

Treaty of Versailles Curriculum Unit Overview

I. Standards Alignment

- a. 1(F) identify major causes and describe the major effects of the following important turning points in world history from 1914 to the present: **the world wars and their impact on political, economic, and social systems**; communist revolutions and their impact on the Cold War; independence movements; and globalization.
- b. 10(C) explain the political impact of Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points and the political and economic impact of the Treaty of Versailles, including changes in boundaries and the mandate system
- c. 11 (A) summarize the international, political, and economic causes of the global depression;
- d. 11 (B) explain the responses of governments in the United States, Germany, and the Soviet Union to the global depression
- e. 16 (A) locate places and regions of historical significance directly related to major eras and turning points in world history
- f. 20 (D) explain the significance of the League of Nations and the United Nations.
- g. 29 (B) explain how historians, when examining sources, analyze frame of reference, historical context, and point of view to interpret historical events
- h. 29 (C) explain the differences between primary and secondary sources and examine those sources to analyze frame of reference, historical context, and point of view;

II. Warm-up/ Introduction Activity (20 minutes)

- a. Thought provoking questions
 - i. Students will look at a series of pictures and statistics from World War I
 1. Pictures are cited and have captions
 - ii. Students should view the pictures silently, writing their reactions
 - iii. After students have viewed all pictures and statistics they should answer the following questions
 1. How should the Allies handle the defeated Central Powers?
 2. Should the Allies punish the defeated nations? What are the benefits and draw backs of punishments?
 3. If you were to draft a peace treaty after World War I what provisions would be included?
 - iv. When students finish answering questions on their own they should then find a partner for a pair-share
 - v. Teacher should then allow for a brief share out or discussion

III. Brief power point notes (20-30 minutes)

- a. Students will take notes while viewing the power point
 - i. Additional talking points will be included for teacher in the notes section of the power point. Additionally, discussion questions will be added to aid student engagement during the notes

- b. For the four major categories (League of Nations, War Guilt and Reparations, an Territorial Losses and Military Restrictions) students will create a visual that can help trigger their memory. The visual can be very simple of elaborate depending on what the teacher decides)
- IV. Primary document analysis (25 minutes)
- a. Students will look at articles contained in the Treaty of Versailles
 - i. Students will read each article and highlight key information. They will then decide what category the article falls into and explain their reasoning
 - ii. The teacher choose to treat this as a read aloud and read each of the articles aloud to students
- V. Political Cartoons
- a. Students will look at a series of political cartoons from different perspective on the treaty
 - i. Students will analyze the cartoons with a graphic organizer
 - 1. In a graphic organizer, which include a brief description of the cartoon, who's perspective the cartoon is from and what message is the cartoon trying to get across
 - ii. Students should analyze cartoons in small groups, this will allow for historical conversations
- VI. Creation of political cartoons
- a. Students will create a political cartoon on the Treaty of Versailles

The Treaty of Versailles

On June 28, 1919, the Allied powers presented the Treaty of Versailles to Germany for signature. The following are the key territorial and political clauses.

Article 10. The Members of the League undertake to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all Members of the League. In case of any such aggression or in case of any threat or danger of such aggression the Council shall advise upon the means by which this obligation shall be fulfilled.

Article 25. The Members of the League agree to encourage and promote the establishment and co-operation of duly authorized voluntary national Red Cross organizations having as purposes the improvement of health, the prevention of disease, and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world.

Article 49. *AlsaceLorraine.* The High Contracting Parties, recognizing the moral obligation to redress the wrong done by Germany in 1871 both to the rights of France and to the wishes of the population of Alsace and Lorraine, which were separated from their country in spite of the solemn protest of their representatives at the Assembly of Bordeaux, agree upon the following....

Article 51. The territories which were ceded to Germany in accordance with the Preliminaries of Peace signed at Versailles on February 26, 1871, and the Treaty of Frankfurt of May 10, 1871, are restored to French sovereignty as from the date of the Armistice of November 11, 1918.

Article 119. Germany renounces in favor of the Principal Allied and Associated Powers all her rights and titles over her overseas possessions.

Article 156. Germany renounces, in favour of Japan, all her rights, title and privileges . . . which she acquired in virtue of the Treaty concluded by her with China on March 6, 1898, and of all other arrangements relative to the Province of Shantung.

Article 159. The German military forces shall be demobilized and reduced as prescribed hereinafter

Article 160. By a date which must not be later than March 31, 1920, the German Army must not comprise more than seven divisions of infantry and three divisions of cavalry. The total effective strength of officers, including the personnel of staffs, whatever their composition, must not exceed four thousand....

Article 231. The Allied and Associated Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.

Article 232. The Allied and Associated Governments recognize that the resources of Germany are not adequate, after taking into account permanent diminutions of such resources which will result from other provisions of the present Treaty, to make complete reparation for all such loss and damage.