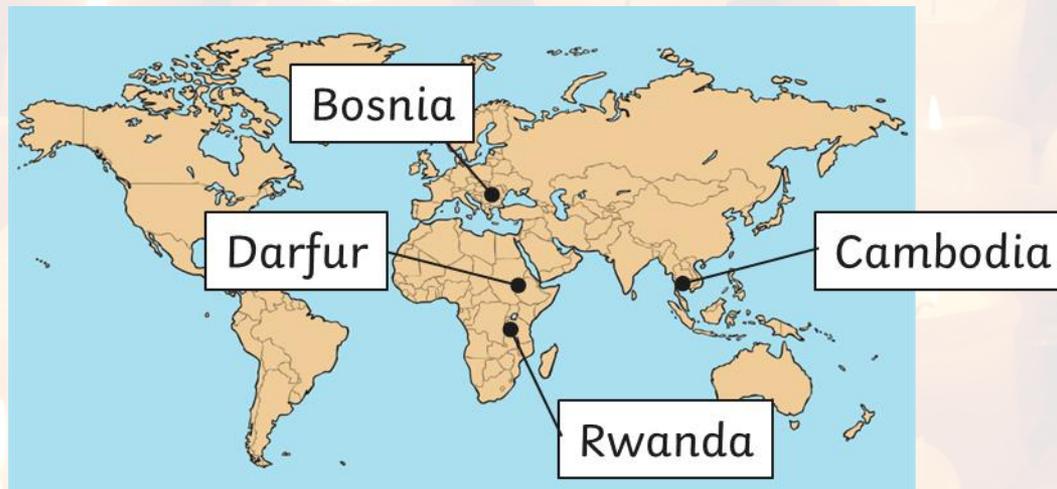
Cambodian Genocide memorial



Darfur Genocide memorial

What is genocide?

- The Holocaust was an example of genocide. Genocide is deliberately killing a large group of people, usually because they are a certain nationality, race or religion
- Very sadly there have been many genocides around the world. In the last 40 years there have been four. It is widely believed the Uighurs in China are a fifth group suffering genocide in 2021.



What Was the Holocaust?

- The Holocaust was a period in history at the time of World War Two (1939-1945), when millions of people were murdered because of who they were. They encouraged ordinary citizens to make life difficult for these people.
- The killings were organised by Germany's Nazi party, led by Adolf Hitler.
- Jews were the main target of the Nazis, and the greatest number of victims were Jewish. Nearly seven out of every 10 Jews in Europe were murdered because of their identity
- The Nazis said that all Jews had to wear a yellow star of David on their outer clothing so people could see exactly who was Jewish.



- People were allowed to abuse them, physically and emotionally. Many Jewish people and families decided to move away.
- The Nazis also killed other groups of people, including Roma ('gypsies'), Slavs, Spanish Republicans, Gay men and women, political prisoners, Jehovah Witnesses, Catholics and **disabled people**.
- Nazis were racist and believed that what they called their Aryan race was more important than others. The Nazis said an Aryan was somebody Germanic. The Nazis believed that Jews, Roma ('gypsies'), black people and other ethnic groups were inferior to Aryans



Romani being arrested by the Nazis



Polish Priests and civilians rounded up by the Nazis.

Who were the Nazis?

- Nazis is the shortened name for the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP).
- The Nazi party was a political party in Germany established in 1919 in the aftermath of World War One.
- Germany was punished by the other world powers for WW1. As a result many people were poor and there weren't enough jobs to go round, and one reason many Germans turned to the Nazis was the hope that they would bring about change.



A poor family living in cramped conditions in Berlin during the 1920s

- The Nazis blamed everyone who was not Aryan for Germany's problems especially Jews. This was a popular idea and led to Nazi numbers growing and eventually to what was called 'The final Solution'.

What Did the Nazis Do?

Nazis said that Jewish people could not:

- sit on the benches in parks;
- go to the swimming pool;
- own a bike or a radio;
- go to restaurants or German shops;
- own a passport or vote in the elections;
- attend school or university;
- go to the cinema, theatre, concerts, exhibitions, beaches and holiday resorts;
- ...and many other everyday rights which other German people had.



How would you feel if you weren't allowed to have a bike, a television or a tablet, just because of your religion?

Jewish Children

- Many Jewish parents decided to send their children to England as they thought it would be safer for them.
- A special organisation, called Kindertransport, helped children to leave Germany and travel to England to make a new **home** with a new family.
- The children would not have been given long to pack their suitcases.

Imagine you were told you were going on a journey but you didn't know where you were going or how long you were going for.

What would you pack?



Kindertransport

- Many Jewish children had to say goodbye to their parents, as the special organisation was for children only.
- They boarded trains with their suitcases and eventually arrived in England.
- They travelled across Europe and the journey lasted for two days.
- Many children's parents were killed in the Holocaust and they were often taken to start a new life in England without their friends or family. Many never returned to their old **homes**.

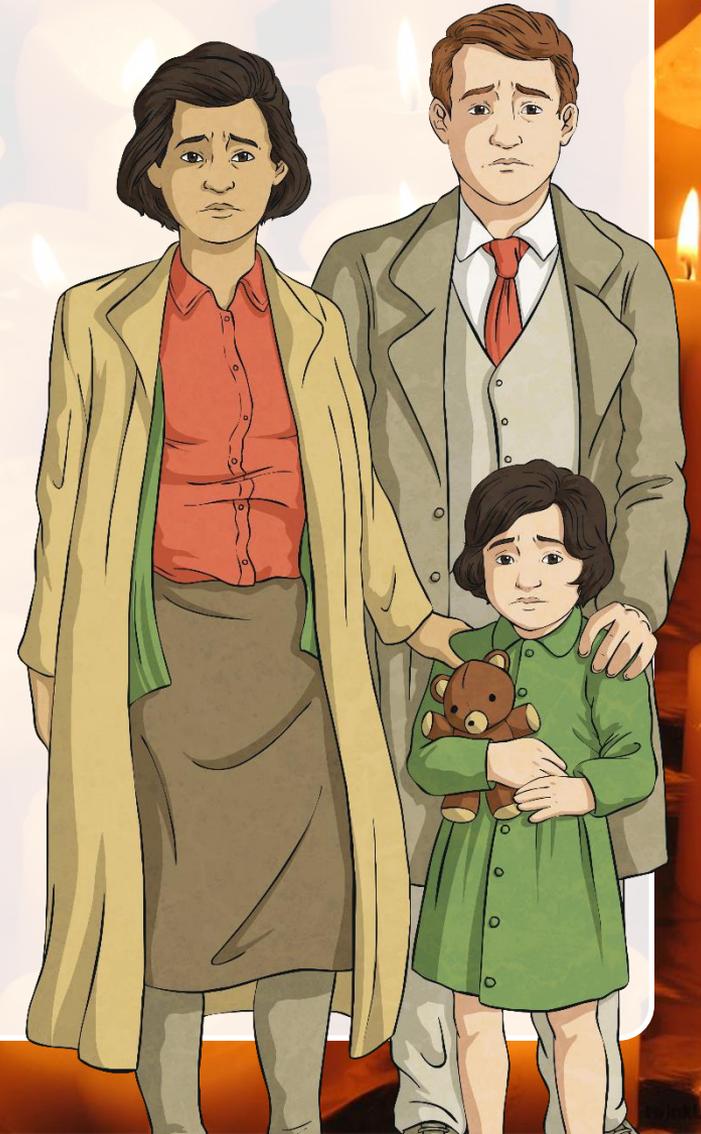


Remember Them

It is believed that more than 11 million people died in the Holocaust, six million of which were Jews; that is more than the entire population of Scotland! There were also other groups of people whom the Nazis did not like.

There have been many other instances of genocide around the world. Bosnia, Rwanda, Sudan and many other countries have lost thousands of lives to hate and prejudice.

Holocaust Memorial Day asks for remembrance of all the lives lost to these atrocities and to also reflect on how to prevent it from happening again.



2021 Theme

Each year, Holocaust Memorial Day has a different theme. This year's theme is **Be the Light in the Darkness.**

What do you think this means?



'Be the Light in the Darkness'

What do you think is meant by 'the darkness'?

In this instance, the darkness refers not only to the prejudice and hate that some people chose, and choose, to feel towards others...



but also to the emotional pain felt by those affected.



'Be the Light in the Darkness'

How do you think people can be 'the light'?



By resisting the choice to hate, even when under pressure to hate others.



By helping those that need it.



By lighting the way with kindness and giving hope to those suffering from persecution.



By speaking out and 'shining a light' on instances where people are persecuted.

What Can We Do to Be the Light?

- Spread awareness of injustices.
- Share with someone else what you have learnt:
Create a poster;
Take part in an assembly;
Learn someone's story and share it.
- Take part in a minute's silence and reflect.
- Be kind to everyone.



A Moment of Reflection

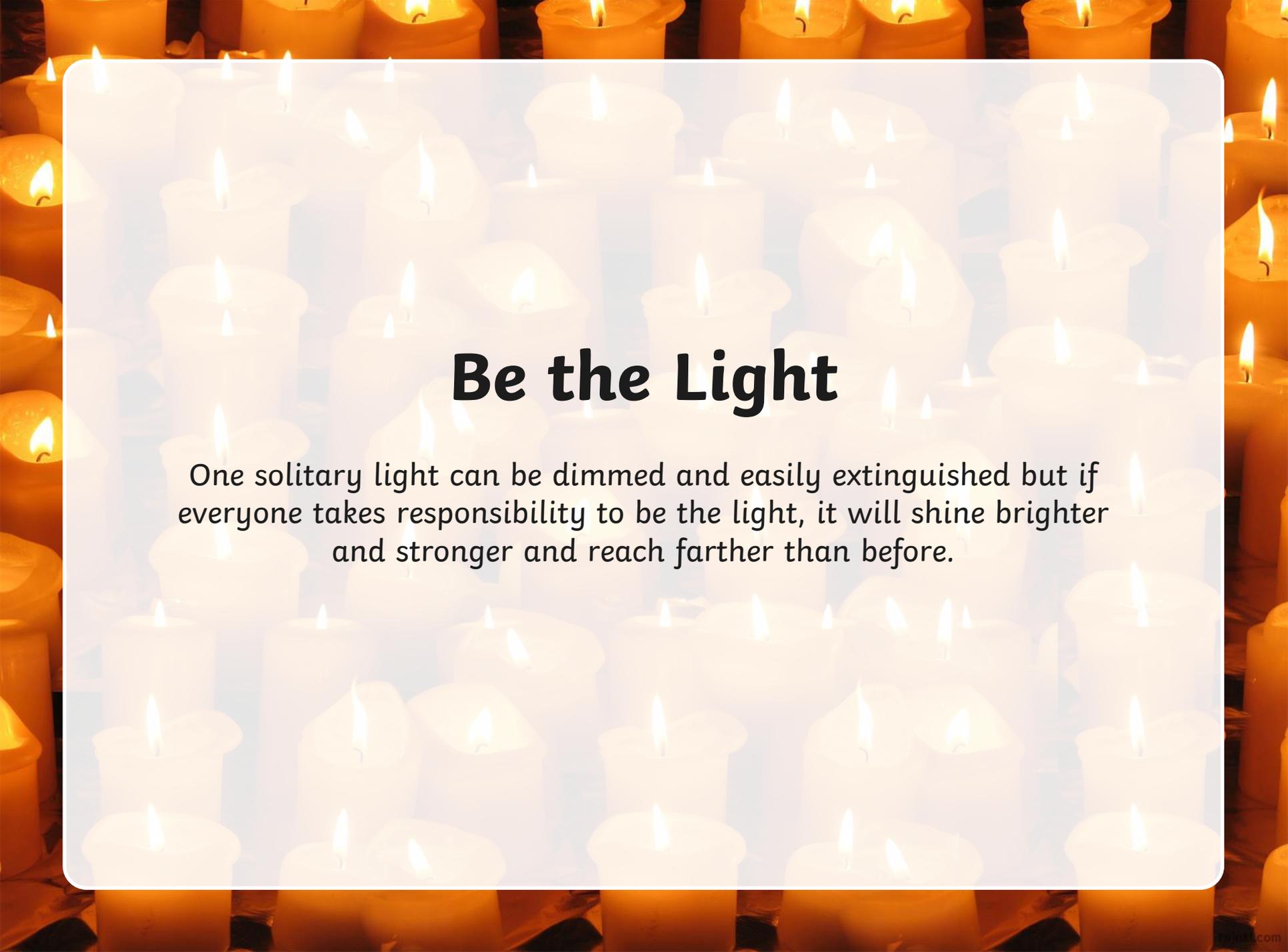
Discrimination still happens today.

Although Holocaust Memorial Day asks us to remember and learn from the past, we need to keep the lessons alive and be the light every day.

Let us now remember those who have not survived genocide and those whose lives were forever changed as a result.

We are going to have a minute of silence.



The image features a dense field of lit candles, their flames glowing in a warm, golden light. The candles are arranged in a grid-like pattern, filling the entire frame. In the center, a white rounded rectangle with a thin black border contains the text. The overall atmosphere is one of warmth and collective illumination.

Be the Light

One solitary light can be dimmed and easily extinguished but if everyone takes responsibility to be the light, it will shine brighter and stronger and reach farther than before.

