

Make a list of what can you see in the source?

What does this source tell us about young people in Germany? Explain in 20 words or less.

Can we trust the source fully? Who do you think took the picture?



Tuesday, 15 December 2020



Rastrick
High School

What was life like for children in Nazi Germany?

Learning Outcomes

You will:

- **Describe** the reasons why Hitler targeted young people.
- **Explain** what the changes were that the Nazis introduced to the way young people lived.
- **Assess** how successful Hitler was in his attempt to secure the support of young people.



Year 9 History

Tasks: Read the information below.

In one sentence, describe Hitler's long-term aim?

In one sentence, explain why did Hitler target young people?

Why were young people so important to Hitler's long-term goals?

Hitler's goal was to create a 1,000 year Reich. A German empire that would last for a millennium. He believed that in order to accomplish this he needed the young people of Germany on his side.

If young people were **indoctrinated** in Nazi ideology at a young age then they wouldn't need convincing of it when they are an adult and wouldn't question the regime.

Task: Read source 1. What does this tell us about Hitler's beliefs about young people and their potential?

Source 1: Hitler's words on youth from Hitler Speaks by Herman Rauschning, 1939.

"In my great educational work I am beginning with the young. My magnificent youngsters! With them I can make a new world!. My teaching is hard. Weakness has to be knocked out of them. The world will shrink in alarm from the youngsters who grow up in schools: a violent, masterful, brave, cruel, younger generation. I will have no intellectual training. Knowledge is ruin to my young men."



To **explain** what the changes were that the Nazis introduced to the way young people lived.

In order to secure the support of young people Hitler used schools and the curriculum to brainwash young people.

Review the two timetables of Nazi school children.

TASK:

1) Make a note of all the lessons on the timetable that you don't study at Rastrick High School.

Answer the following questions in your book:

- 1) How is the day of Nazi children different to your school day?
- 2) What surprises you about the timetables?
- 3) How do the timetables for boys differ to the girls' timetables?
- 4) Research any key words you do not understand.



Challenge: What do the school timetables suggest about Hitler's plans for the future?

Boys timetable:					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.00	German				
8.50	Geography	History	Ideology	History	Geography
9.40	Race Studies	Ideology	Race Studies	Ideology	Race Studies
10.25	BREAK – including Sport and special announcements				
11.00	Physics/ Chemistry	Maths	Physics/ Chemistry	Maths	Maths
12.10	Eugenics	Health Biology	Health Biology	Eugenics	Health Biology
1.00-6.00	Lunch followed by P.E.				
EVENING	Sports and Military	Ideology	Sports and Military	Ideology	Sports and Military

Girls timetable:					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.00	German				
8.50	Geography	History	Singing	History	Geography
9.40	Race Studies	Ideology	Race Studies	Ideology	Race Studies
10.25	BREAK – including Sport and special announcements				
11.00	Domestic Science	Maths	Domestic Science	Maths	Domestic Science
12.10	Eugenics	Health Biology	Health Biology	Eugenics	Health Biology
1.00-6:00	Lunch followed by P.E.				
EVENING	Sex education	Ideology	Domestic Science	Ideology	Sex Education



Boys timetable:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.00	German				
8.50	Geography	History	Ideology	History	Geography
9.40	Race Studies	Ideology	Race Studies	Ideology	Race Studies
10.25	BREAK – including Sport and special announcements				
11.00	Physics/ Chemistry	Maths	Physics/ Chemistry	Maths	Maths
12.10	Eugenics	Health Biology	Health Biology	Eugenics	Health Biology
1.00-6.00	Lunch followed by P.E.				
EVENING	Sports and Military Parade	Ideology	Sports and Military Parade	Ideology	Sports and Military Parade

Girls timetable:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.00	German				
8.50	Geography	History	Singing	History	Geography
9.40	Race Studies	Ideology	Race Studies	Ideology	Race Studies
10.25	BREAK – including Sport and special announcements				
11.00	Domestic Science	Maths	Domestic Science	Maths	Domestic Science
12.10	Eugenics	Health Biology	Health Biology	Eugenics	Health Biology
1.00-6:00	Lunch followed by P.E.				
EVENING	Sex education	Ideology	Domestic Science	Ideology	Sex Education



- 1) Write down a definition for the Hitler Youth.
- 2) Write down a definition for the League of German Maidens.

The Nazis control wasn't limited to just school for young people. Hitler wanted to continue discipline and education after school too. To this end Hitler set up two organisations for both boys and girls; Hitler Youth and The Bund Deutscher Madel (League of German Girls). The Hitler Youth was for young males to prepare them for military service. The Bund Deutscher Madel was for girls to prepare them for motherhood.

Both clubs were incredibly popular in the 1930s with 30% of all young people being members before the Nazis were in power and 80% by 1939!



Using the information on the next slide,
complete the table below with the differences
between the two groups.

Hitler Youth

League of German Maidens



- In 1933, Hitler Youth (**HJ**) took over all youth movements in Germany, except Catholic ones (which were eliminated in 1936).

The HJ aimed to:

- control the activities of young people outside the classroom;
- make them loyal to Hitler;
- train boys to be soldiers and prepare girls to be wives and mothers.
- There were separate organisations for boys and girls, and for different age groups.
- Boys enrolled in the movement at six years old, and joined the main group, Hitler Youth (HJ), at 14. By 1939, 90 per cent of German boys aged 14 and over were members.
- Girls enrolled in the movement at the age of 10. They moved into the main wing, the **League of German Maidens (BDM)**, at the age of 14.
- There were different activities for boys and girls. Boys fired guns and marched, while girls learnt how to look after a family, but all undertook fitness and indoctrination classes.



Check your learning!

The Hitler Youth	The League of German Maidens
Its aim was to prepare German boys to be future soldiers	Its aim was to prepare German girls for future motherhood
Boys wore military-style uniforms	Girls wore a uniform of blue skirt, white blouse and heavy marching shoes
Activities centred on physical exercise and rifle practice, as well as political indoctrination	Girls undertook physical exercise, but activities mainly centred on developing domestic skills such as sewing and cooking



Task: Explain in 1 PEEL paragraph why young people joined the movements. Use the information below.

- Initially membership was voluntary, but it was made compulsory in 1936.
- Young people also joined because of peer pressure.
- They were attracted by the novel activities, such as camping.
- It was a chance to reject the authority and values of their parents.
- Membership would help them get university places and a better job in the future.
- Many joined hoping that by showing loyalty to the Nazis, their families would be safe from the **SS**.



To gain your Hitler Youth Achievement Award:

1. Complete the following lessons:

A – Life of Hitler

B – German's Abroad

C – Germany's rightful place in the world.

D – National holidays of the German people.

2. Complete the following athletics tests:

A – Run 60 metres in 10 seconds

B – Long jump 3.25 metres

3. Hiking and camping tests:

A – A day's hike of 15km

B – Camp in a tent for three days

4. Target Practice:

Hit a bull's eye on a target at a distance of eight metres with an air gun.

Source C

Tests German boys, aged 10 to 14, would have to do in the Hitler Youth to get an achievement award.

Source F



Teenage girls in the League of German Girls learning to iron and mend uniforms.

Source H



Hitler Youth poster. An SS soldier in the background and at the bottom it says 'And You'

TASK: Look at sources C, F and H. What do these sources tell you about:

1. What young people did in the Hitler Youth Organisation and the League of German Girls.
2. The aims of both of the organisations.
3. Do you think all young people wanted to join these organisations? If not why not?

Plenary: In 1 PEEL paragraph explain why the Nazis wanted to control the youth.



Title: What was life like for young people in Nazi Germany?

Watch the videos below: What does it show the aim of the Hitler Youth to be? Explain in 1 sentence.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLxEaAZ1J2M>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzjaUsIjsN4>

Challenge: How might some young people in Germany resist?



Using the information on the next slide, complete the table below.

Opposition Group	Who was involved in the group?	Key methods of resistance?	Consequences of resistance	Success of opposition (1-10)
Edelweiss Pirates				
White Rose Group				
Swing Youth				



Not all young people became part of the **Hitler Youth** movement. A significant minority managed to avoid joining. Some even established rival youth groups.

1) Edelweiss Pirates.

- The main working-class youth group which opposed Hitler was the **Edelweiss Pirates (Edelweißpiraten)**. It was based initially in the Rhineland. Members reacted to the discipline of the Hitler Youth by daubing anti-Nazi slogans and singing pre-1933 folk songs. Their main activity was camping trips to the countryside to get away from the stifling control of the Nazis. In 1942, over 700 of them were arrested. In 1944, the Pirates in Cologne killed the **Gestapo** chief, so the Nazis publicly hanged 12 of them. During the war they actively helped crashed Allied airmen escape Germany.

2) The White Rose group (die Weiße Rose)

- **The White Rose group (die Weiße Rose)** was formed by students at Munich University in 1943. They published anti-Nazi leaflets, distributed posters, wrote anti-Nazi graffiti and marched through the city in protest at Hitler's policies. Its leaders, brother and sister Hans and Sophie Scholl, were arrested and sentenced to the guillotine.

3) The 'Swing Youth' and 'Jazz Youth' groups

- The '**Swing Youth**' and '**Jazz Youth**' groups were mainly upper middle class young people who rejected Nazi values as well as having the money to visit night clubs. They were essentially a youth movement that started in Hamburg in 1939 and spread to Berlin and other German cities.
- The movement was a challenge to Hitler announcing that all German adolescents had to join a Nazi youth movement.
- They challenged the Nazi image of youth by growing their hair and wearing fashionable clothes.
- They also listened to swing music, which was seen by the Nazis as Black music and met at secret dance halls. This often led to clashes with the Hitler Youth and the security forces.
- They danced the jitterbug to banned jazz music. They were closely monitored by the Gestapo, who regularly raided illegal jazz clubs.



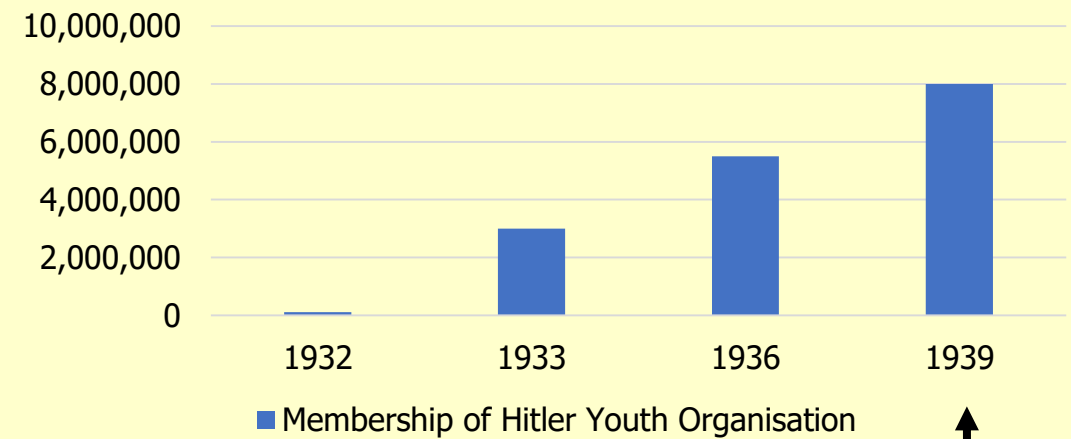
Assess how successful Hitler was

Not all young Germans liked what they saw of the Nazi way of life and decided to refuse to join. Some youngsters who refused to join went to parties, listened to American jazz music (which was banned by the Nazis because of its black origins) and had Jewish friends.

They were known as the **Swing Youth**. Other youngsters formed gangs such as the **Edelweiss Pirates**.

TASK: Use what you have learned today and write a paragraph saying whether you think the Nazi's aim of having total control of Germany's youth was a success or failure?

Membership of Hitler Youth Organisation



82% of children joined the HYO.

BUT, that means 18% (1 in 5 almost) didn't!

Membership was also made mandatory for 'Aryans' in 1936 and legally required in 1939.



Plenary: Watch the video

- Write down 5 facts about how the Nazis changed the lives of young people.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5E7WR8TINI>

