* Anti-Semitism is discrimination of Jews for their culture or religion.
* A person who practices anti-Semitism is called an "anti-Semite."
* It existed during many times; one of the most infamous was Hitler’s attack which helped create WWll.
* Charles Dickens was defiantly anti-Semitic; he always referred to the Jews as dirty, nasty and bad. They gambled and were robbers too. He only tried to redeem himself very near the end of the book.
* It ranged from personal or individual attacks on single people or a small group, to organised attacks or army attacks on larger groups of Jews.
* Extreme instances of [persecution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution) include the [First Crusade](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persecution_of_Jews_in_the_First_Crusade) of 1096, the [expulsion from England](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edict_of_Expulsion) in 1290, the [Spanish Inquisition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_Inquisition), the [expulsion from Spain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alhambra_decree) in 1492, the [expulsion from Portugal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jews_in_Portugal) in 1497, various pogroms (a form of attack), the [Dreyfus Affair](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dreyfus_Affair), and perhaps the most infamous, [the Holocaust](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Holocaust) under [Adolf Hitler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolf_Hitler)'s [Nazi Germany](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazi_Germany).
* Between the years 250 CE and 1948 CE- a period of 1700 years, Jews had experienced more than eighty expulsions from countries in Europe. They were expelled from England, France, Austria, Germany, Lithuania, Spain, Portugal, Bohemia, Moravia and 71 other countries.
* Even in the ancient times, people like Roman and Greek writers wrote about it.
* **Historians have classified six explanations as to why people hate the Jews:**

1. **Economic** -- "We hate Jews because they possess too much wealth and power."
2. **Chosen People** -- "We hate Jews because they arrogantly claim that they are the chosen people."
3. **Scapegoat** -- "Jews are a convenient group to single out and blame for our troubles."
4. **Deicide** -- "We hate Jews because they killed Jesus."
5. **Outsiders,** -- "We hate Jews because they are different than us." (The dislike of the unlike.)
6. **Racial Theory** -- "We hate Jews because they are an inferior race."

**Economic** -- The Jews of 17th- 20th century Poland and Russia were dirt poor, had no influence and yet they were hated.

**Chosen People** -- a) In the late 19th century, the Jews of Germany denied "Choseness." And then they worked on assimilation. Yet, the holocaust started there. b) Christians and Moslems profess to being the "Chosen people," yet, the world and the anti-Semites tolerate them.   
  
 **Scapegoat** -- Any group must already be hated to be an effective scapegoat. The Scapegoat Theory does not then cause anti-Semitism. Rather, anti-Semitism is what makes the Jews a convenient scapegoat target. Hitler's ranting and ravings would not be taken seriously if he said, "It's the bicycle riders and the midgets who are destroying our society."

**Deicide** -- a) the Christian Bible says the Romans killed Jesus, though Jews are mentioned as accomplices (claims that Jews killed Jesus came several hundred years later). How come the accomplices are persecuted and there isn't an anti-Roman movement through history? b) Jesus himself said, "Forgive them [i.e., the Jews], for they know not what they do." The Second Vatican Council in 1963 officially exonerated the Jews as the killers of Jesus. Neither statement of Christian belief lessened anti-Semitism.

**Outsiders** -- With the Enlightenment in the late 18th century, many Jews rushed to assimilate. Anti-Semitism should have stopped. Instead, for example, with the Nazis came the cry, in essence: "We hate you, not because you're different, but because you're trying to become like us! We cannot allow you to infect the Aryan race with your inferior genes."

**Racial Theory** -- The overriding problem with this theory is that it is self-contradictory: Jews are not a race. Anyone can become a Jew - and members of every race, creed and colour in the world have done so at one time or another.