

The Holocaust

Denmark: Resistance to Nazi Germany

Germany invaded and occupied many countries during World War II. One European country worked as a whole to keep the Nazis from removing its Jewish people. That country was Denmark. In September 1943, the Danes learned of Nazi plans to capture the country's Jews and ship them to concentration camps. The Danes organized themselves quickly. People from every walk of life were involved. Doctors, shop owners, farmers, and civil workers all helped Denmark's 8,000 Jews find hiding places. One hospital hid hundreds of Jews by pretending they were patients.

The Jews hid for only a short time. Within 2 weeks, 7,200 Jews were safely carried to safety in Sweden. Danish fishermen from small villages along the coast of Denmark used their boats to ferry Jews to safety. Larger **commercial**¹ boats helped too. Almost 500 Jewish people were still captured. However, all but 51 survived. The Danish king never stopped **negotiating**² with Germany for his people.

Even though Nazis occupied Denmark, Danes continued to show their national spirit. They wore four coins tied with red and white string in their buttonholes. Red and white are the national colors of Denmark. Four symbolized the fourth month of the year, April, when Germans invaded.

The Nazis marched around the streets heavily armed with guns. However, the Danish king, Christian X, acted as a **model**³ of peace. He would ride alone on his horse through Copenhagen, Denmark's capital, every day. He did not carry any weapons. He did not bring any guards to protect himself. To many Danes, the example of their king's fearlessness was more powerful than the guns of the German army. The Danish government **loathed**⁴ Nazi Germany's racist policies. They scoffed at the Germans' phrase, "The Jewish

¹ **commercial:** used for business

² **negotiate:** to have a discussion in order to reach an agreement

³ **model:** a good example

⁴ **loathe:** to feel extreme disgust for; hate

question.” The Danish government told Germany: “There is no Jewish question in Denmark.” The government protected all of its citizens.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Which of the following statements about Denmark is true?
 - a. the Danes organized quickly and rounded up all of the Jewish people to give to the Germans.
 - b. the citizens of Denmark wore a red diamond to symbolize their national spirit.
 - c. most of the Jews in Denmark were killed in Extermination Camps.
 - d. Denmark worked hard to protect its Jewish citizens from Nazi camps.

2. Which of the following was NOT a solution that Denmark came up with to help its Jewish citizens?
 - a. fishermen took Jews to Sweden in boats
 - b. hospitals hid many Jews by pretending they were patients
 - c. Denmark took in Jews from other countries
 - d. commercial boats helped ferry Jews to safety

3. Which of these answers best explains why it was dangerous for the Danes to help the Jews during the Holocaust?
 - a. Denmark was occupied by Nazi soldiers marching in the streets.
 - b. Denmark was supposed to be fighting with Germany during World War II.
 - c. If Germany caught Denmark helping the Jews, the Germans would have stopped sending food.
 - d. Denmark and Sweden would have gone to war if it was found out Danes were helping their Jews.

4. Read the following sentences: “They scoffed at the Germans’ phrase, ‘The Jewish question.’ The Danish government told Germany: ‘There is no Jewish question in Denmark.’”

The word **scoffed** means

- a. responded like it was ridiculous
- b. became afraid of
- c. did not know how to respond
- d. copied as their own

5. The main idea of this passage is that
- The King of Denmark did not get along with the German army.
 - Denmark did everything it could to protect Jewish citizens.
 - Jewish Danes were in greater danger than elsewhere.
 - The Nazis wanted to move all Danish Jews to Sweden.
6. How did the Danish people show their national spirit while being occupied?

7. Based on the passage, explain how the King of Denmark riding on his horse was “more powerful than the guns of the German army.”

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

First the Nazis invaded and occupied Denmark, _____ the Nazis tried to capture the Jewish people there.

- then
- previously
- therefore
- on the other hand

9. Read the following sentence.

Christian X, the Danish King, impressed his citizens by walking unprotected through the city of Copenhagen.

Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

Who? Christian X, the Danish King

What did the Christian X, the Danish king, do? _____

How? _____

Where? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** commercial: used for business.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 810

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: The country of Denmark, its citizens, and especially its king, helped to protect the Jewish people from being captured by the Germans.

1. Which of the following statements about Denmark is true?
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 - b. the citizens of Denmark wore a red diamond to symbolize their national spirit.
 - c. most of the Jews in Denmark were killed in Extermination Camps.
 - d. Denmark worked hard to protect its Jewish citizens from Nazi camps.**

2. Which of the following was NOT a solution that Denmark came up with to help its Jewish citizens?
 - a. fishermen took Jews to Sweden in boats
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 - d. Denmark and Sweden would have gone to war if it was found out Danes were helping their Jews.

4. Read the following sentences: “They scoffed at the Germans’ phrase, ‘The Jewish question.’ The Danish government told Germany: ‘There is no Jewish question in Denmark.’”

The word **scoffed** means

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5. The main idea of this passage is that

- a. The King of Denmark did not get along with the German army.
- b. **Denmark did everything it could to protect Jewish citizens.**
- c. Jewish Danes were in greater danger than elsewhere.
- d. The Nazis wanted to move all Danish Jews to Sweden.

6. How did the Danish people show their national spirit while being occupied?

Suggested answer: Danish people showed national spirit by wearing four coins to represent the fourth month, April, when Germans invaded their country. They tied the coins with red and white strings for their national colors.

7. Based on the passage, explain how the King of Denmark riding on his horse was “more powerful than the guns of the German army.”

Suggested answer: Because the king was fearless in riding his horse without weapons or guards, he had the power to make his people feel safe more than the German army had the power to make them afraid.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

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- c. therefore
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Who? Christian X, the Danish King

What did the Christian X, the Danish king, do? **impressed his citizens**

How? **walking the streets unprotected**

Where? **through the city of Copenhagen, Denmark**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** commercial: used for business.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.