Welcome to our World War 2 learning journey!

In this welcome pack, we will explore the fascinating and complex topic of World War 2, focusing on the underlying causes and key players involved in the conflict.

Lesson Objectives:

- **Foundation:** Identify the main causes of World War 2 and recognize the roles of key players.
- **Core:** Analyze the relationships between the causes of World War 2 and evaluate the impact of key players on the war's outcome.
- **Extension:** Assess the long-term consequences of World War 2 and the significance of key players in shaping the modern world.

What is World War 2?

World War 2 was a global conflict that lasted from 1939 to 1945, involving most of the world's nations. It was the deadliest conflict in human history, resulting in an estimated 50-80 million fatalities.

Why is World War 2 important?

Understanding World War 2 is crucial for grasping the complexities of modern history, international relations, and global politics.

Activity 1: World War 2 Timeline

Create a simple timeline of major events leading up to World War 2.

Foundation:

1. Identify the main events leading up to World War 2.
2. Create a simple timeline of these events.

Core:

1. Analyze the relationships between events on the timeline.
2. Identify key causes of the war.

Extension:

1. Evaluate the significance of specific events on the timeline.
2. Assess the impact of these events on the war's outcome.

The Treaty of Versailles

The Treaty of Versailles was a peace settlement imposed on Germany after World War 1. It led to widespread resentment among the German people and contributed to the rise of Nazi Germany.

The Rise of Nazi Germany

The Nazi Party, led by Adolf Hitler, promised to restore German greatness and create jobs. Their aggressive foreign policy and militarization of the Rhineland led to the outbreak of World War 2.

Activity 2: Cause and Effect Diagram

Create a simple diagram showing the causes and effects of the Treaty of Versailles.

Foundation:

1. Identify the main causes and effects of the Treaty of Versailles.
2. Create a simple diagram of these causes and effects.

Core:

1. Analyze the relationships between the Treaty of Versailles, the rise of Nazi Germany, and the outbreak of World War 2.
2. Evaluate the impact of the Treaty of Versailles on the war's outcome.

Extension:

1. Assess the long-term consequences of the Treaty of Versailles and the rise of Nazi Germany on modern European history.
2. Evaluate the significance of the Treaty of Versailles in shaping the modern world.

Adolf Hitler

Adolf Hitler was the leader of Nazi Germany and a key player in the outbreak of World War 2. His aggressive foreign policy and ideology led to the invasion of Poland and the start of the war.

Winston Churchill

Winston Churchill was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during World War 2. He played a crucial role in rallying the British people and leading the country to victory.

Activity 3: Key Player Profile

Create a simple profile of a key player, including their role and significance in World War 2.

Foundation:

1. Identify a key player and their role in World War 2.
2. Create a simple profile of the key player.

Core:

1. Analyze the motivations and actions of the key player.
2. Evaluate the impact of the key player on the war's outcome.

Extension:

1. Assess the legacy of the key player and their significance in modern history.
2. Evaluate the relevance of the key player to contemporary issues and global challenges.

Activity 3: Key Player Profile

Create a simple profile of a key player, including their role and significance in World War 2.

The Invasion of Poland

The invasion of Poland by Germany in 1939 marked the beginning of World War 2. The war spread quickly across Europe, involving many countries and resulting in significant human suffering and destruction.

The Battle of Britain

The Battle of Britain was a decisive air campaign fought between the German air force (Luftwaffe) and the British Royal Air Force (RAF). The British victory marked a significant turning point in the war.

Activity 4: Map Skills

Identify key countries and locations on a map of Europe during World War 2.

Foundation:

1. Identify key countries and locations on a map of Europe during World War 2.
2. Analyze the strategic importance of different locations.

Core:

1. Evaluate the impact of geographical factors on the war's outcome.
2. Assess the long-term consequences of World War 2 on the geography and politics of Europe.

Extension:

1. Evaluate the relevance of World War 2 to contemporary issues and global challenges.
2. Assess the significance of World War 2 in shaping the modern world.

The Attack on Pearl Harbor

The surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan in 1941 drew the United States into World War 2. The war in the Pacific involved many countries and resulted in significant human suffering and destruction.

The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States in 1945 led to Japan's surrender and the end of World War 2.

Activity 5: Debate

Participate in a structured debate on the significance of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Foundation:

1. Participate in a structured debate on the significance of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
2. Analyze the arguments for and against the use of atomic bombs.

Core:

1. Evaluate the impact of the atomic bombings on the war's outcome.
2. Assess the long-term consequences of the atomic bombings on international relations and global security.

Extension:

1. Evaluate the relevance of the atomic bombings to contemporary issues and global challenges.
2. Assess the significance of the atomic bombings in shaping the modern world.

Rationing and Evacuation

Rationing and evacuation were two key aspects of life on the Home Front during World War 2. People had to make sacrifices and adapt to a new way of life.

Women's Roles in the Workforce

Women played a crucial role in the workforce during World War 2, taking on new jobs and responsibilities to support the war effort.

Activity 6: Source Analysis

Analyze a primary source related to the Home Front during World War 2.

Foundation:

1. Analyze a primary source related to the Home Front during World War 2.
2. Evaluate the significance of the source and its relevance to the war effort.

Core:

1. Assess the long-term consequences of the changes on the Home Front during World War 2 on modern society.
2. Evaluate the impact of the Home Front on the war's outcome.

Extension:

1. Evaluate the relevance of the Home Front to contemporary issues and global challenges.
2. Assess the significance of the Home Front in shaping the modern world.

The Formation of the United Nations

The formation of the United Nations in 1945 marked a significant turning point in international relations. The organization aimed to promote peace and prevent future wars.

The Division of Europe

The division of Europe into Eastern and Western blocs marked the beginning of the Cold War. The Iron Curtain separated the two blocs, leading to a decades-long period of tension and conflict.

Activity 7: Reflection

Reflect on what you have learned about World War 2 and its significance.

Individual Reflection:

1. What was the most surprising thing you learned about World War 2?

2. How will this learning change your actions in the future?

3. What questions do you still have about World War 2?

Glossary

Define and explain key terms related to World War 2, such as appeasement, blitzkrieg, and genocide.

Timeline

Create a detailed timeline of major events during World War 2, including key battles, invasions, and significant dates.

Assessment

Complete a quiz to assess your understanding of World War 2 and its causes, key players, and significance.