

Scheme of Learning: Year 8 History

Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
English Civil War	Democracy	Empire	Industry	Slavery	WWI	Inter War	WWII

Topic Overview:

After examining the causes, students will now start to explore the Second World War itself. This unit is framed around historian Ian Kershaw's book "Fateful Choices." Students will explore the major turning points of World War Two in order to decide which are the most significant in changing the course of the war.

Lesson Sequence:

This unit is all around turning points. We begin the unit by introducing Ian Kershaw and his interpretation of the Second World War, whilst also considering what would make something a turning point in history. We then look at the big picture of World War Two- examining the overall story and scope so students get a sense of scale.

After this, we will tell the narrative of World War Two chronologically, whilst consistently coming back to a momentum graph to track how significantly each event changes the course of the war. We begin by reviewing blitzkrieg and how the Nazis used this coordinated technique to invade most of Western Europe. Within the same lesson, we will explore the significance of the Dunkirk evacuation and what this tells us about Britain's success at the beginning of the war.

Moving on, we will evaluate the Battle of Britain, weighing up whether this changed the course of the war from the Nazis initial successes in Western Europe.

We then look at what many historians would consider the most significant turning point in the war, Operation Barbarossa. We will examine how Hitler attempted to invade The Soviet Union; we will look at the difficulties faced by Germany in trying to invade a country with a such a vast landmass, immense army and hostile climate. This will culminate in an exploration of The Battle of Stalingrad, again considering whether this changed the direction of the war.

We then jump to Pearl Harbour, looking at how and why it happened and the significance of America joining the war. Students will compare the significance of Pearl Harbour to the cracking of the Enigma Code in the following lesson.

We then review the latter years of the war, looking at D-Day, the invasion of Berlin and the end of the war in Europe before looking at the Atomic Bomb and it's impact on the war in the pacific.

Finally, we will look at the legacy of World War Two, where students will be introduced to themes included in their next topics such as The Holocaust.

Sequence of Lessons:

1	Big Picture- story of WWII
2	Blitzkrieg and Dunkirk
3	Battle of Britain
4	Operation Barbarossa
5	Stalingrad
6	Pearl Harbour
7	Enigma Code
8	D-Day and invasion of Berlin
9	Atomic Bomb
10	Legacy of WWII
11	Revision and review
12	Assessment
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Topic Resources:

Knowledge Map:	The Knowledge Map title should be here	Any other Resources:	Any other resources needed should be here
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Assessment:

Knowledge:	Multiple choice and knowledge based question
Application of Knowledge:	Explanation question evaluating the significance of turning points in WWII

Supportive Reading:

Any supported reading listed here	