

## Appeasement Lesson Plan

### Central Historical Question:

*Was appeasement the right policy for England in 1938?*

#### Materials:

- Copies of Documents A-E
- Copies of Appeasement Guiding Questions
- Copies of Hypotheses Sheet
- Appeasement PowerPoint

#### Plan of Instruction:

**Note:** This lesson may take multiple class periods.

1. Use PowerPoint to establish background knowledge on appeasement and introduce the inquiry. **Students should follow along using their timelines during the PowerPoint lecture.**

- Slide 2: German Rearmament.
  - *By 1938, Germany had rebuilt its military under Adolf Hitler, in violation of the Treaty of Versailles.*
  - *Hitler was looking to expand Germany's borders, claiming that he was attempting to unite ethnic Germans in Europe.*
  - *Recent memories of the First World War left European countries reluctant to prepare for war.*
- Slide 3: German Aggression. *Between 1936 and 1938, Germany remilitarized the Rhineland, annexed Austria, and in September 1938, Hitler demanded that Czechoslovakia give Germany the Sudetenland, a region with a heavy ethnic-German population.*
- Slide 4: The Munich Agreement.
  - *The British government took the role of negotiating with Germany.*
  - *British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain met with Hitler in Munich to find a compromise over the Sudetenland.*
  - *The Munich Agreement (September 29, 1938) stated that Germany would receive the Sudetenland, and promised Germany would not to take further land from Czechoslovakia.*
  - *The Munich Agreement became synonymous with the policy of appeasement.*
- Slide 5: Further German Aggression.
  - *On March 13-14, 1939, Germany violated the Munich Agreement by occupying Czechoslovakia.*
  - *On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland, which initiated World War II in Europe.*
  - *On September 3, 1939, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany.*

- Slide 6: Central Historical Question. *Chamberlain's policy of appeasement was controversial at the time and has been debated by historians and policymakers ever since the Munich Agreement. Our job today is to examine a variety of documents and evaluate different perspectives on appeasement. You will develop a claim, using evidence, to answer the question: Was appeasement the right policy for England in 1938?*
2. Round 1: Hand out Documents A and B, Guiding Questions, and Hypotheses Sheet.
    - Students review Guiding Questions and read excerpts individually.
    - Students discuss and answer Guiding Questions with partner.
    - Individually, students develop Hypothesis #1, drawing from Documents A and B.
    - Share out hypotheses.
  3. Round 2: Hand out Documents C, D, and E.
    - Students review Guiding Questions and read excerpts individually.
    - Students discuss and answer guiding questions with partner.
    - Individually, students develop Hypothesis #2, drawing from Documents C, D, and E.
    - Share out hypotheses.
  4. Discussion:
    - *Whose hypotheses changed from Round 1 to Round 2? How and why?*
    - *Which documents did you find the most persuasive? Why?*
    - *Which documents contained the strongest evidence? Which documents needed more evidence to back the authors' claims?*
    - *What other documents or types of evidence would you need to explore to further address whether or not appeasement was the right policy for England in 1938?*
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#### Citations

##### Document A

"Neville Chamberlain to the House of Commons, October 5, 1938,"  
*Parliamentary Debates*, 5<sup>th</sup> series, vol.339 (1938). Retrieved from  
<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/munich.htm>

##### Document B

"Winston Churchill to the House of Commons, October 5, 1938,"  
*Parliamentary Debates*, 5<sup>th</sup> series, vo.339 (1938). Retrieved from  
<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/munich.htm>

##### Document C

Vernon Bartlett, *And Now, Tomorrow* (1960). Excerpt retrieved from  
<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/2WWappeasement.htm>.

Document D

Henry (Chips) Channon, diary entry (March 15, 1939). Retrieved from  
<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/2WWappeasement.htm>

Document E

The Earl of Halifax, *The Fulness of Days*, 1957. Retrieved from  
<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/2WWhalifaxL.htm>