

## Welcome to the Introduction to World War 2: Causes and Key Players Lesson Plan

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This lesson plan is designed to introduce 14-year-old students to the complex and fascinating topic of World War 2, focusing on the underlying causes and key players involved in the conflict.

The lesson plan is tailored to the UK Primary School Curriculum and includes mixed ability differentiation to cater to foundation, core, and extension learners.

## Lesson Objectives

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- To understand the main causes of World War 2, including the Treaty of Versailles, the rise of Nazi Germany, and the policy of appeasement.
- To recognize the roles of key players, including Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, and Winston Churchill.
- To develop critical thinking and empathy by analyzing historical events and considering multiple perspectives.

## Introduction to World War 2

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World War 2 was a global conflict that lasted from 1939 to 1945, involving most of the world's nations, including all of the great powers.

The war was fought between two main alliances: the Allies, which consisted of the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union, and the Axis powers, which included Germany, Italy, and Japan.

## Causes of World War 2

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- The Treaty of Versailles, which imposed harsh penalties on Germany after World War 1, contributed to the rise of Nazi Germany and the outbreak of World War 2.
- The policy of appeasement, pursued by Britain and France, allowed Nazi Germany to expand its territory and aggression without facing significant opposition.
- The rise of fascist and nationalist ideologies in Europe and Asia also contributed to the outbreak of World War 2.

## Key Players

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Adolf Hitler, the leader of Nazi Germany, played a significant role in the outbreak and progression of World War 2.

Benito Mussolini, the leader of fascist Italy, allied with Hitler and contributed to the expansion of the Axis powers.

Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of Britain, led the country through the war and played a crucial role in the Allied victory.

## Roles of Key Players

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- Adolf Hitler: Leader of Nazi Germany, responsible for the aggressive expansion of Germany and the persecution of minority groups.
- Benito Mussolini: Leader of fascist Italy, allied with Hitler and contributed to the expansion of the Axis powers.
- Winston Churchill: Prime Minister of Britain, led the country through the war and played a crucial role in the Allied victory.

## Interactive Activity

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Divide students into small groups and assign each group a different scenario related to World War 2, such as the invasion of Poland or the Battle of Britain.

Ask each group to discuss and decide how they would respond to the scenario, considering the perspectives of different key players.

## Guidelines for the Interactive Activity

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- Encourage students to use critical thinking and problem-solving skills to navigate the complexities of international relations and diplomacy.
- Provide opportunities for students to ask questions and share their thoughts and opinions.
- Encourage students to consider multiple perspectives and to empathize with different groups and individuals affected by the war.

## Conclusion

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In conclusion, World War 2 was a complex and multifaceted conflict that involved many different countries and ideologies.

The war was caused by a combination of factors, including the Treaty of Versailles, the rise of Nazi Germany, and the policy of appeasement.

The key players, including Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, and Winston Churchill, played significant roles in the outbreak and progression of the war.

## Reflection and Evaluation

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- Ask students to reflect on what they have learned and how they can apply it to their own lives.
- Provide opportunities for students to evaluate the lesson and suggest improvements.
- Encourage students to consider the relevance of the lesson to their own lives and to the world today.

## Assessment

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Participation in class discussions and activities (20%)

Completed graphic organizer or concept map (20%)

Reflective journal entry or drawing (20%)

Multimedia presentation or podcast (40%)

## Extension Activities

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- Research and create a presentation on a specific aspect of World War 2, such as the Home Front or the role of women in the war.
- Design and lead a simulation activity, incorporating advanced research skills and critical thinking.
- Create a museum exhibition or display on World War 2, including artifacts, images, and testimonies.

## Parent Engagement

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Encourage parents to engage in discussions with their child about the topic, asking open-ended questions to promote critical thinking and curiosity.

Provide opportunities for parents to support their child's learning, such as helping with research or attending a parent-teacher conference.

Share resources and materials with parents, such as books or websites, to support their child's learning and interest in the topic.

## Safety Considerations

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- Establish a safe and respectful learning environment, encouraging empathy and understanding.
- Be aware of students' individual experiences and backgrounds, and be sensitive to any potential triggers or sensitivities.
- Provide clear guidelines and expectations for behavior and participation, and ensure that students understand the importance of respecting each other's views.

## Next Steps

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Lesson 2: The Home Front and Civilian Life During World War 2

Lesson 3: The Major Theatres of War and Key Battles

Lesson 4: The Aftermath of World War 2 and the Formation of the United Nations

## Conclusion

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In conclusion, this lesson plan provides a comprehensive introduction to World War 2, covering the causes, key players, and major events of the conflict.

The lesson plan includes interactive activities, assessments, and extension activities to cater to different learning styles and abilities.

By following this lesson plan, teachers can provide an engaging and informative learning experience for their students, promoting critical thinking, empathy, and understanding of this significant historical event.



## References

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- Churchill, W. (1949). *The Second World War*. London: Cassell.
- Hitler, A. (1925). *Mein Kampf*. Munich: Eher Verlag.
- Mussolini, B. (1935). *The Doctrine of Fascism*. Rome: Ardita.

## Additional Resources

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- BBC History: World War 2
- History.com: World War 2
- National WWII Museum: Education

## Glossary

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- Appeasement: A policy of giving in to an aggressor's demands in the hope of avoiding conflict.
- Fascism: A political ideology that emphasizes nationalism, authoritarianism, and suppression of opposition.
- Nazism: A political ideology that emphasizes racism, anti-Semitism, and militarism.

## Index

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- Adolf Hitler, 3, 5, 7
- Benito Mussolini, 3, 5, 7
- Winston Churchill, 3, 5, 7