**Fact Sheet**

*How Hitler Used Education to:*

* Indoctrinate children’s beliefs to fit Nazi ideology
* Establish a base of loyalty to the Nazi party
* Alter subjects and resources to fit the regime (bias for Germany’s favor)
* Control their environment to create Nazi followers
* Separate the genders extracurriculars to comply to their future roles
* Make physical activity superior to academic education

*Curriculum Improvements:*

* The school day was lengthened
* The textbooks were rewritten, (primariliy in history and biology) to promote Germany’s 'greatness', Aryan 'supremacy' and anti-Semitism to consolidate Nazi beliefs.
* The importance on subjects like chemistry and mathematics was reduced Physical Education increased (children participated in 5 one-hour sports lessons per week)
* History lessons became the most important and included a course on the rise of the Nazi party and Pro-Nazi histories reinforced the myth of Aryan supremacy in Europe.
* In geography they were taught about the unfair division of territory in the Treaty of Versailles which was distributed incorrectly and the need for living space
* Biology taught them about the theories of evolution and eugenics
* In the late 1930’s religious education was banned.

*Universities:*

* 1933 civil service law applied to university professors, elementary and secondary-school teachers and most Jewish professors in Germany were let go.
* April 8, 1933 - a note to NSO proposed that culturally destructive books from public, state and university libraries be collected and burned.
* May 1933 books were burned from university libraries, written by anti-Nazi or Jewish
* Many student fraternities and other groups already banned Jews
* Only 11% of university places went to girls.
* Hitler intended to eradicate any form of Humanistic thinking and replace it with the next stage of educational thinking.
* Nazi beliefs were forced upon the nation’s academic elite through alteration in subjects
* The new curriculum placed great emphasis on German achievements and any achievement made by a Jew was either ignored or derided.
* Eugen Fischer, the new rector at Berlin, was a member of the [SA](https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/Sturmabteilung_SA.htm) and immediately introduced 25 new courses to do with ‘racial science’.
* Very few universities were prepared to defy the regime

*Education impact:*

* Limited the staff to those who had the same values as the Nazi party
* 17,000 teachers resigned after hitler due to salaries being equivalent to a lower paid worker
* Prepared the youth for their future roles in life (boys - military)
* Ensured future generations to have the same ideology
* Lack of topic range, restricted the children's views and knowledge
* Minimized academic knowledge and physical activity increased - 870 pupils showed 23,000 school days were lost due to extracurriculars
* Made the students unwilling to believe in new ideas

*How Hitler Used the Youth Programs to:*

* Control children outside of school
* Create a youth that is loyal to Hitler.
* Train boys to be soldiers.
* Prepare girls to be housewives and mothers

*The Youth Statistics:*

* Boys enrolled at age 6, but at 14 they joined the main group (Hitler youth)
* 90% of boys aged 14 and over were Hitler youth members by 1939.
* Girls enrolled at 10 but did not join the main group (The League of German Maidens) until 14.

*The Hitler Youth:*

* Founded in 1926 they trained and taught children intended to be the Nazi’s of the future
* In 1933 all other youth groups were banned to ensure the participation of as many children as possible.
* In December 1936, the Law on the Hitler Youth decreed that German children should join the Hitler Youth. In 1939 membership was mandatory
* HItler youth was used to prepare boys to become future soldiers so they wore military style uniforms

*The Hitler youth activities:*

* Centered around physical exercise, rifle training and political indoctrination
* The Courage Test meant carrying out a task usually meaning jumping from a high place or into deep water if completed they were rewarded.
* Camping
* Firing guns
* Sports (swimming, running)
* Hiking
* Marching
* Singing (propaganda songs)

*League of German Maidens:*

* Aimed to prepare girls for their futures as the next generation of mothers and housewives
* Was set up after the Hitler Youth was formed
* Promoted obedience in all aspects of life

*League of German Maidens Activities:*

* Centered around developing domestic skills like cooking and sewing
* Taking part in agricultural activities, like the Girls Land Service scheme encouraging girls to spend time working in agriculture.
* Encouraged to do charity work and attend Nazi rallys
* Choir to promote unity and conformity
* Swimming, gymnastics and running to promote fit and child-bearing bodies.

*Resistance groups:*

* Designed to be free of Nazi influence + explore own interests
* Allowed a mixture of both genders in a group
* Had similar activities to the original youth groups (singing + camping)
* Demonstrated their hatred to the regime (leaflets, attacking officials, wore fashionable clothes, listened to “black” music)

*Youth Groups Impact:*

* Accumulated seven million members.
* Numerous children would obey the Nazis rather than their parents
* Germany had one of the most prepared and disciplined youth.
* Rival groups were established (the Swing Group, white rose) although all opposing youth groups were eliminated.
* Reinforced existing beliefs but the youth was unwilling to accept new ideas (especially in the university community)
* The repetitive nature of youth groups (marching and propaganda) saw children become disinterested