

Unit Title: **Before the Holocaust: Jewish Life in Europe and the Rise of Nazism in Germany**

Essential Questions for the Unit:

1. Why has anti-Jewish prejudice been such a prominent feature in European History? How did this long history help set the stage for the Holocaust?
2. How do minority groups such as Jews try to find ways to fit into the majority society while still maintaining their unique identity?
3. How did other trends in the 19th and early 20th centuries (in addition to anti-Jewish prejudice) help set the stage for the Holocaust?
4. Why do some people find theories of racial supremacy and racial purity appealing? How do some political leaders use this to their advantage?
5. Why did many Germans enthusiastically support Hitler and the Nazis, even though they did not necessarily agree with all of their ideology?