

Who were the six million?

Exploring Jewish life before the Holocaust

Glossary

Antisemitism	Hostility to or prejudice against Jews
Ashkenazi	A Jewish person of Central or Eastern European descent
Assimilated	When an individual becomes part of the wider society or culture
Black Death	Medieval plague pandemic
Citizenship	The status of being a citizen of a country, having certain rights
Discrimination	Unfairly treating an individual or group differently than others
Expulsion	Forcing someone to leave a place
Ghetto	An area in town or cities where Jews were separated by force from other people. Conditions were overcrowded and unsanitary and could be fatal
Hapsburg Empire	The Central European monarchy which ruled over a number of lands from the 13 th century until the end of the First World War in 1918
Immigration	The action of moving to live in another country (which might be voluntary or forced upon someone by war or persecution)
Massacres	The deliberate and brutal killing of many people
Medieval/Middle Ages	Period in European history from approximately 5 th century until the late 15 th century
Ottoman Empire	Turkish monarchy which ruled over parts of Asia, Africa and South-Eastern Europe from the 13 th century until the end of the First World War in 1918
Pale of Settlement	A geographical area in the western parts of the Russian Empire where Jewish people were forced to live and where they faced many restrictions in existence from 1791 until 1917

Persecution	Being treated badly, usually because of 'race', religious or political beliefs
Refugees	People who have been forced out of their country and cannot return home safely
Roman	Roman Empire or Roman period, land and people controlled by Ancient Rome from 27 BC until the 5 th century
Romaniote	The oldest Jewish community in Europe, an ethnic Jewish community native to the Eastern Mediterranean
Sabbath	A day of religious observance where no work should be undertaken kept by Jewish people from Friday evening until Saturday evening
Sephardic	An ethnic Jewish community native to the area of present-day Spain and Portugal
Shtetls	Towns or villages with a large Jewish population
Shul/Synagogue	A building for Jewish worship, a place for collective prayer and study
Yiddish	A language used by Jews in Central and Eastern Europe before the Holocaust, originally a German dialect with words from Hebrew
Zionism	A Jewish movement with the goal of the creation of a Jewish homeland in the area known as Palestine, today's Israel – this movement became popular amongst Jews living in Eastern and Central Europe in the late 19 th century