The Nuremberg Trial Results

1. Winston Churchill, the British leader, thought that Nazi leaders should be hanged. But other leaders thought they should go to trial.
2. The allied countries agreed to put Nazi leaders on trial for two reasons: 1) to publish those responsible, and 2) to prevent future crimes against humanity. Those who organized the trials wanted future leaders to know that if they acted like Hitler and other Nazi leaders, they would be punished for their actions they could not get away with murdering their own citizens
3. Beginning in November 1945, an international trial- a court case involving many countries- was held in the city of Nuremberg, Germany. The Nuremberg trials included judges and lawyers from each of the winning countries (Britain, France, the United States and the Soviet Union). The Nazi’s held on charges also had lawyers to defend them because they had not broken any laws, (at this point there was no international laws forbidding a government from murdering its own people).
4. Twenty-four men were indicted during the first set of trials at Nuremberg. These included military leaders, Nazi Party leaders, and officers who worked at concentration camps. Hitler and several other Nazi leaders were not indicted because they had committed suicide or escaped at the end of the war. Some lower-ranking officers, soldiers, and bureaucrats who participated in the Holocaust were indicted in later trials. Bystanders were also not put on trial at Nuremberg or at future trials.
5. The defendants were charged with four different crimes. One of these crimes were “crimes against humanity”. One of the men charged was Julius Streicher. He was the Minister of Propaganda of the Nazi Party. He was responsible for spreading hateful lies about Jews in newspapers and other forms such as children’s books.
6. Many Nazis charged with crimes against humanity argued that they were only following orders and that they had not broken any laws by their actions.
7. Nineteen of the defendants were found guilty. Twelver were sentenced to death by hanging. Seven were given prison sentences. Between 1946 and 1949, many more trials of Germans were held in Nuremberg. In these trials, 97 additional Germans were found guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including business leaders who used slave labor, doctors who conducted experiments on concentration camps victims, and Nazi judges who sent innocent people to camps.
8. After the war, the Allied powers also had to consider what Germany should do to “pay back” the survivors of the Holocaust and the families of the victims. After all, the Nazis had taken all their money and property and had caused immeasurable suffering. A grogram was set up that would provide money (reparations) to those who could prove they were victims of the Nazis, and Germany was supposed to give back stolen property to its rightful owner if they were still alive.