GENOCIDE

During WWI
What is Genocide?

- Brainstorm/respond to the following questions:

1. What is genocide? Write or draw on a sheet of paper or a digital document whatever comes to mind.

2. How would you define genocide? Create and note down your own definition.
What is Genocide?

3. What genocides do you know about? List on your paper all those you know off the top of your head.

4. To what extent (how you were and how you were not) were you aware that a genocide occurred during WWI? Share your thoughts in your notes.

5. Where do you think this genocide happened and why? Share your thoughts in your notes.
Genocide

- Take your own notes as you read and learn about genocide.

- Continue these notes under where you responded to the previous questions.
Genocide

Genocide is the systemic and deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular racialized or ethnic group, yet can be based on nationality, gender, orientation, ability, ideological or political beliefs, and/or religion.
Genocide

Genocide is the intentional action to destroy a people in whole or in part because of who they are and is often enacted by governments or those in power.
The word “genocide” was first coined by Polish lawyer Raphäel Lemkin in 1944 to describe a “crime without a name”.

The UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948) states the following:
Genocide

- Any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a group of people is genocide including:
  - (a) Killing members of the group;
  - (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
Genocide

■ (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;

■ (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;

■ (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.
Stages of Genocide

- Genocide takes place in ten stages according to Gregory Stanton.

- See additional handout - read and highlight.

- Keep these in mind as we look closer at the Armenian Genocide = work to see where you can recognize the stages.
Stages of Genocide

1. Classification
2. Symbolization
3. Discrimination
4. Dehumanization
5. Organization
6. Polarization
7. Preparation
8. Persecution
9. Extermination
10. Denial
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE
1915 - 1917 (1923)
The Armenian Genocide, also known as the Armenian Holocaust, was the Ottoman government's systematic extermination of 1.5 million Ottoman-Armenian citizens inside their historic homeland, which lies within the present-day Republic of Turkey.
Introducing the Armenian Genocide: A Video

- Richard G. Hovannisian, Armenian Educational Foundation Professor Emeritus of Modern Armenian History at the University of California, Los Angeles, gives a broad overview of the Armenian Genocide.
Introducing the Armenian Genocide: A Video

- He discusses the historical backdrop for the genocide, including the Ottoman Empire’s entry into World War I, and explains how the genocide took place, describing the killings, forced marches, and maltreatment of women that characterized the genocide.
Introducing the Armenian Genocide: A Video


- 14:04 mins

- What stood out for you and why? What did you learn?
What is the Armenian Genocide?

- The atrocities committed against the Armenian people of the Ottoman Empire during WWI are called the Armenian Genocide.

- Genocide is the organized killing of a people for the express purpose of putting an end to their collective existence.
What is the Armenian Genocide?

- Because of its scope, genocide requires central planning and a machinery to implement it.

- This makes genocide the quintessential state crime as only a government has the resources to carry out such a scheme of destruction.
What is the Armenian Genocide?

- The Armenian Genocide was centrally planned and administered by the Turkish government against the entire Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire.

- It was carried out during WWI between the years 1915 and 1918.
What is the Armenian Genocide?

- The Armenian people were subjected to deportation, expropriation, abduction, torture, massacre, and starvation.

- The great bulk of the Armenian population was forcibly removed from Armenia and Anatolia to Syria, where the vast majority was sent into the desert to die of thirst and hunger.
What is the Armenian Genocide?

- Large numbers of Armenians were methodically massacred throughout the Ottoman Empire.

- Women and children were abducted and horribly abused.
What is the Armenian Genocide?

- The entire wealth of the Armenian people was expropriated.

- After only a little more than a year of calm at the end of WWI, the atrocities were renewed between 1920 and 1923, and the remaining Armenians were subjected to further massacres and expulsions.
What is the Armenian Genocide?

In 1915, thirty-three years before UN Genocide Convention was adopted, the Armenian Genocide was condemned by the international community as a crime against humanity.
What is the Armenian Genocide?

- 43 states in the world have recognized the Armenian genocide (Canada on April 25, 2004) but one of the big powers - the USA - had refused to do so, yet in April of 2021 finally declared this a genocide.
What is the Armenian Genocide?

- Turkey has made it a crime to label the Armenian “massacres” as “genocide,” though since 2008 prosecutions have stopped being a regular event.

- Still the Turkish government continues to deny that what happened to the Ottoman Armenians constitutes a genocide.
What is the Armenian Genocide?

- Turkey does not deny that thousands of Armenians were killed during the collapse of the Ottoman empire.

- Recently, the Turkish president characterized those deaths and forced relocations as “inhumane consequences” of war and chaos.
What is the Armenian Genocide?

- The term “genocide” denotes a systemic policy to murder a group, as opposed to a series of unfortunate events that happened to a people.

- It is a loaded word, not to be used lightly.
What is the Armenian Genocide?

- Millions of Armenians in the world trace their flight from the historical Western Armenian in the Ottoman empire to the Armenian genocide in WWI.

- Many have worked hard to make sure that the Armenian genocide is not forgotten or erased from memory.
What is the Armenian Genocide?

- Ceremonies are help every year in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, and Istanbul, as well as in capitals around the world to honour the dead.

- Kim Kardashian, who is of Armenian decent, recently visited Armenia with her then husband, Kanye West, to highlight the genocide (2015).
Investigating the Armenian Genocide

- Use the information shared in the PPT and get online (when needed) to respond to the five guiding questions on slides #32-34.

- If you need to do any research investigate reputable sources = first look at these following sites, type in “Armenian Genocide” and take notes on your findings/respond to all the questions:
Investigating the Armenian Genocide

- The New York Times
- BBC News
- The Guardian
- Aljazeera
- History
- United Stated Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM)
- Armenian National Institute
The Questions on the Armenian Genocide

1. What was the Armenia Genocide? Who, what, where, when, why, and how?

2. Who is responsible for the Armenian Genocide?

3. What did this genocide reveal to the world regarding our understanding of genocide?
4. What are the dangers of forgetting about the Armenian Genocide?

5. Why is it important for schools around the world to teach about the atrocities against the Ottoman Armenians?
6. How is the Armenian Genocide understood in the 21st Century/Today? Do any nations deny the genocide? Why would they deny the genocide? Which nations say it was a genocide?
Other Questions, Thoughts, and/or Comments?