

My isearch paper

The Holocaust isn't my favorite subject to talk about. So when we we're told we were going to do an English project on the Holocaust I was, I wouldn't quite say sad or upset, but just to think of what happened to those poor people in those concentration camps is just horrible. The Holocaust is an interesting but depressing topic to talk about. I personally am interested in the Holocaust but when it comes down to how the poor Jewish people and how they were killed leave me out of it. The topic me and my partner got was "Deaths in the Holocaust." My partner and I decided to build a mini replica of a crematorium, which is where the SS brought the dead bodies to get rid of them.

We started by looking for information about the crematoriums, such as what some of them looked like, so we looked for pictures on google images I also looked up pictures of the furnaces, plus I went to a site that gave me information of what they did in the crematoriums. The next day I went back to the site I went to the day before and tried to find more information. . I do have some interest in this topic on why and how these poor people were killed but not enough to where it amuses me.

I knew some of the information already; like the gas chambers, and how they killed the people that couldn't work, telling them that they are going to take showers but really they are going to be gassed to death. Also I knew that the Jews were crammed in to cattle cars to transport them to the concentration camps, the would die in the cars from illness, and other things that come from being stuffed into a cattle car for some many days with no food or water and nowhere to go to the bathroom other than in one of the corners.

Some difficulties we had with our 3D project were, after my partner got everything cut out the first time, one of the walls wasn't straight so she had to re-due that wall. Also we planned on using wood glue but the wood wouldn't stick together so we used nails instead. Also when we couldn't use something that we originally wanted to use didn't work we thought of some other way we could do that same thing, like how we decided to use foam cart for the roof of our model so it wasn't so heavy. Plus the wood glue my partner brought in had stayed out in her dads truck all day was frozen we had to thaw it out by putting in in front of one of the heaters in the hall way at school.

Some of the questions we needed answers were; "how many people could they fit into the furnaces?" "How many bodies did they burn in twenty-four hours?" "Which people did they put in the furnaces, and gas chambers?" and "how often and how long did it take to clean the furnaces?"

For my first question of how many bodies they fit in the furnaces at a time, it was approximately fifteen bodies at a time. My second question of how many bodies they burned in twenty-four hours, it was three hundred and forty. My next question of which people they threw in to the furnaces, I found it was any one who died in the concentration camps, mothers with babies, small children who couldn't work, the old, and the sick. My last question of how often and how long did it take to clean the furnaces, I could not find an answer other than that they used the previous burned bodies to keep the furnaces burning for the next batch of bodies, but other than that I didn't find anything on how often or how it took to clean the furnaces.

Our plan for our project was to build a mini crematorium/ gas chamber. The building is 30 inches long by 17 inches wide by 6-7 inches tall. The crematorium section is going to be 24 inches long by 17 inches wide. We are putting in two single furnaces, and four double furnaces. The two single furnaces are going to be 5 inches long by 3 inches wide, two of the smaller double furnaces are going to be 5 inches long by 3.5 wide then one medium-ish double furnace is going to be 5 inches long by 4.5 inches wide, last our largest double furnace is 5 inches long by 6 inches wide. All of the furnaces are 4 inches tall. Finally the gas chamber room is 17 inches wide by 6 inches long. We are also going to put in the tracks that go down the center of the hall which 1.5 wide by 17.5 inches long, which we will have a mini cart to go with it. The cart will be 1 inch wide by 2 inches long.

Some of the items that won't be seen on our mini model is the little cart because we decided to not put that in because we figured we didn't really need it. Also so you'll see little spots of ash sprinkled about the inside of the model, representing the ashes of the burned bodies. Plus on the inside of the gas chamber section we smeared blue food coloring on the wall, that represents the gas stains that we found in pictures of the gas chamber's walls. Also in our model there will only be four furnaces, because the wood we used for the others was too thick so we couldn't quite fit six furnaces in the crematorium section of our model. Our 3D project, I think took a bit longer to build than my partner originally thought it would take, but otherwise we got it all done and built.

When I first learned about the holocaust I only knew about Hitler and his thoughts of the Jews and how he wanted to get rid of them. And as I learned more of what really happened to the Jews I began to not like Hitler more and more. Reading the book "Night" solidified my thoughts of how evil and inhumane all of it was. I've always thought Hitler was wrong to have treated the Jewish people how he did. As I read "Night" I just felt horrible about how the Jews were treated, they were treated like cattle their names were taken and replaced by a number. It sickened me knowing that they were told that "work made them free" when it wasn't true and I think some of the Jews knew that it wasn't true, that even if they did work they still

wouldn't be free. It's sad also knowing that some of the Jews that worked in the crematorium had to throw in the bodies of loved ones, including maybe their mother or father, possible a brother or sister, aunt or uncle. Also they may have had to toss a live child or two in to the furnace. Just the way that the Jewish people were treated was just so sad and depressing. Also reading about the death marches in "Night" was just horrible, just reading that they would shoot down anyone that stopped to rest, and they wouldn't care if anyone collapsed they would leave them there to die, and they didn't bother to pick up the bodies, so the Jews had to basically fight to survive and to live. The Nazis never treated the Jews like actual people; they had no respect for the Jews. Basically the Nazis, just nothing of what they did was humane at all. Another thing that is just sad is that the numerous amounts of people that died or was killed, I mean it was almost 1/3 of the population. Those younger people that we lost in the holocaust still had lots to give to this hectic world. For example think of the intelligent minds we may have lost, and the basics of technology that we could have had if those people hadn't have died. We will never know what those people could do positively for our societies, because they are no longer here to speak of their ideas and thoughts.

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My citations

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www.jewishviruallibrary.org

www.nizkor.org/features/qar/qar42.html