

AROUND THE WORLD



ABBIE RESISTS ANTISEMITISM



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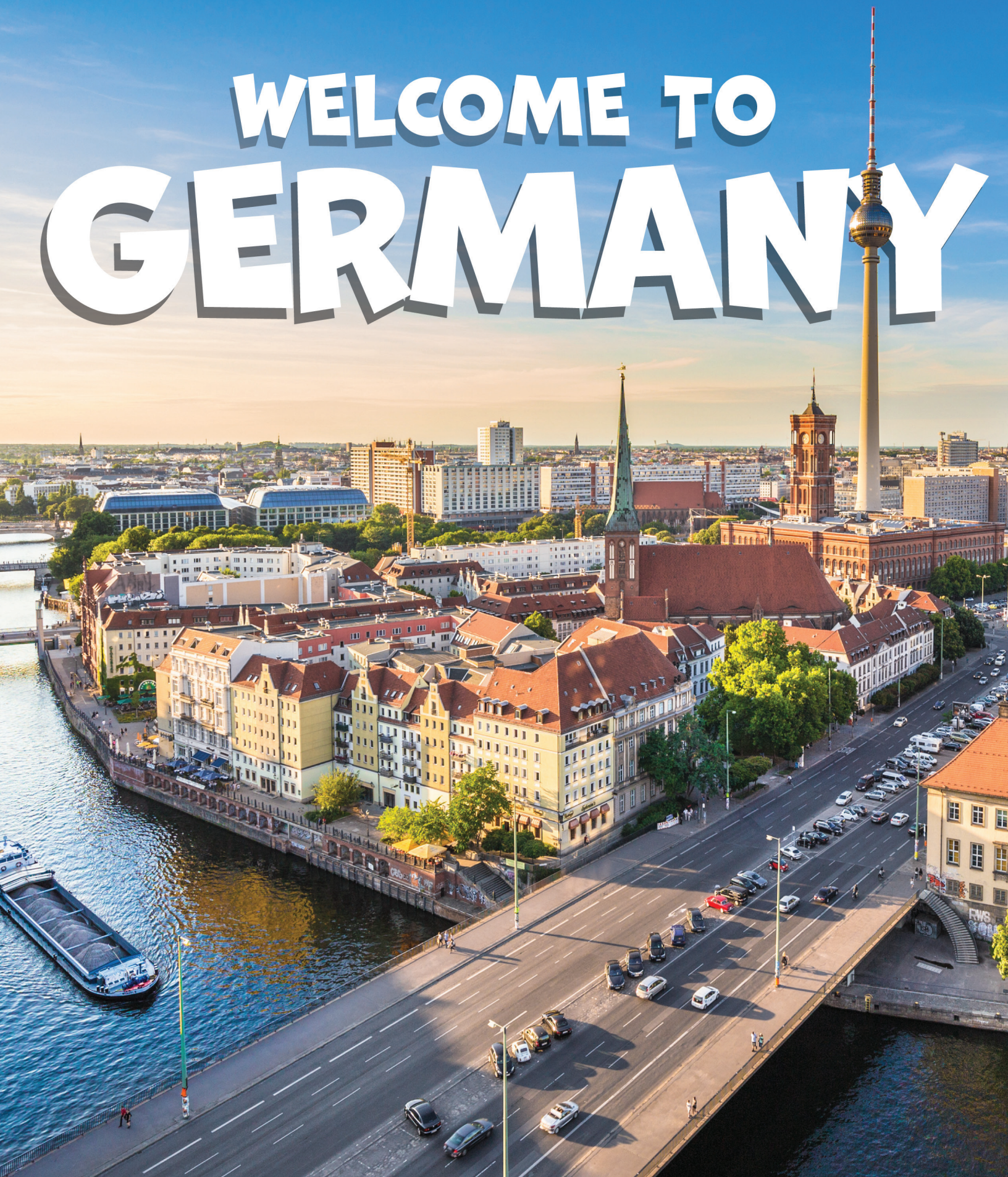
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WELCOME TO GERMANY





Denmark

North Sea

Baltic Sea

Berlin

Poland

Netherlands

GERMANY

Belgium

Luxembourg

France

Czech Republic

Austria

Switzerland

1

Around the World: Abbie Resists Antisemitism



In the middle of Europe lies Germany, a country with the largest population and strongest economy of the **European Union's** 27 members. A global leader in science and industry, Germany is famous for making things like fine automobiles, but it's also a place filled with celebration. The German people are known for their mixture of hard work and love of life—especially in the capital, Berlin.

Popular for its nightlife and art scene, Berlin is not just Europe's largest city but also a cultural center. It has a stylish mix of old and new buildings and an incredible amount of open spaces. Almost one-third of the city's area is made up of forests, parks, gardens, canals, and lakes. It's a beautiful place, and because of a violent past, many "Berliners" today strive for it to be peaceful and welcoming.

From 1933 to 1945, a political group called the **Nazis** (*not-zees*) controlled Germany. Their leader, **Adolf Hitler**, rose to power preaching a message of hatred that transformed the country. Hitler believed that people whose ancestors came from northern Europe were

European Union

A group of 27 European countries called Member States that cooperate politically and economically.

Nazis

Members of the National Socialist German Workers' Party ("Nazi" for short), a political organization that promoted white supremacy, racism, eugenics, and antisemitism. During their rule from 1933 to 1945, the Nazis controlled all aspects of German life, murdered millions, and caused World War II. They specifically targeted Jews, blacks, Roma (Gypsies), homosexuals, Slavs, and the disabled.

Adolf Hitler

The leader of Nazi Germany from 1933 to 1945. He promoted ideas of racial superiority and used intimidation and force against his opponents and enemies. At the close of World War II, he committed suicide rather than face punishment for the evil he caused.

superior to others, and he wanted to get rid of anyone he didn't think was a "proper" German. He held a special hatred for **Jewish** people, and during **World War II**, over six million European Jews were murdered by the Nazis during a **genocide** known as the **Holocaust**.

Hitler and the Nazis were eventually destroyed, but the memory of their horrific actions haunts the German people to this day. As a result, generations of Germans have worked hard to repair their nation's reputation. Today, it is a country that promotes **tolerance** and aims to be a home to all people, no matter their differences... but many are worried about a new wave of hatred and violence.

Jew

A member of the people and cultural community whose traditional religion is Judaism and who trace their origins through the ancient Hebrew people of Israel.

World War II

A global war involving more than 50 countries. It lasted from 1939 to 1945 and was the deadliest and most destructive war in human history.

Genocide

The deliberate and systematic killing of a large group of people, targeting a particular ethnic group, nation, or religion.

Holocaust

A genocide during World War II that targeted European Jews, blacks, Roma (gypsies), gays, the disabled, and others the Nazis viewed as inferior to them.

Tolerance

Accepting and respecting people's differences, even if they have beliefs, cultures, or ways of life that are different from your own.



Meet Abbie... and Sarah!

Scholarship

A financial grant made to support a student's education, usually for high achievement academically or athletically.

Synagogue

A Jewish place of worship, like a church for Christians or a mosque for Muslims.



Abbie is fourteen. She lives with her parents, Peter and Eliana, in a two-story townhouse in Berlin. Until recently, Abbie's older sister Sarah lived at home, but a month ago, she left for New York City, USA, where she's attending a university.

Despite their four-year age difference, the sisters are very close. One reason is that they both are successful distance runners.

Abbie competes for her school, and Sarah's speed and stamina won her a college **scholarship** in America!

Abbie misses her sister, but she's also excited; it's been Sarah's dream to attend an American university and compete internationally. Seeing her sister succeed has driven Abbie to push herself and train harder. The work is paying off, and her average mile time is down to *seven minutes!*

Even though the sisters are far away from one another, they stay close over a messaging app. Abbie loves catching glimpses of Sarah's adventures, and it's nice having her big sis just a text or call away.

Peter and Eliana are both doctors with full schedules. On a typical morning, Abbie makes her own breakfast and, thanks to Berlin's safe streets, has always been able to walk to school by herself. At school, she studies science, math, history, English, and her most challenging subject, Hebrew. Abbie's family are among the tens of thousands of Jews living in Berlin, and they live close to one of the city's old **synagogues**. When Abbie's grandpa Jozsef was alive, the whole family walked there once a week to worship, but in the years since he passed, everyone's been too busy.

Fun Runs

There was a time when the two sisters would join small groups for “fun runs” through Berlin’s many beautiful parks and neighborhoods. The running routes regularly took them to iconic places like **Alexanderplatz**, the **Reichstag**, and a section of the old **Berlin Wall** covered with graffiti art. Even though Berlin can be rowdy after soccer games, the safe, tree-lined streets provided a perfect place for runners... at least they used to.

Sadly, the “fun runs” have all stopped. Before Sarah left for college, she and Abbie noticed parts of the city changing drastically. Aggressive young men, speaking non-European languages, started congregating in large groups around **U-Bahn** stations and in many of the parks. Stories of street muggings, vandalism, and specific attacks on women spread through the city. Much of the violence targeted Jews in acts of **antisemitism**, and Sarah and Abbie realized that their once peaceful city had become dangerous—especially for them.

Their parents, however, refused to talk about it. When the sisters began tucking their **Star of David** necklaces into their shirts before heading out, neither parent noticed.

Alexanderplatz

Berlin’s main public square.

Reichstag

The building where Germany’s government meets, similar to the U.S. Capitol.

Berlin Wall

The Berlin Wall was a concrete barrier that divided the city from 1961 to 1989. It split the country into a communist East and a democratic, free-market West and was designed to prevent East Germans from fleeing. Until its fall in 1989, the Berlin Wall became a symbol of the division between communism and democracy.

U-Bahn

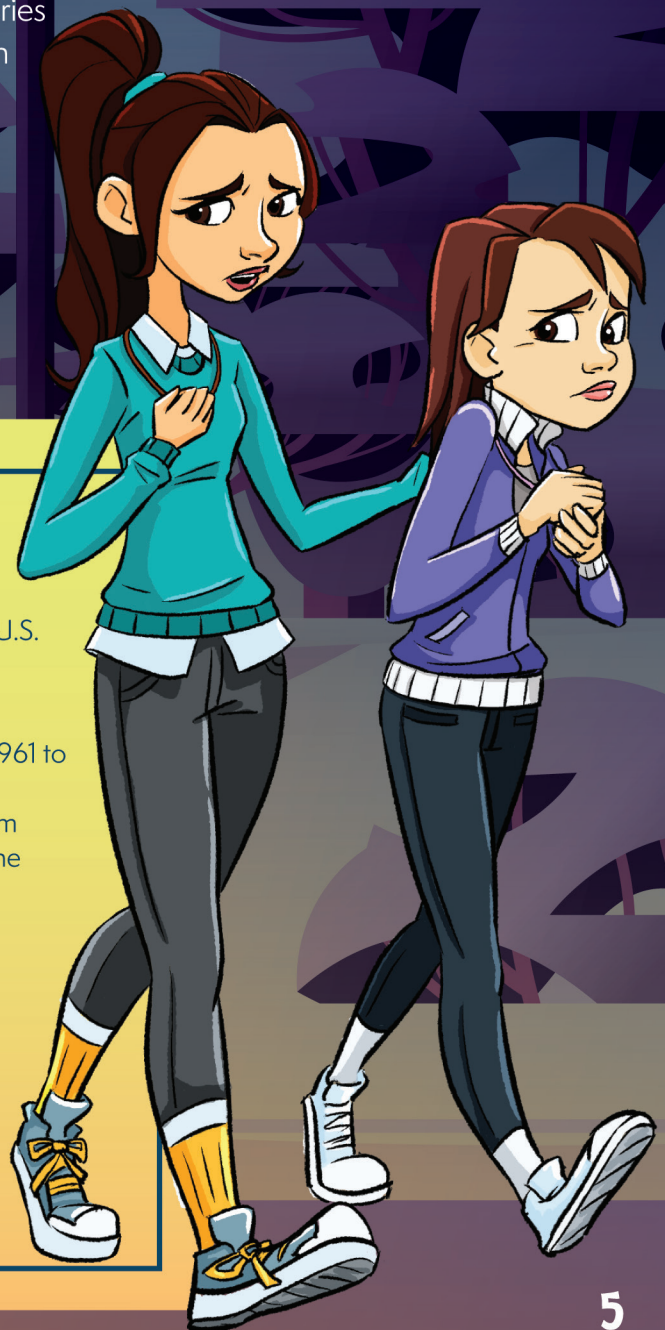
Berlin’s underground, rapid train system.

Antisemitism

Hatred, prejudice, and unfair treatment targeted against Jewish people just because they are Jewish.

Star of David

A symbol of Judaism that looks like a six-pointed star, often associated with Jewish identity.



Jews in Germany

The Jews are an **ethnic group** that traces their history back thousands of years. Many Jews practice the **monotheistic** Jewish religion known as **Judaism**. Three thousand years ago, they lived in their traditional homeland, Israel, along the eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea, but over the years, Jewish communities have lived in many other lands. Throughout their history, the Jews have dealt with discrimination and persecution, and in order to practice their faith and live in peace, they have often been forced to move to new countries and even continents. A century ago, much of the world's Jewish people lived in Europe, but that began to dramatically change when Adolf Hitler and the Nazis came to power.

After losing World War I (1914-1918), Germany was forced to dismantle its military and pay incredible amounts of money for the damages it caused to nations it harmed. This left many Germans embarrassed, and it crippled the German economy. Poor leadership, high unemployment, and **hyperinflation** made life very hard for most Germans.

During these hard times, Hitler and the Nazis began telling people that the source of Germany's problems was its Jewish population. They claimed Jews were the reason World War I had been lost, that Jews caused the nation's poverty, and that Germany would be a better place if they were gone. Hitler's message made it easy to blame this small group of people for everything, and hatred spread across the country, quickly making Germany an unsafe place for Jewish people.



When Hitler took control in 1933, nearly 525,000 of Europe's nine million Jews called Germany home. When his rule ended 12 years later, the number of German Jews had shrunk to about 37,000. Most had been tortured, murdered, and worked to death in **concentration camps** during World War II.

After Hitler and the Nazis were defeated (1945), Germany was divided into two countries—East Germany and West Germany. For decades, the split remained; and while divided, Germany's Jewish population remained very small. However, in 1990, the two Germanies reunited, and soon the number of German Jews began rising. Today, Berlin's Jewish community is among the fastest growing in the world, and the nation is proud of that.

Ethnic Group

A group of people who identify with each other based on shared ancestry and culture.

Monotheism

A belief that there is only one God.

Christianity, Islam, and Judaism are examples of monotheistic religions.

Judaism

The religion of the Jewish people. Along with Christianity and Islam, it is one of the world's three Abrahamic religions.

Hyperinflation

An extremely rapid and out-of-control increase in prices, where money loses its value very quickly. In the early 1920s, German hyperinflation made buying food and everyday items a serious hardship.

Concentration Camps

Prison camps set up by the Nazis to detain and often kill those they saw as enemies. People held in these camps included Jewish people, political prisoners, Roma (Gypsies), and others. Conditions were brutal: prisoners faced starvation, forced labor, torture, and disease.





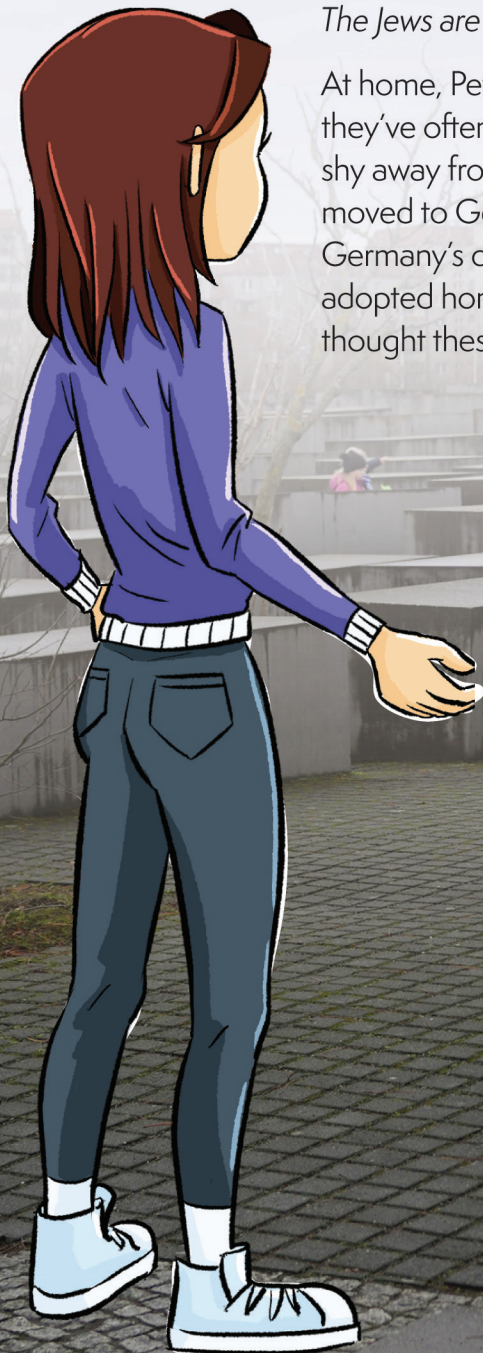
Did That Really Happen Here?

Like many German kids, Abbie first heard about the Nazis and the Holocaust at a young age. When she grew older, it became hard to believe that Jews like her were once targeted for their race, stripped of their property, and then rounded up for extermination.

Whenever she jogs past Berlin's somber Holocaust **Memorial**, Abbie stops and wonders how the horrors could have happened. It all sounds unreal, like a terrible nightmare from long ago.

The Jews are safe now, right?

At home, Peter and Eliana have always insisted that that's the case. While they've often mentioned that Grandpa survived the Holocaust, they tend to shy away from topics like antisemitism and racial intolerance. They each moved to Germany as children following **reunification** and have only known Germany's culture of tolerance. Like most Germans, they appreciate their adopted homeland's strict laws that prevent hurtful language and have always thought these laws would protect the country from discrimination and hatred.



Memorial

A structure built to remind people of a historical person or event.

Reunification

Germany's process of becoming one country again after being split by communism. On October 3, 1990, East Germany started this process by officially joining West Germany after 45 years of separation.



Germany FACTS



Sausages, like bratwurst, are a national favorite!

The German Butchers' Association estimates that the average German eats 66 pounds of sausage every year!



Population size:
Around 84 million.



Germany has around
25,000 castles.



Neighboring countries:
Poland, Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, The Netherlands, and Denmark.



Germans are known as inventors and engineers.



The printing press, lager beer, diesel engines, refrigerators, guide dogs, and many musical instruments are all German inventions.



Around one-third of Germany is covered in forest.



Official name:
"Federal Republic of Germany."



Germany is one of six founding members of the European Union

(the other five are France, Italy, The Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg).



Land size:
138,070 square miles
(almost the size of Montana).



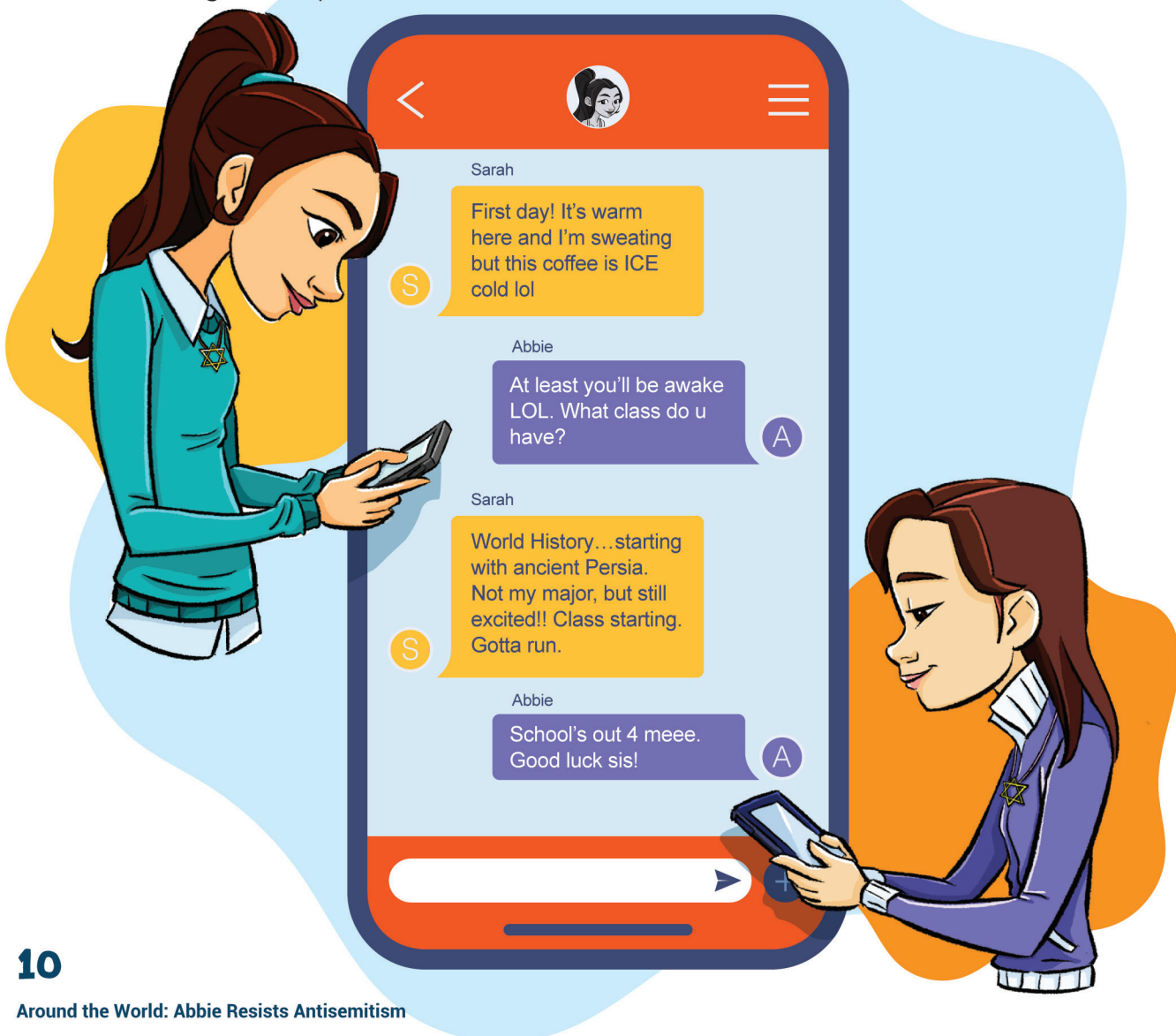


First Day of College

A few days into her American adventure, Sarah was feeling great. Getting around in New York meant walking with a purpose and moving fast, but Sarah was used to speed. Sure, there had been near-collisions on subways, escalators, and along the crowded streets, but she was learning. With things to see on every block, she was already imagining future fun runs for when Abbie came to visit.

While walking across campus for her first class, a gust of wind blew her Star of David necklace up against her cheek. For the first time in a while, she wore the six-pointed star openly, and it felt liberating. *That's America*, she thought. *Land of the free*.

With a few minutes before class, Sarah stopped at a campus coffee shop. Seated at the window with an iced coffee, she took out her phone and opened the messaging app. There were unread texts from Abbie, who was waiting for an update.





After School

Back in Berlin, Abbie's school day had just finished. Before heading home, she tucked her phone and necklace away and said farewell to her friends.

Outside the school's front gate, she turned the corner and started walking home. On the stone wall was a freshly painted **swastika**, with a note underneath reading, "**Zionist** pigs, go home!"

Abbie tried ignoring it, but laughing and hissing from behind made her head turn. There was a group of young men dressed in dark, hooded sweatshirts walking towards her. *Are they following me?* she wondered as her heartbeat and breaths got quicker. When the group started calling out "Zionist!" she had her answer.

Abbie put her head down and walked faster.

The shouts increased and sounded like they were getting closer.

With a quick glance over her shoulder, Abbie saw the young men matching her pace. Then one hollered out, "We just wanna talk, Jewish-Zionist!"

Crash! Glass shattered on the ground.

Fear rushed over Abbie, but she didn't freeze. In a flash, the young, talented runner took off and bolted for home.

Swastika

An ancient, crossed symbol that the Nazis used as their party emblem. Today, with the exception of Buddhist temples that use an older version, the swastika is linked to Jewish hate.

Zionist

A person who supports the existence of an independent Jewish country where Jews can live safely in their original homeland—Israel.



Good Thing I Train

Back home, Abbie locked the door behind her and crossed into the bathroom. After splashing some cool water on her face, she finally felt safe—at least, safe enough to catch her breath. *Good thing I train*, she thought with a weak smile, trying not to cry.

Why me? she wondered. *Were they just hanging around the Jewish school looking for a target?* Even though she hadn't done anything wrong, Abbie felt awful inside. Then it hit her—it was probably related to **Israel**. That morning, news of more violence in the Middle East had spread around the world. Israel had been hit with another **terror attack**, and the response from their military was going viral. But that conflict was over a thousand miles away! What happened in other parts of the world was *not* her fault.

Abbie looked in the mirror. She realized that her innocence didn't matter—not to angry men who draw swastikas and chase Jewish girls down the streets in broad daylight. To them, she's not Abbie—an individual. In their eyes, all they see is a Jew, and if something happens in the Jewish nation of Israel that they don't like, to them all Jews are guilty by association.

So, this is racism, she thought, brushing a tear away. Safe inside, Abbie felt calmer, but in her mind, she could still hear the shouting, the hissing, and the glass bottle shattering on the pavement. A knock at the door made her jump.

"Abbie?" her mother called. "Are you OK in there?"

The thought of telling her parents made Abbie sigh. What would they say? Would they finally acknowledge that the hateful antisemitism they insisted was only part of Germany's past had returned?

Abbie pulled her phone out. Sarah could help.



Israel

A country along the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea in a region known to Jews as the Land of Israel. It was created after World War II in order to re-establish the traditional Jewish homeland.

Terror Attack

A violent act that can involve killings, meant to frighten people and achieve political or religious goals.



After Class

Her first class was dismissed, and Sarah made her way to the exit. *That was terrible*, she thought, *but at least I already have a friend*. She walked with Julian, a tall philosophy major from Arizona, breathed deeply, and shook her head in disbelief. Had her history professor, a young woman with anti-Israel stickers on her laptop, really said those things?

"Well, she's going to fail me," Julian said with a laugh. "I knew college would be different, but those lies she told about Jews, Israel, and **Zionism** were *outrageous*. Someone had to stand up and tell her."

Sarah wanted to laugh with him, but she couldn't. She felt guilty that she hadn't joined Julian in objecting to their professor's blatant antisemitism, but she wasn't comfortable "outing herself" as Jewish right away—certainly not in a class where so many nodded along and even applauded when the professor stopped talking about Persian history to rant about Jews and Israel. Before class ended, Sarah had carefully tucked her Star of David necklace back into her shirt collar. Only Julian had noticed.

Sarah thanked him and sighed. Then she checked her phone and saw that Abbie had messaged her fifteen times! Was something wrong?

"I have to go," she said, touching Julian's arm. "I'll catch you later!"



Zionism

An international movement that supports the existence of the Jewish homeland of Israel.



Sister Chat



Sarah rushed back to her dorm and pulled out her phone. What was going on?

I'm here, sis! What's up?

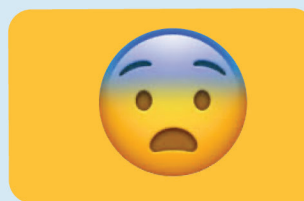
S

Sarah!! I was so scared
I've been trying to reach u

A gang chased me home from school
today and threw bottles
They called me nasty names and
laughed at me because I'm Jewish. It
was horrible!!

I lost them by running along the canal
and through the park and made it home
OK. But it really freaked me out... like
I'm still shaking. Good thing I run fast!
Could have been REALLY BAD

A



S

Sarah stiffened. Was this for real?
First, her professor, and now this?
She felt sick to her stomach.

What!!! Unreal!! Are you OK??

S

Yeah, it was crazy. I'm doing better now.

Did you tell Mom and Dad? The police??

S

Mom and Dad said it's not worth
bothering the police about.

A

That was a **hate crime**!!! It should be against the
law in Germany! Maybe I should come home.

S

Nooooo. I'm OK. I promise
How was ur history class?

A

Hate Crime

A crime committed
against someone
because of their race,
religion, or identity.

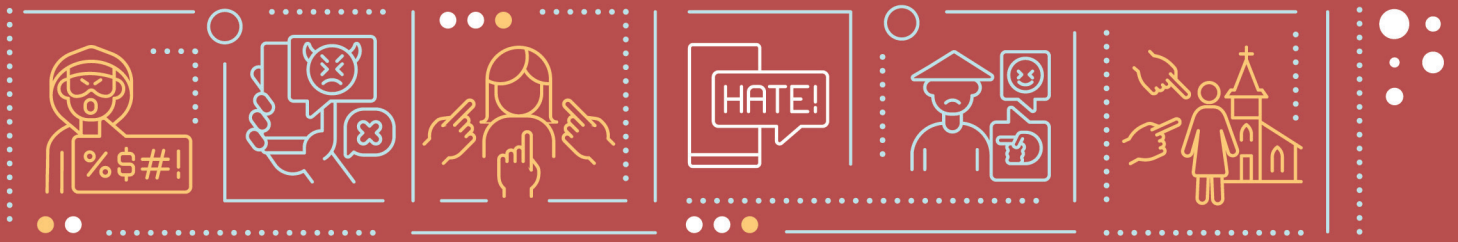
Sarah put her phone down—after what happened to Abbie,
should she even share what happened?

Class was crazy. Can I tell u about it?

S

PLZ. What happened?

A



Hate Crime vs. Hate Speech

Today, the governments of Germany and the United States are very similar. They share many laws, and their government leaders are selected in similar ways. Both countries have laws against crimes that are committed because of a person or group's race, religion, or identity, and they are categorized as hate crimes. However, the countries do not share the same definition of what can be considered a crime.

American law is unique in regards to what its citizens are allowed to say and write. According to the **First Amendment** in America's **Bill of Rights**, every citizen has freedom of speech. In the USA, it is not a crime to use language that others find hurtful, but this is not the case in Germany.

Like most other countries, Germany has laws against what the government determines is **hate speech**. There are strict restrictions on what people can say, write, and even wear. Most Germans want a country that is welcoming and peaceful, and they believe limiting expression is the right thing to do. In Germany, a threat, insult, or even a joke directed at a person or a group based on race, religion, or ethnicity is not allowed and can result in fines and jail time.

Because of the Holocaust, Germany is very sensitive to antisemitism. Expressions like displaying a swastika, dressing like a Nazi soldier, and anti-Jewish language are considered hate speech and punishable by law. However, Germany's Jews are not the only group protected by hate speech laws.

Another protected group in Germany is immigrants. During the 1960s and 70s, in order to help rebuild postwar Germany, thousands of immigrants were allowed to move in from nearby Turkey. They brought with them many cultural differences like language, food, and religion. They were not welcomed by all Germans, but hate speech laws protected them from negativity.

The 21st century has brought a new wave of immigrants to Germany, and their arrival has some questioning whether hate speech laws actually help make their country a safer place.

First Amendment

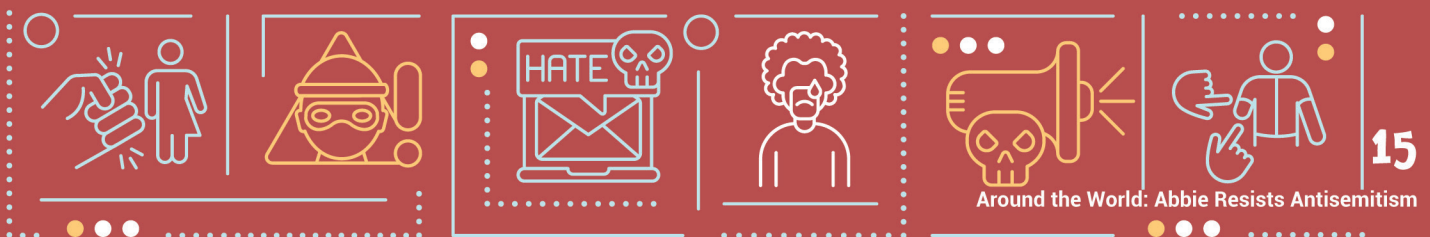
Law that provides freedom of speech, religion, assembly, and petition. It is unique to the U.S. and a cornerstone of American democracy and individual liberty.

Bill of Rights

The first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution. It protects individuals from government tyranny.

Hate Speech

Abusive or threatening speech and symbols expressed towards a specific group. Many countries have laws against this type of expression. The U.S. does not.





Inconvenient Truth

For centuries, much of the Arab world has been torn apart by war. Recently, deadly conflicts in places like Syria, Iraq, and Yemen have resulted in waves of desperate refugees fleeing for safety. Wanting to be compassionate, Germany has been a welcoming destination, and millions of Arab migrants have rapidly moved into cities like Berlin. They've brought with them customs and behaviors that have led to dramatic changes in the cities.

Most Germans are like Abbie and Sarah's parents—they are proud that Germany has welcomed the Arab migrants. Unfortunately, many of the newcomers share beliefs with Jew haters from the past, and it's leaving many Germans conflicted.

The Arab world has a long history of antisemitism. In fact, during World War II, many Arab leaders were friendly with the Nazis, and some actively supported Hitler. Despite the German leader thinking Arabs were inferior to northern Europeans, they shared a hatred of Jews and formed partnerships.

Today, many modern Arabs have no problem with Jews, but antisemitism remains common across the Arab world—even inside migrant communities in Europe. In an attempt to be a welcoming place for people in need, some Germans are learning their country has welcomed in a modern form of its historic antisemitic problem.





Facing Reality

Peter and Eliana felt stuck.

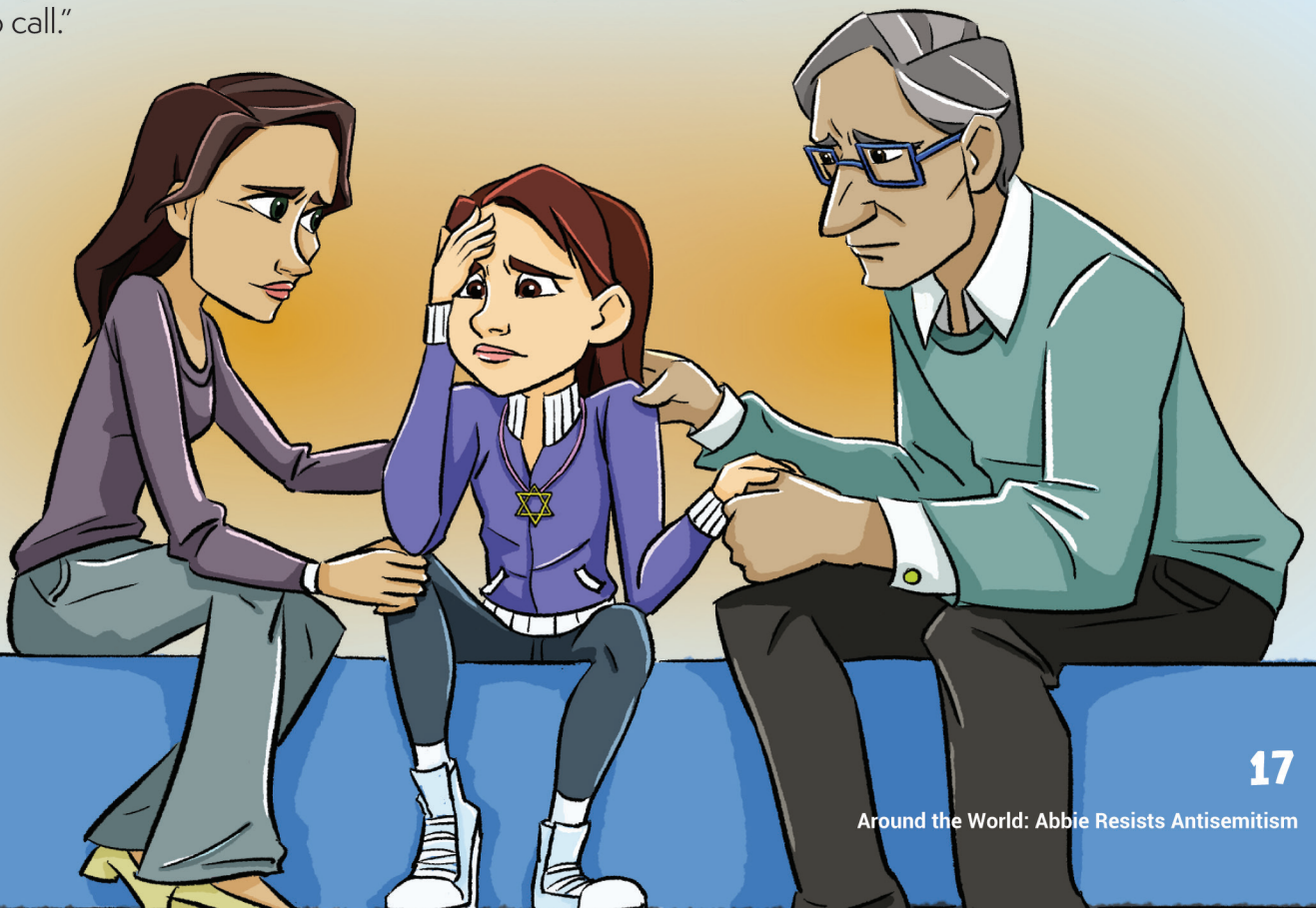
When Abbie finally told them she'd been chased after school and attacked with antisemitic slurs, they felt their reality shaken. *How could that happen in our peaceful Berlin?* After she told them, everyone stood silently, and Eliana brushed tears away.

Peter sat next to Abbie to comfort her. He told her how sorry he was and admitted that all the recent conflict in the Middle East had definitely shaken things up around Germany. He knew there had been anti-Israel demonstrations in the city's Arab communities but was shocked by his daughter's experience.

"Remember," Peter said, "being a newcomer to our country must be very difficult. Your mother and I were once immigrants, too. Berlin is becoming a very diverse place with different cultures. Let's hope your experience was some type of misunderstanding."

Abbie couldn't believe her father. It was like he couldn't accept the truth around him. "There was no cultural misunderstanding, Dad," she responded, struggling to hold back tears. "And it wasn't an accident that those guys were outside a Jewish school. I was targeted for being a Jew. They wanted to hurt me just because I'm a Jew."

Eliana placed a calming hand on her daughter's shoulder and looked at her husband. "I have a letter to the girls from my dad that he wrote before he died. I hoped to never give it to them, but it's time. Let's get Sarah on a video call."





Grandpa's Letter

Abbie and her parents sat around the kitchen table, looking at an open laptop. Sarah's face was on the screen, looking back at her family. Eliana handed Abbie a thick envelope with her name and her sister's written in cursive across it. Abbie opened it, pulled her grandfather's letter out, and began reading.

Abigail and Sarah

Schatzi

A common term of endearment in the German language. Literally, it means *gem* or *treasure* but is often used similarly to "darling" or "sweetheart" in English.

Ghetto

A crowded area where Jewish people were forced to live during World War II, with very limited freedom.

SS Officer

The elite soldiers of the Nazis.

Auschwitz

Auschwitz was the largest Nazi concentration and extermination camp, located in occupied Poland. Established in 1940, it became a major site of mass killings during the Holocaust. Approximately 1.1 million people, mostly Jewish men, women, and children, were killed at Auschwitz.

Hello My Little **Schatzis**,

I'm sorry you are reading this. It means something bad has happened, and you need to know what you are made of. As you know, I never liked talking about the Holocaust. My memories were too painful. But this is my story, and I hope it gives you courage and strength.

When I was eight years old, my family lived in Berlin's Jewish **ghetto**. Before I even knew what antisemitism was, I was surrounded by it. Our stores were boycotted, our neighborhood vandalized, and getting called nasty names was too common. The first time a Nazi **SS officer** looked at me, I trembled with fear. Even as a young boy, I could feel the hatred in his stare. Everyone I knew was forced to wear a yellow star, so no one could hide being a Jew.

For years, we lived as second-class citizens in our own city, but at least we had our community, and I had my family. Then, one night, not long after our synagogue was burned, a group of soldiers came to our house. They told us to pack some belongings because we were going on a long journey. When we arrived at the train station the next morning, our bags were taken and thrown into the back of a truck, and my sister and mother were pulled away. My father shouted and pleaded with the guards, but there were too many of them.

From the doorway of a train car, my mother looked back at me. It was the last time I saw her face. My father and I were forced onto a different train, and once filled with other Jewish men and boys, it took off down the tracks toward **Auschwitz**. The train was stuffy and crowded—there wasn't enough room to even sit down. I was pressed against one side of the train near a tiny, slatted window. My father told me to pray for a miracle, and God answered.

A heavy wind rocked the train, and a large man slammed against the window, knocking a slat loose. The train came to a stop, and my father quickly picked me up off the ground and passed me into the hands of the large man. I was the smallest person in the car and just smaller than the opening. I looked back at my father, and he said sternly, "I love you, József. You are strong. Stronger than you know. Now run and don't look back."

I never saw him again, but he was right. I was strong. I fell from the window to the ground and ran as fast and far as I could.

I love you, Sarah and Abigail. You are strong. Stronger than you know.
Whatever troubles you are facing, the strength to overcome them is inside you.
It's what we are made of.

Love Forever,

Grandpa



Waking up

Abbie finished reading the letter, and the room went quiet. She had known that her grandfather survived the Holocaust by hiding with friends in a forest, but he had never discussed how he got there. Eliana broke the tension. "Before he passed, Dad told me to save the letter for a rainy day," and with a smile, said, "Now you two know where you get your speed from."

The four then had an open and honest discussion about the new antisemitism. Sarah told the family that it wasn't just a problem in Berlin and that New York was also getting filled with anti-Jewish graffiti and anti-Israel protests.

"You're right, girls," Peter finally admitted. "As much as it shocks me, it's time for me to wake up. Your grandfather said that the antisemitic treatment began years before the Holocaust. It's time to stand up. We cannot let the hatred grow... **Never Again!**"

"Never Again!" Eliana, Sarah, and Abbie repeated.

Abbie then mentioned a gathering scheduled to take place over the weekend at Berlin's Holocaust Memorial—a rally against antisemitism. It was the perfect place to stand up against hatred. Peter asked Sarah if she wanted to fly home and join them, but she declined.

"There's a huge anti-Israel protest planned at my college this weekend," Sarah replied. "School officials are telling Jewish students to stay indoors because they can't guarantee our safety. I need to be here, and I don't want it looking like I'm leaving in fear. While you three stand up for Jews in Germany, I want to stand for Jews here in America."

Sarah assured her worried parents that she would be smart and stay safe. Abbie felt a rush of excitement. She knew her sister... was she planning something?

Never Again

A phrase meaning the Jewish community's vow to prevent another Holocaust from happening in the future.



**NEVER AGAIN
IS NOW!**



Sister Chat II



S

Hey sis... still awake?

YEAH!

Too excited to sleep.
Excited for tomorrow's march

A

S

I still can't believe Grandpa's story!!
He was so brave

700

A

I LTRLY cry when I think about the Holocaust

A

S

Me too!

What's up with the protest at ur college?
It sounds dangerous. Are you gonna do something?

A

S

Idk
OK maybe

I knew it!!!
Is there a boy involved?

A

S

Maybe

???

A

S

OK fine, but we're just friends





Sister Chat II



Riiiiight 😊
I bet he's cute

A

S His name is Julian, and for ur info he is very handsome, but that's not why I like him. Like Grandpa, he's very brave and never hesitates to stand up for what is right

A When's the wedding
Can I be a bridesmaid?

A



A

S OK knock it off
Julian said the protesters might try to take over a classroom building and he and his friends want to stop them
I'm gonna join

A That's heroic!
But scary

A

A B careful!!!!

A

S

I will. Promise.

A OK. Goodnight, sis. Be strong. Remember what we're made of!!!

A

S

You too! Goodnight





Extra Credit ?!

By the time her next history class was over, Sarah's blood was boiling. "That's right," the professor finished. "Anyone who joins tonight's anti-Zionist protest will get extra credit."

All around her, students applauded. Sarah thought of her family and grandpa's letter. She closed her eyes tightly and raised her hand high into the air.

"I have a question," she said with force as she rose from her seat to stand tall. The classroom went silent, and all eyes were suddenly on the distance runner from Germany.

"What if a student disagrees with tonight's protest? Can they get extra credit for having a different opinion from you?"

The classroom fell silent. "Who are you talking about?" the stunned professor replied.





"Me," Sarah said, feeling her nervous energy turn to confidence. "I'm Jewish, and I don't appreciate the clear **bias** you have against my people."

"And I'm not Jewish," Julian said with authority as he stood up next to Sarah. "But I'm with Sarah. This class is supposed to be about history, not **activism**. What you've been preaching isn't supported by facts and is just your opinion. What if we disagree? Is the extra credit for agreeing with you, or is it for standing up for what we believe in?"

Whispers filled the classroom... Two students clapped with approval, and many nodded in agreement... Others must have been thinking what Sarah and Julian were brave enough to say out loud... Julian grabbed Sarah's hand. She squeezed tightly in response and thought of her grandfather's letter.

We are strong...



Bias

An unfair preference for or against someone or something, which can affect judgment or actions.

Activism

Taking action to support a cause or bring about change, like protests or campaigns.

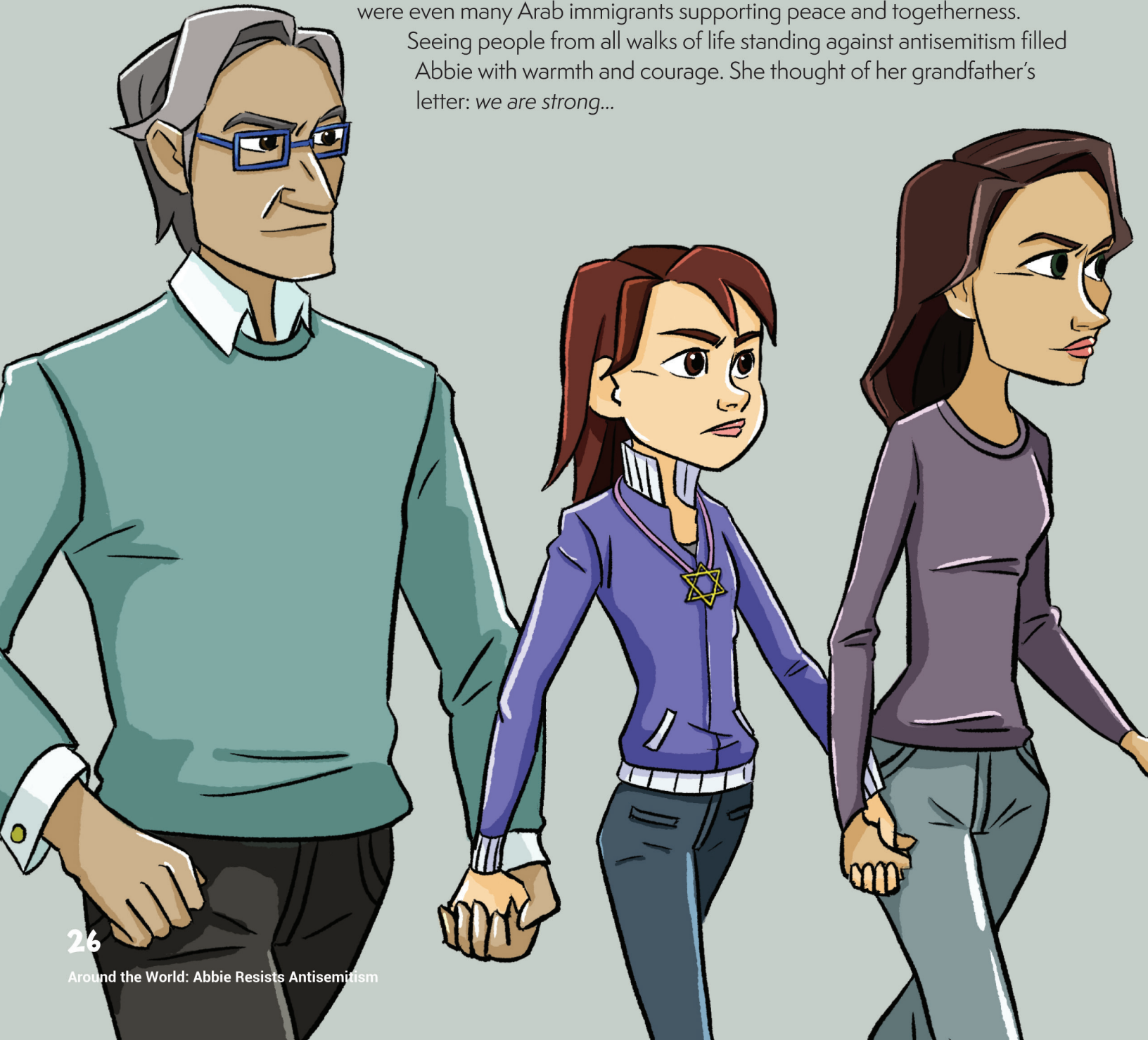




Today, We March

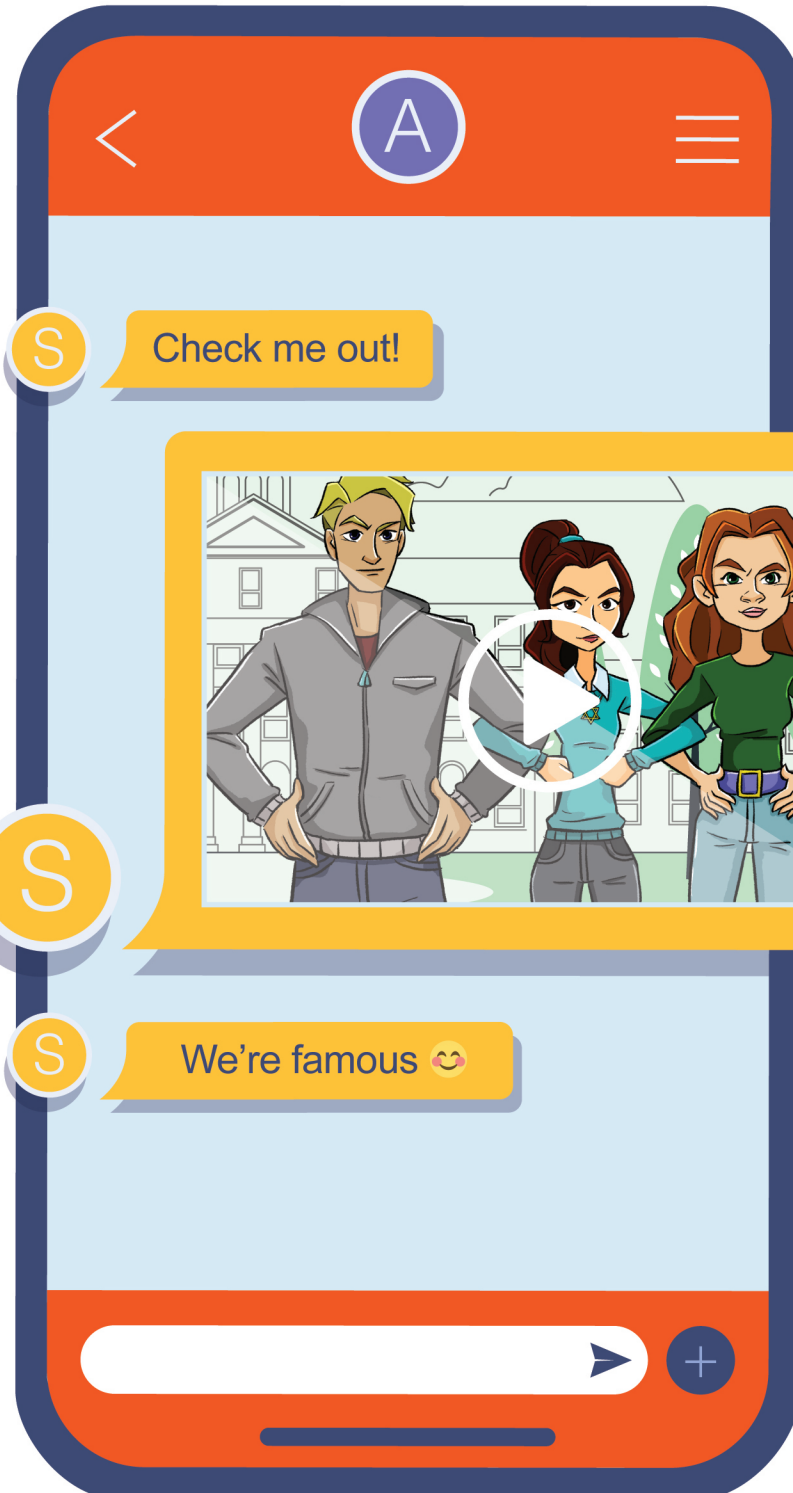
The walk from their synagogue to the Holocaust Memorial started small. Abbie, her parents, and a handful of other Berliner Jews moved proudly. By the time they reached the Holocaust Memorial, Abbie was astonished. The memorial's coffin-like sculptures fanned out in a wave, and all around them, a massive crowd of people stood together. Flags with peace signs, the Star of David, and Germany's black, red, and gold stripes rippled side by side in the wind. In the crowd, different accents could be heard, and there were even many Arab immigrants supporting peace and togetherness.

Seeing people from all walks of life standing against antisemitism filled Abbie with warmth and courage. She thought of her grandfather's letter: *we are strong...*





Never Again!



After the rally, Abbie checked her phone and was hit with a huge surprise—Sarah going viral!

The video was from an American news show. Sarah and a tall, handsome American were linked arm-in-arm with a group of others. They stood between masked protestors and a college building.

The angry protestors yelled and pushed but couldn't break them. Sarah and her friends remained strong, and together, wouldn't be broken.

The video then showed the protestors walking away while Sarah and her friends celebrated their victory. No damage was done to the building. Peace had won, and hate had lost.

Abbie swelled with pride and took the Star of David necklace out from underneath her shirt. *Never again*, Abbie thought, realizing antisemitism stood no chance when people like them resisted, stayed strong, and fought back together.

Timeline of a Genocide

JANUARY

30

1933



Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany.

APRIL

1

1933



The Nazis begin boycotting Jewish-owned shops and businesses.

APRIL

7

1933



New laws ban Jews from working in the civil service, many educational positions, and other professions.

MAY

10

1933



Thousands of "unapproved" books are publicly burned in Germany.

SEPTEMBER

1

1939



Germany invades Poland, starting World War II.

SEPTEMBER

21

1939



Nazis begin creating Jewish ghettos in occupied Poland.

MAY

20

1940



Auschwitz concentration camp is established in occupied Poland, where eventually over 1 million Jews would be killed alongside other targeted groups.



JUNE

6

1944



D-Day - Allied forces land in Normandy, France, marking the beginning of the liberation of Nazi-occupied Europe.

JANUARY

27

1945



Soviet troops liberate Auschwitz, where they find around 7,000 remaining prisoners; more than 1 million Jews were murdered at Auschwitz during the Holocaust.





The Nuremberg Laws strip Jews of citizenship and ban marriages between Jews and German non-Jews.



Buchenwald concentration camp opens.



Kristallnacht, or the "Night of Broken Glass," targets Jewish homes, businesses, and synagogues.



Jewish students are expelled from German schools.



The Treblinka extermination camp begins operations in Poland; by the end of 1943, an estimated 925,000 Jews were murdered there.



The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising: around 750 Jewish fighters resist the Nazi attempt to clear the ghetto, holding off German forces for nearly a month.



Germany occupies Hungary and begins deporting Hungarian Jews; within months, around 380,000 Jews are deported to Auschwitz.



Adolf Hitler commits suicide as Germany nears defeat, signaling the collapse of Nazi power.



Germany surrenders, ending the Holocaust and World War II in Europe, with over 6 million Jews killed during the Holocaust.



REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST

Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe

Location: Berlin, Germany, close to
the Brandenburg Gate



Berlin's 2,000-square-foot memorial is vast and haunting. Concrete blocks of different heights, 2,711 in total, suggest a field of coffins. Walking through the blocks reminds visitors that the Holocaust was enormous, deadly, and personal. Visitors can go beneath the memorial to an information center and rooms dedicated to victims' families.

OPENED:
2005



Memorial of the Empty Library

Location: Berlin, Germany, near
Bebelplatz Square



If you aren't looking for it, this memorial is easy to miss. The glass pane with empty, white shelves beneath it commemorates one location where Nazi forces burned books by Jewish authors in 1933. The memorial's plaque contains a powerful quote: "That was just a prelude, where you burn books, you end up burning people too."

OPENED:
1995



Dachau Memorial and Museum

Location: Near Munich, Germany



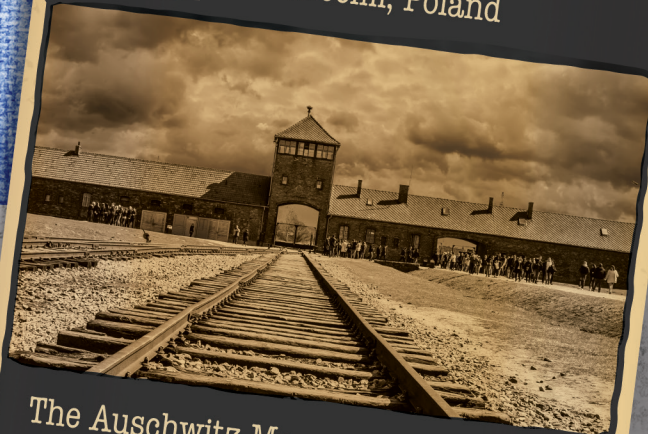
Dachau was the first Nazi regular concentration camp and a deadly model for many others. Located near Munich, it once held over 200,000 prisoners from all over Europe. Visitors today can walk a "Path of Remembrance" that follows the prisoner's journey from the railway station to the camp itself.

OPENED:
1965



Auschwitz - Birkenau Memorial and Museum

Location: Oswiecim, Poland



The Auschwitz Memorial in Poland is a powerful reminder of the horrors of the Holocaust. The camp was turned into a museum in 1947 to preserve the buildings, artifacts, and stories of those who suffered inside.

OPENED:
1947



SHIRKER'S ALLEY

Location: Munich, Germany

OPENED:
1995



In Munich, a small street called Viscardigasse, or "Shirker's Alley," stands as a tribute. Germans who did not want to take a main street where everyone was required to stop and salute a Nazi monument took this route instead—putting themselves in danger of arrest.





Writing Activity

Unlike Americans, Germans do not have freedom of speech.

What are negatives of freedom of speech and what are positives of having it?

Which country's speech policy do you think is better?



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