"Our many Jewish friends and acquaintances are being taken away in droves. The Gestapo is treating them very roughly and transporting them in cattle cars to Westerbork, the big camp in Drenthe to which they're sending all the Jews....If it’s that bad in Holland, what must it be like in those faraway and uncivilized places where the Germans are sending them? We assume that most of them are being murdered. The English radio says they're being gassed."
- October 9, 1942

"Have you ever heard the term ‘hostages’? That's the latest punishment for saboteurs (Those who were accused of opposing Hitler). It's the most horrible thing you can imagine. Leading citizens--innocent people--are taken prisoner to await their execution. If the Gestapo can't find the saboteur, they simply grab five hostages and line them up against the wall. You read the announcements of their death in the paper, where they're referred to as 'fatal accidents'."
- October 9, 1942

"I've reached the point where I hardly care whether I live or die. The world will keep on turning without me, and I can't do anything to change events anyway. I'll just let matters take their course and concentrate on studying and hope that everything will be all right in the end."
- February 3, 1944

**Background:** When Adolf Hitler became the dictator of Germany, he unleashed a wicked plan against Jews and many other groups. He initially took the citizenship of Jews, then attacked their businesses, homes, and synagogues, which were Jewish places of worship. Eventually, the Nazi regime took Jews to Concentration Camps. Here, many were starved and gassed to death. This persecution was called the Holocaust. Hitler tried to initiate what he called the Final Solution. This was his attempt to commit genocide, the mass extermination of the Jews. Before the Allies won WW II and liberated the camps, some 12 million people had been murdered, half of which were Jews. Anne Frank was a Jewish girl who kept a diary during the persecution of the Jews in Germany and German occupied areas. The Frank family fled to the Netherlands to escape the persecution. Yet, Germany eventually gained control of the Netherlands and the family was trapped. They went into hiding in some concealed rooms in the building where Anne's father worked. After two years, the group was discovered and sent to Concentration Camps. Anne Frank was sent to the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp, where she died of typhus in 1945. She was 15 when she died. Above are excerpts from Anne Frank’s diary.

1. How were the Jews mistreated under Hitler? What were some specific ways he persecuted them?
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______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

2. How did Anne Frank’s family try to protect themselves from the Nazi regime? What eventually happened to Anne Frank?
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

3. Hitler’s evil plans were rooted in hate, racism, and bigotry. What steps could people today take to prevent incidents like the Holocaust from ever happening again?
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Answers:
1. How were the Jews mistreated under Hitler? What were some specific ways he persecuted them?
He initially took the citizenship of Jews, then attacked their businesses, homes, and synagogues, which were Jewish places of worship. Eventually, the Nazi regime took Jews to Concentration Camps. Here, many were starved and gassed to death. This persecution was called the Holocaust. Hitler tried to initiate what he called the Final Solution. This was his attempt to commit genocide, the mass extermination of the Jews. Before the Allies won WW II and liberated the camps, some 12 million people had been murdered, half of which were Jews.

2. How did Anne Frank's family try to protect themselves from the Nazi regime? What eventually happened to Anne Frank?
The Frank family fled to the Netherlands to escape the persecution. Yet, Germany eventually gained control of the Netherlands and the family was trapped. They went into hiding in some concealed rooms in the building where Anne's father worked. After two years, the group was discovered and sent to Concentration Camps. Anne Frank was sent to the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp, where she died of typhus in 1945.

3. Hitler's evil plans were rooted in hate, racism, and bigotry. What steps could people today take to prevent incidents like the Holocaust from ever happening again?
Student answers may vary. Some answers may include that learning about the terrible occurrences helps future generations to try and prevent them, governments could create Civil Rights laws to protect everyone, and people should promote understanding and cooperation, while refusing to embrace hate and bigotry.