

Name: _____ Class: _____

Who Was Anne Frank?

By The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
From The Holocaust Encyclopedia • 2016

The Holocaust was one of the greatest human tragedies the world has ever known. From the mid 1930s through the end of the World War II, Adolf Hitler and his Nazi party in Germany would ultimately kill roughly 11 million civilians. Of these 11 million people, about 6 million were Jews. One of the people that died was a teenage girl named Anne Frank. During the war, her family went into hiding, and while she was in hiding, she kept a diary of her thoughts on the war, her family, and her dreams. Even though Anne didn't survive the war, her diary has since been read by millions of students and adults around the world. As you read, take notes on how Anne Frank's life and the lives of her family members were changed by war.

Overview and Background ;

- [1] Anne Frank was one of over one million Jewish children who died in the Holocaust. She was born Annelies Marie Frank on June 12, 1929, in Frankfurt, Germany, to Otto and Edith Frank.



"Anne frank (2)" by Bertknot is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.

For the first 5 years of her life, Anne lived with her parents and older sister, Margot, in an apartment on the outskirts of Frankfurt. After the Nazi¹ seizure of power in 1933, Otto Frank fled to Amsterdam in the Netherlands, where he had business connections. The rest of the Frank family followed Otto, with Anne being the last of the family to arrive in February 1934 after staying with her grandparents in Aachen.²

The Germans occupied³ Amsterdam in May 1940. In July 1942, German authorities and their Dutch collaborators began to concentrate⁴ Jews from throughout the Netherlands at Westerbork, a transit camp near the Dutch town of Assen, not far from the German border. From Westerbork, German officials deported the Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau and Sobibor killing centers in German-occupied Poland.

1. A "Nazi" was a member of the German political party led by Adolf Hitler. The Nazi party controlled Germany from 1941 to 1945. They were also responsible for the Holocaust, the targeting and mass murdering of over 6 Million European Jews.
2. Aachen is the westernmost city of Germany, near the borders with Belgium and the Netherlands
3. Here, "occupied" means to take over a place through military invasion
4. **Concentrate (verb):** gather a larger number of people or things together

In Hiding ;

During the first half of July, Anne and her family went into hiding in an apartment, which would eventually hide four Dutch Jews as well—Hermann, Auguste, and Peter van Pels, and Fritz Pfeffer. For two years, they lived in a secret attic apartment behind the office of the family-owned business at 263 Prinsengracht Street, which Anne referred to in her diary as the Secret Annex. Otto Frank's friends and colleagues, Johannes Kleiman, Victor Kugler, Jan Gies, and Miep Gies, had previously helped to prepare the hiding place and smuggled food and clothing to the Franks at great risk to their own lives. On August 4, 1944, the Gestapo (German Secret State Police) discovered the hiding place after being tipped off by an anonymous Dutch caller.

Arrest and Deportation ;

- [5] That same day, Gestapo official SS⁵ Sergeant Karl Silberbauer and two Dutch police collaborators arrested the Franks; the Gestapo sent them to Westerbork on August 8. One month later, in September 1944, SS and police authorities placed the Franks, and the four others hiding with the Franks, on a train transport from Westerbork to Auschwitz, a concentration camp complex in German-occupied Poland. Selected for labor due to their youth, Anne and her sister, Margot, were transferred to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp near Celle, in northern Germany in late October 1944.

Both sisters died of typhus⁶ in March 1945, just a few weeks before British troops liberated [7] Bergen-Belsen on April 15, 1945. SS officials also selected Anne's parents for labor. Anne's mother, Edith, died in Auschwitz in early January 1945. Only Anne's father, Otto, survived the war. Soviet forces liberated Otto at Auschwitz on January 27, 1945.

What was Anne Frank's Tattoo ID Number? ;

On September 3, 1944, Anne, along with her mother, Edith, her sister, Margot, and her father, Otto, boarded the last transport from Westerbork to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The transport arrived in Auschwitz on September 5, 1944 with 1,019 Jews on board. Men and women were separated. The women selected from this transport, including Anne, Edith, and Margot, were marked with numbers between A-25060 and A-25271. Records indicating their exact numbers have not been preserved. Approximately eight weeks later, in late October 1944, Anne and Margot were transferred from Auschwitz-Birkenau to Bergen-Belsen, where they both died sometime in March 1945. Though Anne's death certificate documents her movement between camps, it, too, does not include her tattoo ID number.

Diary ;

While in hiding, Anne kept a diary in which she recorded her fears, hopes, and experiences. Found in the secret apartment after the family was arrested, the diary was kept for Anne by Miep Gies, one of the people who had helped hide the Franks. It was published after the war in many languages and is used in thousands of middle school and high school curricula in Europe and the Americas. Anne Frank has become a symbol for the lost promise of the children who died in the Holocaust.

5. The SS, also known as the Schutzstaffel, was an organization that operated under Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party

6. "Typhus" is a disease transmitted by small insects to the bodies of people and animals, causing high fever, headache and a rash

"Who Was Anne Frank?" from [The Holocaust Encyclopedia](#), © 2016, The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Reprinted with permission, all rights reserved.

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which sentence best identifies the central idea of this text? [RI.2]
 - A. Without the help of family, individuals did not have any chance of surviving the Holocaust.
 - B. The Holocaust is one of the greatest human tragedies that the world has ever seen. Anne Frank was just one of many deaths.
 - C. Anne Frank displayed tremendous optimism in the face of danger and she was a great inspiration to Miep Gies.
 - D. Anne Frank was one of many victims of the Holocaust, but her story lives on because of her diary and the people that helped to preserve her story.

2. PART B: Which quote from the text best supports the answer to Part A? [RI.1]
 - A. While in hiding, Anne kept a diary in which she recorded her fears, hopes, and experiences. (Paragraph 8)
 - B. "German officials deported the Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau and Sobibor killing centers in German-occupied Poland." (Paragraph 3)
 - C. "Anne Frank has become a symbol for the lost promise of the children who died in the Holocaust." (Paragraph 8)
 - D. "Soviet forces liberated Otto at Auschwitz on January 27, 1945." (Paragraph 6)

3. PART A: What does the phrase "transit camp" most closely mean as it is used in paragraph 3? [RI.4]
 - A. A location where Jews were brought to be protected
 - B. A place where labor was assigned to Jews
 - C. The final destination Jews were sent to after being arrested
 - D. A waiting area for Jews before they were moved to their next location

4. PART B: Which selection from the text best supports the answer to Part A? [RI.1]
 - A. "From Westerbork, German officials deported the Jews" (Paragraph 3)
 - B. "Auschwitz-Birkenau and Sobibor killing centers" (Paragraph 3)
 - C. "Anne and her family went into hiding" (Paragraph 4)
 - D. "German authorities and their Dutch collaborators began to concentrate Jews" (Paragraph 3)

5. In the final paragraph, Anne Frank is referred to as "€œa symbol for the lost promise [RI.5] of the children who died in the Holocaust."€? What does this mean and how does it contribute to the development of ideas in the text?
