**Eight Historical Questions:**

Some of the most commonly asked historical questions by students when studying the Holocaust are listed below.  Finding informative answers to these questions using reliable resources from the internet is your task.  You must also include your personal reaction to the information you find to your question. You will be divided up into groups of 4 and each group will be responsible for answering their questions.

**Question 1:**

**How could Hitler make the Holocaust happen by himself?**

Many people think since Hitler was the ruler of Germany, he coerced everyone into following his plan to eradicate the Jews.

**Question 2:**

**Why didn't they (Jews) all leave?**

It is often wondered why the Jews didn't leave Germany in the years of oppression and discrimination before the camps.  Much has to be considered when asking that question.  Why would it be difficult to leave your homeland?  Many Jews had fought for Germany in World War 1 and identified first as Germans before being Jewish.

**Question 3:**

**Why wasn't there more resistance?**

Jewish resistance is often downplayed when studying the Holocaust.  Many think the Jews did not resist much or in any real way.  Jews did resist- in ghettos, camps, from other countries, and simply by surviving.

**Question 4:**

**How did they know who was Jewish?**

Why didn't people just say they weren't Jewish?  How could anyone tell?  The atmosphere of Nazi Germany was frightening and many believed it wouldn't get any worse.  No one thought of killing centers or mass exterminations.  People felt if they went along with Hitler's policy, the persecution would level off or someone (people or country) would intervene.

**Question 5:**

**What happened if you disobeyed an order to participate?**

Were the Nazi's forced to participate in the extermination of the Jews? What happened if they didn't want to or couldn't?

**Question 6:**

**Wasn't one of Hitler's relatives Jewish?**

Not only was Hitler not a German, he and many of the leading Nazi officials did not fall into the category of the Aryan race they were trying to create.  In addition to answering the question, also describe how Hitler and at least two other officials did not meet their own strict criteria.

**Question 7:**

**Why the Jews?**

It is estimated that 6 million Jews perished in the Holocaust but so did 6 million others.  The Nazi's also killed political prisoners, homosexuals, physically and mentally handicapped, Gypsies, Poles, and other groups.  In this question you are looking at why Hitler wanted to annihilate the Jews from Europe.

**Question 8:**

**What did the United States know and do?**

Did the United States know about the Holocaust?  If so, why didn't they do anything to stop it? Why did it take them so long to get involved?