



Subject Area: History
Unit Title: The Interwar Period
Grade Level: 12
Lesson Number: 1 of 10

Duration: 60 minutes
Date: March 10, 2023
Teacher: John Doe
Room: 101

Curriculum Standards Alignment

Content Standards:

- Analyze the causes and consequences of historical events
- Evaluate the impact of political, economic, and social changes on societies

Skills Standards:

- Critical thinking and problem-solving
- Effective communication and collaboration

Cross-Curricular Links:

- English: reading and writing skills
- Economics: understanding of global economic systems

Essential Questions & Big Ideas

Essential Questions:

- How did the interwar period shape the world and lead to the outbreak of World War II?
- What were the major political, economic, and social changes that occurred during this time?

Enduring Understandings:

- The interwar period was a complex and transformative time in world history
- The events of this period continue to influence contemporary international relations

Student Context Analysis

Class Profile:

- Total Students: 25
- ELL Students: 5
- IEP/504 Plans: 3
- Gifted: 2

Learning Styles Distribution:

- Visual: 40%
- Auditory: 30%
- Kinesthetic: 30%

Introduction

The interwar period, spanning from 1918 to 1929, was a time of significant global change. The aftermath of World War I saw the redrawing of national borders, the rise of new political ideologies, and substantial economic shifts. This period laid the groundwork for the outbreak of World War II and continues to influence contemporary international relations.

Lesson Objectives

- Identify and explain the major political, economic, and social changes that took place between 1918 and 1929
- Analyze how these changes impacted different societies and contributed to the lead-up to World War II
- Develop critical thinking skills through the examination of primary sources and historical narratives

The Treaty of Versailles

The Treaty of Versailles, signed in 1919, officially ended World War I and imposed harsh penalties on Germany. The treaty's terms, including significant territorial losses and heavy reparations, contributed to widespread resentment among the German population.

The League of Nations

The establishment of the League of Nations, an international organization aimed at promoting peace and preventing future wars, was a key provision of the treaty. However, the League ultimately failed to prevent the outbreak of World War II due to its lack of teeth and the absence of major powers such as the United States and the Soviet Union.

The United States

The interwar period saw the emergence of the United States as a dominant world power. The country experienced a period of unprecedented economic growth and cultural transformation during the 1920s, which helped to establish it as a major player on the global stage.

The Soviet Union

The Russian Revolution of 1917 led to the establishment of the Soviet Union, which would go on to become a major world power in its own right. The Soviet Union's communist ideology and authoritarian government would have a significant impact on international relations during the interwar period and beyond.

Cultural and Social Changes

The 1920s in the United States were marked by significant cultural and social changes. The Harlem Renaissance showcased African American culture and intellectualism, while the women's suffrage movement achieved major victories. The era also saw the rise of new technologies and mass consumerism, which transformed the American economy and society.

Economic Boom

The economic boom of the 1920s was characterized by low unemployment, rising incomes, and increased consumer spending. However, this prosperity was not evenly distributed, and many Americans continued to struggle with poverty and inequality.

Protectionism and the Gold Standard

The introduction of protectionist policies, such as the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, and the gold standard limited the ability of governments to respond to economic crises. These policies contributed to a global economic downturn, which eventually led to the Great Depression.

Overproduction and Underconsumption

Overproduction in industries such as agriculture and manufacturing, combined with underconsumption and a lack of effective demand, contributed to a global economic crisis. The resulting economic instability had far-reaching consequences, including widespread poverty and unemployment.

Conclusion

The interwar period, from 1918 to 1929, was a complex and transformative time in world history. The aftermath of World War I, the rise of new world powers, and the economic boom of the 1920s laid the groundwork for the outbreak of World War II and continue to influence contemporary international relations.

Reflection

By analyzing the causes and consequences of historical events, students can gain a deeper understanding of the political, economic, and social changes that occurred globally during this time. This knowledge can help inform our understanding of contemporary issues and challenges, and provide valuable insights for addressing the complexities of the modern world.

Assessment

Students will complete a reflective journal entry on what they learned about the interwar period and how it has influenced their understanding of current global issues. A quiz will be administered to assess students' understanding of the key events and themes covered in the lesson.

Extension Activities

Ask students to create a multimedia presentation (video, podcast, or infographic) that explores a selected theme from the interwar period. Have students write a comparative essay on the economic policies of the United States and the Soviet Union during the interwar period.

Pre-Lesson Reflection

Pre-Lesson Reflection:

- What challenges do I anticipate?
- Which students might need extra support?
- What backup plans should I have ready?

Post-Lesson Reflection

Post-Lesson Reflection:

- What went well?
- What would I change?
- Next steps for instruction?

Timeline of Major Events

1918: World War I ends with the signing of the Armistice of Compiègne

1919: The Treaty of Versailles is signed, imposing harsh penalties on Germany

1920s: The United States experiences a period of economic growth and cultural transformation

1929: The global economy begins to decline, leading to the Great Depression

Glossary of Key Terms

Treaty of Versailles: a peace settlement imposed on Germany by the Allied Powers after World War I

League of Nations: an international organization established after World War I to promote peace and prevent future wars

Protectionism: an economic policy that protects domestic industries by restricting international trade