

TO BEGIN...

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST AND JEWISH RESISTANCE?

Answer each of these questions with "true" or "false":

- _____ 1. Adolf Hitler took advantage of the dire economic conditions in Germany in his ascent to power.
- _____ 2. The Nuremberg Laws were an outcome of the Nuremberg War Crime Trials.
- _____ 3. The Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact was also known as the German-Soviet Non-aggression Pact.
- _____ 4. Russian partisans and Jewish partisans fought against the Nazis during World War II.
- _____ 5. Jewish resistance during the Holocaust consisted of guerilla fighters who continually engaged the German troops in combat.
- _____ 6. There were about 5,000 Jewish partisans— Jews who formed organized, armed resistance groups and who fought back against the Nazis.
- _____ 7. Spiritual resistance during World War II was limited to prayer.
- _____ 8. Jewish partisans in or near the Soviet Union relied heavily on the support of Russian partisan groups in their efforts to undermine the Nazis.
- _____ 9. The Bielski brothers, whose story is told in the film *Defiance*, like many other Jewish partisans, saved the lives of thousands of Jews.

TO LEARN MORE...

WEBSITES

- *Defiance*, www.defiancemovie.com
- Anti-Defamation League, www.adl.org
- Jewish Partisans Educational Foundation, www.jewishpartisans.org
- Museum of Jewish Heritage, www.mjhnyc.org
- Simon Wiesenthal Center, www.wiesenthal.com
- The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, www.jfr.org
- The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, www.ushmm.org

BOOKS

- *Defiance: The Bielski Partisans*, by Nechama Tec. Oxford University Press, 1993.
- *Daring to Resist: Jewish Defiance During the Holocaust* by Yitzhak Mais (ed). Museum of Jewish Heritage, April 2007.
- *Jewish Resistance in Nazi-Occupied Eastern Europe*, by Reuben Ainsztein. Harper & Row, 1974.
- *On Both Sides of the Wall*, by Vladkka Meed. Schocken Books, June 1993.
- *Resisting the Holocaust*, by Ruby Rohrlich (ed.). Berg, 1998.

FILMS

- *Defiance* (2008)
- *Daring to Resist: Three Women Face the Holocaust* (1986)
- *Flames in the Ashes* (1986)
- *Resistance: Untold Stories of the Jewish Partisans* (2001)
- *The Partisans of Vilna* (1987)
- Eight short films on various Jewish partisan subjects by the Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation (www.jewishpartisans.org/films.php)

Answer Key: (1) True. Inflation was rampant in Germany from 1920-1923. From 1919-1925 and after the depression of 1929, many people were without jobs, and Hitler positioned himself as someone who could unite the country and solve its problems. (2) False. Enacted in 1935, the Nuremberg Laws stripped Jews of their German citizenship. The Nuremberg trials took place after the war and brought major German war criminals to international justice. They subsequently became the model for trying others for genocide and war crimes. (3) True. Signed just a few days before the beginning of World War II, this pact divided Poland between the Germans and the Soviets. (4) True. Most Russian partisans were soldiers who had escaped when the Germans marched on the Soviet Union and who were now hiding, like the Jews, in the forests and swamps of Belarus. (5) False. While some members of the resistance were fighters, many others engaged in nonviolent activities such as providing medical care or acting as forgers, smugglers, sentries, and raiders. (6) False. Approximately 20,000-30,000 Jews were engaged in partisan activities. (7) False. Spiritual resistance — designed to keep the Jewish faith and culture alive — took many forms. Artists and poets continued to perform, underground newspapers were published, children continued to be educated, etc. (8) False. While some Jewish and Russian partisans did work together, there was usually little trust between them and their relationship was tenuous at best. (9) True. There were many Jewish partisans who saved thousands of Jews through a variety of means — from feeding and clothing Jews in the forest, to smuggling Jews out of ghettos, to forming all-Jewish partisan groups, to providing weapons to Jews so they could join partisan groups, to hiding their Jewish identity.

