LO: To understand and explain how Hitler’s ideas of the ‘master race’ affected his treatment of minority groups in Nazi Germany.
Nazi propaganda photo depicts friendship between an "Aryan" and a black woman. The caption states: "The result! A loss of racial pride." Germany, 1933.

RECAP STARTER:
List 3 ways in which this photograph and caption are examples of Nazi propaganda
Social Darwinism

In the 19th century, Charles Darwin demonstrated how different species of animal and plant had evolved through the principle of ‘survival of the fittest’. Darwin argued that a species flourishes when in competition rather than cooperation with each other.

In the 20th century, some people argued that this principle (‘survival of the fittest’) should exist within human societies, so that the human race would evolve and grow stronger. This was known as Social Darwinism.

1. Write a definition of Social Darwinism in your books.
The Nazis took Social Darwinism even further by arguing that conflict between races of people was inevitable. Hitler believed in an Aryan 'master race' of ‘blue-eyed, white-skinned, fair-haired people’.

2. What was the Aryan Race?
Social Darwinism – European Context

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Social Darwinism – Global Context

- Britain
- The US
- France

- sterilized certain criminals.
- sterilized criminals through their mothers.
- sterilized mental patients.

Now match the examples of Social Darwinism to the correct country.
Social Darwinism: the Nazi context

Hitler felt this race was undermined by toleration of:

(a) ‘undesirable’ other races, such as Jews and Gypsies

(b) ‘undesirable’ Aryan specimens, such as the mentally ill and people with disabilities.

In order to create a strong 'Volk', Hitler believed it was necessary to rid Germany of both groups of ‘undesirables’ (“Victory goes to the strong; the weak must be eliminated”).

The science behind the attempt at creating a perfect society is called eugenics.
What is Eugenics?

Nazi eugenics were Nazi Germany's racially-based social policies that placed the improvement of the Aryan race on the elimination of those identified as "life unworthy of life" including the criminal, disabled, insane, homosexual, idle, and the weak.

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In a decree dated December 16, 1942, Himmler ordered the deportation of Gypsies and part-Gypsies to Auschwitz. Gypsies came from Germany, Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Norway.

Gypsy children were used in medical experimentation.
Gypsy children were used in medical experimentation.
Romani victims of the Holocaust at Belzec Camp
Gypsy children with tattooed arms

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The mass murder of the Sinti and Roma people, called Gypsies or Romani, parallels closely that of the Jews. Hitler’s Germany resolved The "Gypsy Plague" by a nearly successful attempt to exterminate them as a people.

Who were the Romani?

In Germany and Austria at the time of the Holocaust approximately 30,000-35,000 people belonged to the Romani ethnic minority. This group had migrated to Europe from northern India in around 1400 and was made up of many tribes. The popular collective term "Gypsies" refers to all of these tribes.

By the end of the war, approximately 80% of the Romani population had been killed by Nazis.
Tramps

**Nazi motives:**

Anyone who demonstrates through behaviour towards the community … that they will not adapt themselves to the natural discipline of a Nazi state [should not be allowed to have children]. Himmler, 1935

**Nazi actions:**

By 1945, 350,000 men who were considered vagrants had been forcibly sterilized. 100 of these died as a result of the “Hitler cut”. 
Homosexuals

Nazi motives:
There are homosexuals who take the view: what I do is my business. However, all things which take place in the sexual sphere ... signify the life and death of the nation ... A people of good race which has too few children has a one-way ticket to the grave. Himmler, 1937

Nazi actions:
During the Nazi period, between 10 and 15 thousand homosexuals were imprisoned. They were then either castrated or subjected to medical experiments to ‘correct’ their sexuality.
The Disabled

**Nazi motives:**

[Doctors can] decide whether those who have – as far as can be humanly determined – incurable illnesses should, after the most careful evaluation, be granted a mercy death. Hitler, 1939

**Nazi actions:**

By 1945 the ‘mercy killing’ of people who were ill or disabled had resulted in nearly 280,000 deaths. The euthanasia programme set a dangerous precedent that paved the way for the Holocaust.
Click on each of the Nazi policies. How would you answer these questions?
As well as removing ‘undesirables’, Hitler, under the direction of Himmler also aimed to produce an entirely Aryan race. The policy was known as ‘the Lebensborn Program’

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxvRFWq0fAE&feature=fvsr

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLpXZqsfs4c&feature=related
1. What was Social Darwinism?
2. How did the Nazis view tramps, homosexuals and the disabled?
3. What is eugenics?
4. List the groups identified as "life unworthy of life”
5. What was ‘the Lebensborn Program’?

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Führer of the Aryan race
...because he is tall, blonde and handsome.