

YOUTH RESISTANCE TO THE NAZIS

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To understand how the Nazi regime wanted to organise young people.
- To learn about two of the youth groups who resisted Nazi rule - the White Rose and the Edelweiss Pirates, along with figures from each.
- To think about the different ways that people resisted Nazism, both by organising against the regime, and rebelling against its ideas.
- To question why people resisted, and whether their resistance can be seen as successful.



NAZIS & YOUNG PEOPLE

After Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party came to power in 1933, they attempted to control every part of young people's lives. They wanted to make sure young people shared their beliefs, and acted in line with them.



By Bundesarchiv, Bild 137-040965 / CC-BY-SA 3.0, CC BY-SA 3.0 de, commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5337942



Under Nazi rule, all youth groups were banned except for the Hitler Youth and the League of German Girls. These groups separated young girls and boys, and trained boys to be soldiers and girls to be mothers and housewives. The Nazis had very strict ideas about what men and women should do.

These groups also tried to win young people over by organising events like concerts, rallies, and sports days.



In schools, all textbooks had to be approved by the Nazis and their views were presented as facts. Many teachers were members of Nazi organisations, and those teachers who disagreed with them were fired.

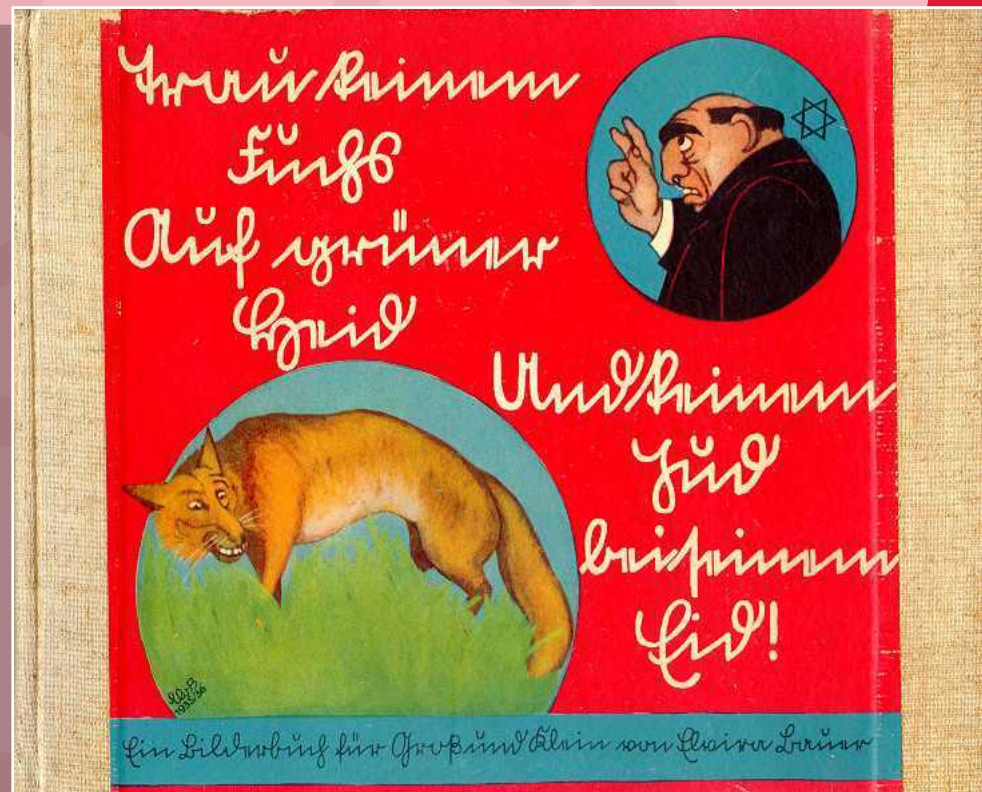
They tried to teach young Germans that 'Aryans' were superior to Jews, disabled people, people of colour, and Roma gypsies. Young people were even encouraged to bully Jewish students by their teachers.

Young people were taught that Hitler was the saviour of Germany, and that they must be obedient to him and the Nazi Party. His birthday was even celebrated in schools every year.



This is an example of one of the Nazi textbooks used for very young children, called "Trust No Fox on his Green Heath And No Jew on his Oath."

It tried to convince children that Jewish people worked with the devil, were lazy, and would murder honest Germans.



- Young people were banned from listening to music associated with black and Jewish people, like Jazz.
- Young people were not allowed to travel freely around the country, they could only stick to the towns, villages, or cities where they were registered.
- They were pressured by the state to dress in a militaristic style, with boys wearing very short haircuts, to show that they were ready to become soldiers.
- Speaking out against Hitler and the Nazis was made illegal - all rival political parties and their youth groups were banned. Spies and Nazi-controlled police were constantly on the lookout for dissenters.



YOUTH RESISTANCE TO THE NAZIS

But some young people refused to obey the Nazis.
Today we will look at two of these groups:

Edelweiss Pirates

- Loose gangs based in different cities
- Young workers
- Mainly teenagers
- Went hiking, listened to banned records, and dressed in a provocative way
- Fought with the Hitler Youth

White Rose

- Students at the University of Munich
- Most were in their early 20s
- Wrote and distributed anti-Nazi leaflets
- A small, tight-knit group



Edelweiss Pirates





Sophie Scholl, one of the young leaders of the White Rose



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why do you think that the Edelweiss Pirates grew their hair long and wore different styles of clothes to other German young people?
- Why do you think they went hiking and camping?
- Are dressing differently and going hiking forms of resistance? Why / Why not?
- Why did Jean Jülich and his friends help to feed and shelter army deserters, runaways from Concentration Camps, and Allied soldiers?
- What kind of person does Jean seem like to you?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why did Sophie Scholl and the rest of the White Rose oppose the Nazis?
- Why do you think Sophie has inspired people? How does reading about her make you feel?
- What did the White Rose want the German people to do?
- The White Rose did not successfully overthrow the Nazis and its members were arrested, killed, and imprisoned- does this mean that their group was a failure?
- In what ways were the White Rose different to the Edelweiss Pirates? In what ways were they similar?



THANKS TO FUNDERS AND PARTNERS:



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Loreto High School Chortton



youth focus NW
Improving the lives of young people

Written and compiled by Dr Daniel Edmonds, danieledmonds237@gmail.com

