

Weeks 4-8: Changes in Warfare in the Twentieth Century

Week 7: World War II Overview

Objectives & Resources	Lesson Notes
<p>Lesson 1 World War II overview.</p> <p>Objectives To have an overview of the main events in World War II.</p> <p>To put events in chronological order.</p> <p>To look at turning points in the war.</p> <p>Resources <i>Worksheet V - Chronology of World War II</i></p> <p><i>Worksheet W – Major events of World War II</i></p>	<p>Starter The USA and Russia did not enter the war until 1941. Do you think it could be properly called a World War before this?</p> <p>Main Lesson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find Worksheet V, 'Chronology of World War II'. Put the events into chronological order by numbering the boxes. The first two have been done for you. • Find Worksheet W, which details the major events of World War II. • Why do you think the European powers were fighting in North Africa? • Do you think Hitler's invasion of Russia was a mistake? Explain your answer. • Why did Japan attack Pearl Harbour? • Do you agree that 1941 was a turning point for the allies? <p>Plenary Victory over Japan came when atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Do you think the use of atomic bombs was justified? Do you think it was necessary to bomb Nagasaki three days after the first bomb on Hiroshima?</p> <p>Homework Using your chronology, create a timeline of World War II and decorate it with relevant pictures, e.g. flags for the different countries, aeroplanes, submarines, bombs etc. These can either be drawn or printed from clipart or the internet.</p>

Notes to the teacher

Week 7

Lesson 1

Starter

Many Japanese and American historians argue that the conflict was essentially a European conflict before this date. However, as most European countries had empires, people from across the globe got called upon to fight in World War II.

Main Lesson

Africa became a focus of the fighting as the European powers wanted to extend their empires or hold on to territory in Africa. 1941 was a key year as the allied forces received a boost with the entry of both the USA and Russia into the war. Many people see the Nazi invasion of Russia as a mistake and here the German army got bogged down in severe winter conditions.

Plenary

Students may have opinions either way on whether or not the use of the atom bomb was justified. Some people nevertheless argue that while the bombing of Hiroshima was necessary to force Japan to surrender, the bombing of Nagasaki was unnecessary and unjustified.

Lesson 2

Starter

Some questions, for example, might be, what are the circles? Why is Cuba significant?

Main Lesson

The nuclear clock is an interesting way of showing how the conflict intensified and later receded. The idea of a nuclear clock was used throughout the Cold War.

Plenary

Depending on what time the students have showing, at the end of the exercise, they may conclude that there was still a lot of tension and the time is too close to midnight to be comfortable. Alternatively they may decide that the time has receded and therefore the nuclear threat was removed, at least for the time being.

Homework

Ideas might include having the two opponents in a boxing ring or wrestling ring, or a tug of war with a nuclear warhead in the middle.

Lesson 3

Starter

This starter relates back to the previous plenary but tells the time as it was judged by Bulletin magazine. Students can compare this to their own clock and draw similar or different conclusions, depending on how different they were.

Main Lesson

After the crisis, both sides claimed victory. Kennedy said he had forced Khrushchev to back down and remove missiles from Cuba and also points to his own leadership strengths in standing up to the Soviet Union. Khrushchev on the other hand claimed he had averted a nuclear war and points to his own skills in compromise. He also points out the USA promise to remove missiles from Turkey and stresses that Cuba is still a Communist country, therefore remaining a Soviet sphere of influence on America's doorstep.