In 1933, Adolf Hitler won the German elections and became the Chancellor of Germany. The name of his political party was the National Socialist German Workers’ Party. In German, people used the short name—the Nazi Party.

The Nazis believed that only their party should control Germany. They destroyed all other political parties. The Nazis were also anti-Semitic. This meant that they hated Jews, so Hitler made laws against the Jews. Jews had to wear yellow stars so that everyone could see that they were Jewish. They couldn’t teach in schools or own businesses. The Nazis sent the Jews to prison camps, called concentration camps. Life in the camps was hard and there was no food. Many people died from exhaustion and hunger. But this was not enough for Hitler. He built gas chambers and thousands more Jews died from the poison gas. The largest concentration camp was Auschwitz in Poland.

The Nazis built it in 1940, and in the five years until the end of the war in 1945, more than one million people died there. In total, around 6 million Jewish people died because of the Nazis. This destruction of human life is called the Holocaust.

Today many countries have a Holocaust Memorial Day, including Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Israel. Israel has its own special memorial day. The first international Holocaust Memorial Day was in 2001. Every year it is on 27th January, the day that the Soviet army liberated the concentration camp at Auschwitz. On Memorial Day people remember the crimes against humans in history, and make promises to accept everyone—of any race, religion, language or colour—in future.

**Glossary**

- win (past won) vincere
- election elezione
- party partito
- destroy distruggere
- own (v) avere
- prison camp campo di prigionia
- exhaustion sfinimento
- gas chamber camera a gas
- poison gas gas velenoso
- crime delitto
- promise (n) promessa
- accept accettare
- race razza

1. **Osserva le foto. Che cosa sai sull’Olocausto? Leggi il brano e controlla se le tue conoscenze sono corrette.**

2. **Rispondi alle domande.**

   1. When did Hitler become Chancellor of Germany?

   2. Why did he make laws against the Jews?

   3. Why did the Jews have to wear yellow stars?

   4. What was life like in the concentration camps?

   5. Why did Hitler build gas chambers?

   6. How many Jews died at Auschwitz?

   7. Which countries have a Holocaust Memorial Day?

   8. What is the reason for having an international Holocaust Memorial Day?
3 Leggi il brano su Anna Frank e due estratti dal suo diario. Poi rispondi alle domande.

The Diary of Anne Frank

The Frank family were German Jews. They moved to Holland in 1933 to escape from the Nazis, but in 1940 Germany invaded Holland. The Frank family hid in secret rooms in a house in Amsterdam for two years.

The 13-year-old daughter, Anne, wrote a diary which is now very famous. In 1944, soldiers discovered Anne and her family and took them to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. The whole family, apart from Anne’s father, died there. Anne died only a month before the Allies liberated Belsen in 1945.

1 What nationality was Anne Frank?

2 Why were the family in Holland?

3 When did Anne die?

4 Why does someone ‘knock on every door’?

Presentazione orale

4 Project Prepara una presentazione orale sul Giorno della Memoria dell’Olocausto. Prendi degli appunti usando le seguenti domande per aiutarti. Parla per circa 2 minuti.

• What did your school or community do on Holocaust Memorial Day?
• Did you find out anything new about the Holocaust that day? What?
• Do you think there should be an international Holocaust Memorial Day? Why, or why not?
• What other similar holocausts do you know about, in more recent history?