

The Nuremberg Trials Nuremberg Trials: Punishment of the Past, Laws of the Future

Junior Website Division

Process Paper

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This topic was chosen by this group to symbolize the traumatizing, yet historically changing event of the Holocaust and the Nuremberg Trials. As we started off our research, we concentrated on the Holocaust itself. We then changed our focus to the Nuremberg Trials and the aftermath of the Holocaust. The Nuremberg Trials started a new era for the legal protection of human rights. The Nuremberg Trials hoped to establish that all of humanity would be protected by an international legal shield and that even a Head of State would be punished for Crimes Against Humanity.

To find the necessary information, the group turned mainly to the internet. We went through countless websites containing useful information, such as ushmm.org, jewishhistory.org, and bl.uk. The group also read books such as *Reserve Battalion 101* and *Long Shadows: Truth, Lies, and History*. One primary source we used was a non-published letter called "The Memories of World War II" by Ragna Wrona, a survivor of World War II. She explains in her letter about the devastating events that occurred and how she felt during the war. One of the members of our group also interviewed her grandmother who was a survivor of the Holocaust. The group also interviewed one of our teacher's mother who is German and lives in Germany using Skype. She gave us insight to what Germany was like before and after Hitler's rise to power.

The group also engaged in many fundraisers to earn enough money to compete in the National History Day Competition. We sold candy bars around our school and in our neighborhoods and we gained a lot of money. At a carnival hosted at our school, the groups sold nachos and hosted a dart booth to gain money for History Competition. The group also

sold T-shirts from the Nature's Vision catalog and went to Barnes and Nobles and gift wrapped presents for customers getting ready for Christmas.

The Nuremberg Trials relate to the 2012-2013 theme "Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, and Events" because the Nuremberg Trials was a turning point for human rights. The Nuremberg Trials established a series of laws against genocide and Crimes Against Humanity. Anyone who engaged in genocide or Crimes Against Humanity would be punished under International Criminal Law and even a Head of State could not escape from punishment. It also established that the safeguarding of international peace and respect for human rights prevail over national sovereignty. Modern Criminal Law is based on the Nuremberg Trials.