

Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust

This online lesson will guide you through some of the key facts and issues concerning Jewish resistance during the holocaust.

1. What is **resistance**? What does it mean **to resist**? What is **passive resistance**?

- Use an [online dictionary](#) to find out the answer to this question.

2. Bearing in mind what you already know about life in the ghettos and camps during the holocaust, how do you think Jews might have **resisted** the Nazis and the fate that awaited them?



Jewish partisans in the Naroch forest, Belorussia.

Active Resistance

The most famous example of Jewish armed resistance was the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, which took place in April-May 1943.

3. How did [Dr Emmanuel Ringelblum](#) record first hand evidence of life in the ghetto for future generations to understand what the Jews of Warsaw went through?

4. Examine the diagram showing the [Commanders of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising](#) – who led the uprising?

5. What forms of resistance did [Mordechai Anielewicz](#) organise in the ghetto

- i. Before the deportations began?



- ii. After the deportations began?

6. What was the role of Anielewicz's deputy, [Antek Zukerman](#)?

7. Read the ['Call to Armed Self Defense'](#) (NB Ha-Shomer ha-Za-ir was a Zionist youth movement)

- i. Who wrote/published the article?

- ii. When was this document written?

7. [‘Call to Armed Self Defense’](#) cont.

- iii. Why does this group of Jews believe that they must use armed self defence? You may want to refer to the page on [Mordechai Anielewicz](#) to help you develop your answer to this question.



8. Read the document [‘Call to Resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto’](#) released in January 1943.

- i. What information is the Jewish Resistance basing their call for resistance on?

- ii. What lies are the Nazis telling the Jews and why?

- iii. Are there any other reasons given or implied in this document to explain why Jews wanted to resist?

- iv. If they could not resist actively, how else does the document suggest they resist?

9. How did the [girls](#) contribute to the Jewish resistance efforts in Warsaw?

10. Look closely at the [map](#) of Jewish uprisings. Name 3 ghettos and 3 camps where uprisings took place.

Homework:

Find out about **one** of the following aspects of resistance during the Holocaust and write up your conclusions:

1. Resistance in the Lodz ghetto (Poland)
2. Resistance in the Vilna ghetto (Lithuania)
3. Jewish partisans in the forests
4. Uprising at Treblinka
5. Uprising at Auschwitz

Cover **all** the following points in your work:

- What sort of resistance? (active or passive? Armed or unarmed?)
- What happened, when and where?
- Who were the key individuals involved?
- What were the aims of the resistance?
- Do you think the resistance was successful? Explain your answer in relation to the aims of the resistance.

Use these bullet points as guidance when organising your answer. Do not use bullet points in your answer but write in proper paragraphs. Write in your own words, remember to include relevant details and to give reasons for your conclusions.

300 words

Recommended websites:

<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/> - United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

http://cghs.dadeschools.net/ib_holocaust2001/Ghettoes/resistance/default.htm - interactive information on resistance in the ghettos

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/resisttoc.html>

- detailed index on a wide range of types and examples of resistance

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/lodztoc.html>

- Lodz ghetto

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/Vilnatoc.html>

- Vilna ghetto