Genocide Unit Key Terms

Race: A group of persons related by common descent/heredity.
Ethnicity: People with national, linguistic, and cultural common ground.

Ethnic Cleansing: "rendering an area ethnically homogeneous by using force or intimidation to remove from a given area persons of another ethnic or religious group." Ethnic cleansing and genocide can be distinguished by the intent of the perpetrator: whereas the primary goal of genocide is the destruction of an ethnic, racial, or religious group, the main purpose of ethnic cleansing is the establishment of ethnically homogeneous lands, which may be achieved by any of a number of methods including genocide.

War Crimes: serious breaches of international humanitarian law committed against civilians or enemy combatants during an international or domestic armed conflict, for which the perpetrators may be held criminally liable on an individual basis. This can include injury to body or health, rape, intentional attacks on the civilian population, pillage, and unlawful and arbitrary destruction of civilian goods, including some which were essential to the survival of the civilian population.

Crimes against Humanity: encompasses crimes such as murder, extermination, rape, persecution and all other inhumane acts of a similar character (willfully causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health), committed ‘as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack’.

Genocide: “...any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:
   a) Killing members of the group;
   b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
   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.”

Target: someone who is the focus of mistreatment
Perpetrator: someone who says or does something against another person
Bystander: someone who sees something happening and does not say or do anything
Ally: someone who speaks out on behalf of someone else

Breaking Down The Definition of Genocide

The law protects four groups - national, ethnical, racial or religious groups.
A national group means a set of individuals whose identity is defined by a common country of nationality or national origin.
An ethnical group is a set of individuals whose identity is defined by common cultural traditions, language or heritage.
A racial group means a set of individuals whose identity is defined by physical characteristics.
A religious group is a set of individuals whose identity is defined by common religious creeds, beliefs, doctrines, practices, or rituals.
Usually people are born into these four groups. These four groups share the common characteristic that individuals are most often born into the group. While some individuals may change nationality or religion - or even adopt a new cultural, ethnic or racial identity - usually people do not choose their group identity. In genocide people are targeted for destruction not because anything they have done, but because of who they are. Group identity is often imposed by the perpetrators. Perpetrators of genocide frequently make group categories more rigid or create new definitions which impose group identity on individuals, without regard to peoples individual choices.

Punishable Acts: The following are genocidal acts when committed as part of a policy to destroy a group’s existence:

- **Killing members of the group** includes direct killing and actions causing death.
- **Causing serious bodily or mental harm** includes inflicting trauma on members of the group through widespread torture, rape, sexual violence, forced or coerced use of drugs, and mutilation.
- **Deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to destroy a group** includes the deliberate deprivation of resources needed for the group’s physical survival, such as clean water, food, clothing, shelter or medical services. Deprivation of the means to sustain life can be imposed through confiscation of harvests, blockade of foodstuffs, detention in camps, forcible relocation or expulsion into deserts.
- **Prevention of births** includes involuntary sterilization, forced abortion, prohibition of marriage, and long-term separation of men and women intended to prevent procreation.
- **Forsible transfer of children** may be imposed by direct force or by fear of violence, duress, detention, psychological oppression or other methods of coercion. The Convention on the Rights of the Child defines children as persons under the age of 18 years.

Genocidal acts need not kill or cause the death of members of a group. Causing serious bodily or mental harm, prevention of births and transfer of children are acts of genocide when committed as part of a policy to destroy a group’s existence.

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The crime of genocide has two elements: intent and action. “Intentional” means purposeful. Intent can be proven directly from statements or orders. But more often, it must be inferred from a systematic pattern of coordinated acts.

*Intent is different from motive.* Whatever may be the motive for the crime (land expropriation, national security, territorial integrity, etc.), if the perpetrators commit acts intended to destroy a group, even part of a group, it is genocide.

*The phrase "in whole or in part" is important.* Perpetrators need not intend to destroy the entire group. Destruction of only part of a group (such as its educated members, or members living in one region) is also genocide. Most authorities require intent to destroy a substantial number of group members – mass murder. But an individual criminal may be guilty of genocide even if he kills only one person, so long as he knew he was participating in a larger plan to destroy the group.

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# 8 Stages of Genocide

| GENOCIDE: __________________________ | YEARS: __________________________ |

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<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Example</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. CLASSIFICATION</td>
<td>All cultures have categories to distinguish people into &quot;us and them&quot; by ethnicity, race, religion, or nationality: German and Jew, Hutu and Tutsi. If societies are too segregated (divided) they are most likely to have genocide.</td>
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<td>2. SYMBOLIZATION</td>
<td>We give names or other symbols to the classifications of ethnicity, race, religion, or nationality. We name people “Jews” or &quot;Gypsies&quot;, or distinguish them by colors or dress; and apply them to members of groups. Classification and symbolization are universally human and do not necessarily result in genocide unless they lead to dehumanization. When combined with hatred, symbols may be forced upon unwilling members of minority groups: the yellow star for Jews under Nazi rule, the blue scarf for people from the Eastern Zone in Khmer Rouge Cambodia.</td>
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<td>3. DEHUMANIZATION</td>
<td>Dehumanization is when one group treats another group as second-class citizens. Members of a persecuted group may be compared with animals, parasites, insects or diseases. When a group of people is thought of as “less than human” it is easier for the group in control to murder them. At this stage, hate propaganda in print and on hate radios is used to make the victims seem like villains.</td>
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<td>4. ORGANIZATION</td>
<td>Genocide is always organized, usually by the state, though sometimes informally or by terrorist groups. Special army units or militias are often trained and armed. Plans are made for genocidal killings.</td>
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### 5. POLARIZATION
Extremists drive the groups apart. Hate groups broadcast propaganda that reinforces prejudice and hate. Laws may forbid intermarriage or social interaction between the groups. Extremist terrorism targets moderates, and intimidates them so that they are silent. Moderate leaders are those best able to prevent genocide and they are often the first to be assassinated.

### 6. PREPARATION
Victims are identified and separated out because of their ethnic or religious identity. Death lists are drawn up.

### 7. EXTERMINATION
Extermination begins, and quickly becomes the mass killing legally called "genocide." It is "extermination" to the killers because they do not believe their victims to be fully human. When it is sponsored by the state, the armed forces often work with militias to do the killing.

### 8. DENIAL
Denial is the eighth stage that always follows genocide. It is among the surest indicators of further genocidal massacres. The perpetrators of genocide dig up the mass graves, burn the bodies, try to cover up the evidence and intimidate the witnesses. They deny that they committed any crimes, and often blame what happened on the victims. They block investigations of the crimes, and continue to govern until driven from power by force, when they flee into exile. Leaders of the genocide continue to deny the crime unless they are captured and a tribunal (special court) is established to try them.

Teacher’s Guide for “Seeking Justice” PowerPoint

The Aftermath
- On January 7, 1979, Vietnamese forces successfully invaded Cambodia and ousted Pol Pot and his government. While some people consider it a liberation, others see it as the beginning of the Vietnamese occupation.
- Pol Pot and the remaining KR soldiers retreated to Thailand, but due to political reasons were able to keep their UN seat, and avoid punishment by the international community. The KR remained active until 1998, when Pol Pot died, officially ending the KR. In 1997 Pot was arrested by Ta Mok – it was the first time he had been seen in public since 1980.

People’s Revolutionary Tribunal (August 1979)
- Vietnamese-backed tribunal held in Phnom Penh in 1979 where Pol Pot and Ieng Sary were charged (in absentia) with crimes of genocide, sentenced to death, and had their property confiscated.
- Testimony heard from 39 witnesses
- Often considered nothing more than a “show trial” – illegitimate, weak trial rules, no real sentences served, display of power; there was the argument that the new government was nothing more than a puppet of the Vietnamese regime, causing political complications with several Western nations and some in the international community.

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) (2007–)
- UN-backed tribunal held nearly 30 years later to charge KR leaders with crimes of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. In 1997 requests were sent in to the UN to request assistance in charging the senior leaders of the KR, and in 2003, an agreement between Cambodia and the UN was finally reached. 5 senior leaders have been indicted.
- First public hearing on Kaing Guek Eav aka Duch, KR head of S-21 in 2007; received life sentence. He is currently the only one who has been convicted.
- Nuon Chea, Ieng Sary (and his wife), and Khieu Samphan also indicted, with Chea and Samphan in trial.
  - Pol Pot died in 1998 of a heart attack: it is believed by some that he committed suicide in order to avoid having the KR turn him over to be indicted by the international tribunal
  - Ieng Sary died in 2013

“Khmer Rouge Trial Begins” – YouTube Clip (a good segue into next section on some of the issues with the ECCC

Controversy
- Fighting against time: By the time the trials were underway, many of the senior KR leaders were around 80 years old and some fighting a myriad of health problems. Moreover, Pol Pot had already died before the trials began, and Sary died in 2013; both escaped punishment.
- Speed: Many people were weary over the fact that it took 6 years to indict one person (Duch). Also, many victims getting impatient – they have already been waiting for over 30 years for justice.
- Lack of support: A lot of debt, lack of support from the international community, worker strikes (some were unpaid for weeks because countries that pledged funds had not given the money)
- Political complications: The sensitive nature of international relations affects the level of support received from the international community, the protection/indictment of suspects
- Internal issues: Several tribunal members quitting over differences in politics (one argued Cambodian judges trying to prevent indictments of more KR members), political influences (of judges and prosecutors)

Legacy
- Idea that justice is possible, even if delayed: Tribunal held nearly 30 years about the fall of the KR
- Recognition of the Cambodian Genocide has allowed for more awareness: seeing more about it in college genocide programs, southeast Asian studies
- Genocide? – was there really a target group? Some argue different variations of genocide (like indiscriminate killing) but not necessarily UN definition
- Memorials, (traveling) exhibitions, tours, books, movies