

Scheme of Learning: The Development of Germany 1919-1991

Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4	5	6
Weimar Germany	The Rise of Hitler	Nazi Germany	Life in World War Two	East and West Germany	Cooperation and reconciliation

Topic Overview:

This is the first topic of a unit looking at the development of Germany from 1919-1991. Overall, the unit will chart how Germany was impacted by the First World War, the Weimar Republic and its successes and failings and ultimately how Hitler came to power. It will explore how Hitler consolidated his position as a dictator and, ultimately, created a totalitarian state that would bring about World War Two. Students will explore the impacts of War, the aftermath and the different experiences of East and West Germany. Finally, students will explore the reasons for German unification.

This first Unit begins in 1919, assessing the impact of World War One and The Treaty of Versailles on a newly created democracy. Students will look at years of political and economic instability leading to a "Year of Crisis" in 1923. Students then understand how Germany recovered before finally looking at the impacts of The Wall Street Crash.

Lesson Sequence:

In this series of lessons, students will be attempting to answer the question "How successful was The Weimar Republic." In order to answer this question, we begin by looking at Germany as a nation to place the narrative within its context. Students explore the different regions of Germany and the political and economic differences between them. After this, we analyse the impacts of World War One on Germany, which would ultimately lead to a power vacuum as the Kaiser abdicates.

In order to understand how successful the Weimar Republic is, students first need to understand what it was. As a result, we will look at the Weimar Constitution and explore how politicians tried to create an ideal democracy. We examine the merits of concepts such as proportional representation and Article 48 (Emergency Powers). We will also explore other concepts, such as the idea that Germans were "stabbed in the back" by their politicians for agreeing the armistice and the long lasting impacts this had. Finally, we look at how the Weimar Republic might be considered "doomed from the start" due to the Treaty of Versailles heavy reparations and restrictions.

We then introduce the political spectrum, and evaluate how and why different groups attempted to seize power in Germany in the years 1919 to 1923, eventually culminating in Hitler trying to gain power during The Munich Putsch.

Students are then introduced to Gustav Stresemann, Chancellor and later Foreign Minister of Germany, who is an integral part in helping Weimar achieve "The Golden Years" up to 1929. We explore how foreign agreements helped to boost Germany's economy and global standing, whilst examining the possible repercussions of relying on foreign loans.

Finally, we will learn about a dramatic October in 1929. During this month, Stresemann dies of a heart attack and The Wall Street Crash causes The Great Depression. Students will be ready to examine how Hitler is able to exploit the situation in order to go from a minority party with very few seats in the German parliament, to the most supported party in Germany.

Sequence of Lessons:

1	Context
2	End of World War One
3	Weimar Constitution
4	Dolchstoss
5	Treaty of Versailles
6	Revolts from the left and right
7	1923- The year of crisis
8	Stresemann and The Golden Years
9	Weimar Overview
10	Assessment

Topic Resources:

Knowledge Map:	Germany knowledge maps	Any other Resources:	N/A
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Assessment:

Knowledge:	Knowledge test- multiple choice and short answer factual recall questions
Application of Knowledge:	Students will answer a 5 mark describe question and a 6 mark "how far" question

Supportive Reading:

Any supported reading listed here	