

Teacher Overview Objectives:

Treaty of Versailles

NYS Social Studies Framework Alignment:

Key Idea	Conceptual Understanding	Content Specification	Objective(s)
<p>10.5 UNRESOLVED GLOBAL CONFLICT (1914–1945): World War I and World War II led to geopolitical changes, human and environmental devastation, and attempts to bring stability and peace. (Standards: 2, 3, 4, 5; Themes: TCC, GEO, GOV, CIV, TECH, EXCH)</p>	<p>10.5c The devastation of the world wars and use of total war led people to explore ways to prevent future world wars.</p>	<p>Students will examine international efforts to work together to build stability and peace, including Wilson’s Fourteen Points, the Treaty of Versailles, the League of Nations, and the United Nations.</p>	<p>Describe the international efforts to work together to build stability and peace after World War I.</p> <p>Describe how the Treaty of Versailles impacted Germany.</p>

1

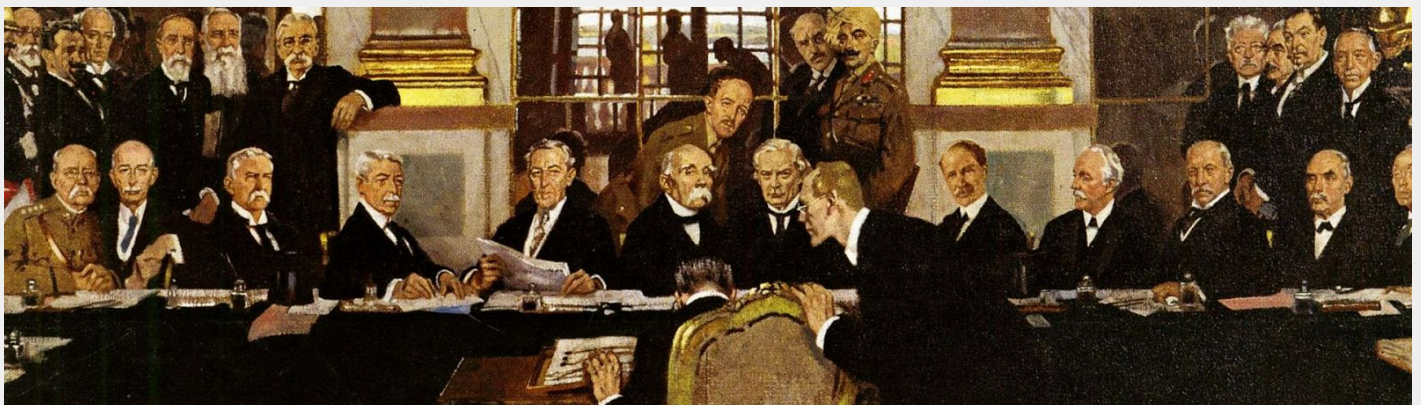
How did nations work together to build stability and peace after World War I?

Objectives: Describe the international efforts to work together to build stability and peace after World War I.

Make a Prediction: At the end of World War I, 8-9 million soldiers died in the battlefield and almost 22 million soldiers were wounded. The question on the minds of many leaders was, “Where do we go from here?” After a war is fought between nations, what do you think should happen next? Why?

Peace Settlements

Directions: Read the excerpt below and respond to the questions.



The Signing of Peace in the Hall of Mirrors, Versailles 1919

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:William_Orpen_%E2%80%93_The_Signing_of_Peace_in_the_Hall_of_Mirrors,_Versailles_1919._Ausschnitt.jpg

Considerations for Peace Before the End of the War

Before the United States entered the war in 1917, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson delivered his speech, “Peace Without Victory,” to the U.S. Senate. In this speech, he called for an agreed upon and sustainable peace where peace is not “forced upon the loser,” leaving the losers humiliated and resentful. He also said that “it makes a great deal of difference in what way and upon what terms [the war] ended” rather than that the war just ends. Concerned about how the world would emerge from the war, in a January 1918 address to Congress, Wilson proposed a 14-point program for world peace with the first point being, “Open covenants [agreements] of peace, openly arrived at, after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view.”

1. What type of peace was proposed in the “Peace Without Victory” speech?

3. What are the 14 points? Why were they written?

2a. Why do you think it is important that peace is not “forced upon the loser”?

4. Why do you think it is important to have “Open covenants of peace ... in the public view”? What might happen if there are treaties made secretly?

2b. Why do think Wilson thinks it is important to consider “upon what terms it [the war] is ended”, rather than just settling with ending the war?

Peace Arrangements After the War

On 4 November 1918, the Austro-Hungarian empire agreed to an armistice, and Germany agreed to an armistice on 11 November 1918, officially ending the war in victory for the Allies. In January 1919, the Paris Peace Conference convened at Versailles, just outside Paris, to establish the terms of the peace after World War I. Though nearly thirty nations participated, the representatives of the United Kingdom, France, the United States, and Italy became known as the “Big Four”. The “Big Four” dominated the proceedings that led to the creation of the Treaty of Versailles, a treaty that ended World War I. The Treaty of Versailles articulated the compromises reached at the conference. It included the planned formation of the League of Nations, which would serve both as an international forum and an international collective security arrangement.

U.S. President Woodrow Wilson was a strong advocate of the League as he believed it would prevent future wars. The nations that joined the League of Nations agreed to settle disputes rather than go to war. Even though Wilson created and promoted the idea of the League of Nations, the United States never joined. The League lacked an armed force of its own and depended on the member nations to keep their word to follow through on resolutions.

Adapted from: <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1914-1920/paris-peace>, <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1914-1920/league>, http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/League_of_Nations

What was the purpose of the Paris Peace Conference?	What was the name of the treaty that ended World War I?	What was the League of Nations? Why was it formed?
Did Wilson’s League of Nations accomplish his hopes? Explain.		

2

How did the Treaty of Versailles impact Germany?

Objectives: Describe how the Treaty of Versailles impacted Germany.

In U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's 1917 "Peace without Victory" speech, he warned against "peace forced upon the loser" of the war:

"Victory would mean **peace forced upon the loser**, a victor's terms imposed upon the vanquished. It would be **accepted in humiliation**, under duress, at an intolerable sacrifice, and would **leave a sting, a resentment**, a bitter memory upon which terms of **peace would rest, not permanently, but only as upon quicksand.**"

Source: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/wilson/filmmore/fm_victory.html

According to Wilson, how does "peace forced upon the loser" of a war affect the losing country?	What is the difference between a permanent peace and one built "upon quicksand?"

Examining the Treaty of Versailles

Directions: Read the excerpt below and respond to the questions.

The Treaty of Versailles was one of the peace treaties at the end of World War I and it officially ended the war between Germany and the Allied Powers. The terms of the Treaty of Versailles were announced in June 1919. Even though German politicians were not consulted about the terms of the Treaty, they were shown the draft terms in May 1919. They complained bitterly, but the Allies did not take any notice of their complaints. Germany had very little choice but to sign the Treaty.

Source: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/greatwar/g5/cs2/background.htm>

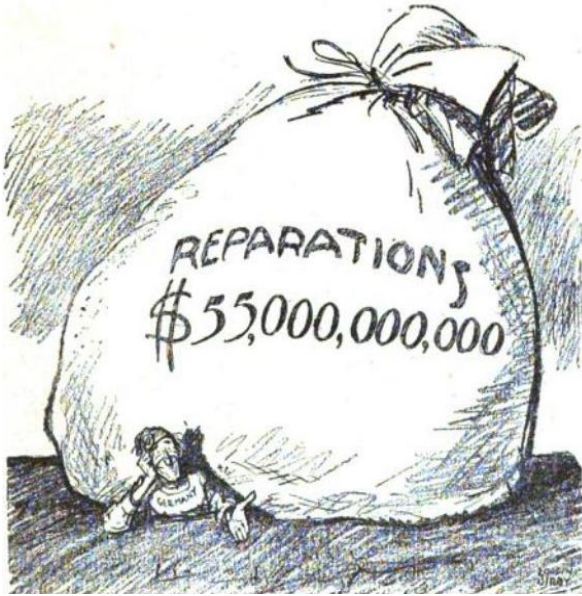
Treaty of Versailles Text	What is Germany required to do?	How might this impact Germany?	How do you think this made Germans feel? Why?
<p>Article 159 The German military forces shall be demobilized and reduced as prescribed hereinafter.</p> <p>Article 160 (1) By a date which must not be later than March 31, 1920, the German Army must not comprise more than seven divisions of infantry and three divisions of cavalry.</p> <p>Source: http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/versailles.htm</p>			
<p>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</p>			

<p>Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.</p> <p>Source: http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/versailles231-247.htm</p>			
<p>Article 232 The Allied and Associated Governments, however, require, and Germany undertakes, that she will make compensation [payment]* for all damage done to the civilian population of the Allied and Associated Powers and to their property during the period of the belligerency of each as an Allied or Associated Power against Germany ...</p> <p>Source: http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/versailles231-247.htm</p> <p>*132 billion German marks (roughly \$400 billion in today's dollars)</p>			

Image Analysis

Directions: Examine the images below and respond to the questions.

Image 1



American contemporary view of German World War I reparations. Political cartoon 1921.

Source:

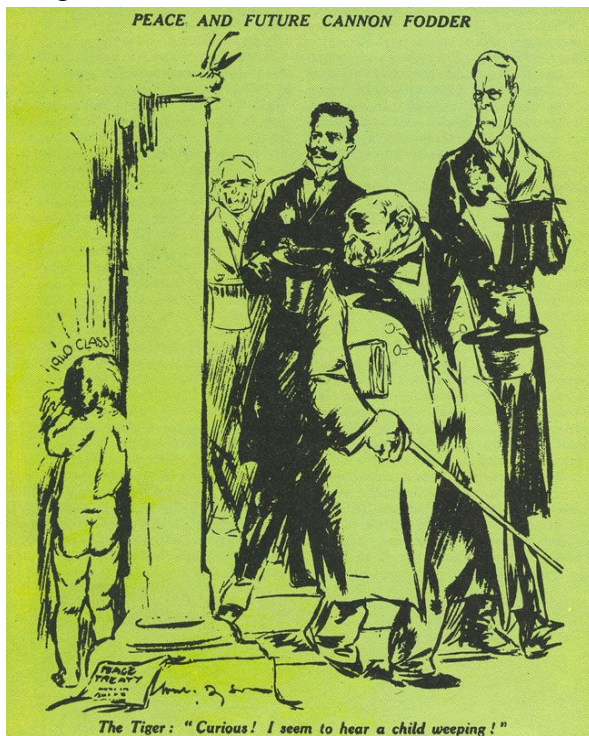
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Versailles#/media/File:Treaty_of_Versailles_Reparations_-_Let%27s_see_you_collect.png

Observations

Inferences

What does this political cartoon reveal about the impact of the Treaty of Versailles on Germany's economy?

Image 2



Will Dyson, Daily Herald, May 1919: This featured Allied leaders coming out of the Versailles conference after the First World War, when they had burdened Germany with huge financial strictures and it says '1940 class' over a child outside sobbing.

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Versailles_cannonfodder.jpg

Observations

Inferences

What does this political cartoon reveal about the impact of the Treaty of Versailles on Germany's sense of pride and nationalism?

Image 3



Source: --

Observations

Inferences

What does this political cartoon reveal about Germany's attitude toward signing the Treaty of Versailles?

Treaty of Versailles Synthesis:

1. Based upon your examination of the excerpts of the Treaty of Versailles, did the peace treaty heed Wilson's warning about "peace forced upon the loser?" Explain.
2. Did the Treaty of Versailles create a permanent peace or one built "upon quicksand?" Explain.
3. How might the Treaty of Versailles have impacted Germany's relationship with other countries after the war?
4. How might the Treaty of Versailles have impacted Germany's perception of itself?
5. In 1939, World War II began. The Treaty of Versailles was supposed to create peace between all nations, however, only 20 years later another war broke out. Why do you think the Treaty of Versailles was unable to prevent another war?



Regents Multiple Choice Check for Understanding

177. The Treaty of Versailles angered many Germans after World War I because the treaty

- (1) divided Germany into Communist and non-Communist zones
- (2) made Germany restore its emperor
- (3) required all German-speaking Europeans to return to Germany
- (4) forced Germany to pay large war reparations

2. Which idea was included in the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles to show the intent of the Allies to punish the Central Powers for their role in World War I?

- (1) All nations shall maintain open covenants of peace.
- (2) Freedom of the seas will be maintained.
- (3) Germany will accept full responsibility for causing the war.
- (4) Territorial settlements shall be made along clearly recognizable lines of nationality.