

20th Century World History: Peer Teaching Curriculum (with Base Materials)

Overview

Each lesson includes a concise **base material** (e.g., a timeline, primary source document, or map) that provides essential information. The mentor will be tasked with understanding this material and guiding the learner through a set of exercises that focus on deeper historical thinking (like cause-and-effect relationships, comparing events, or imagining alternate outcomes). This way, both the mentor and learner have a shared resource to rely on, and the mentor's role becomes more about facilitating critical discussions rather than delivering expert-level knowledge.

Lesson 1: The Road to World War I

- **Topic:** Causes and consequences of World War I
 - **Base Material:** A **timeline** of events leading to WWI (e.g., the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, the web of alliances, and arms buildup)
 - **Ability Goal:** Understand complex causes and effects in historical events
 - **Exercise: Cause-and-Effect Map**
 - Using the timeline, the mentor helps the learner identify the key causes leading up to the war. Together, they create a map connecting these causes. Then, the learner adds the war's consequences based on post-war agreements (e.g., the Treaty of Versailles).
 - **Outcome:** Learner visualizes how interconnected causes led to WWI and its consequences.
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Lesson 2: The Treaty of Versailles and Its Impact

- **Topic:** The Treaty of Versailles and its consequences
- **Base Material:** **Excerpt from the Treaty of Versailles** detailing key points such as reparations, territorial changes, and military restrictions on Germany
- **Ability Goal:** Recognize how historical decisions shape future events
- **Exercise: "What If?" Scenario**
 - Using the treaty excerpt, mentor and learner explore how its harsh terms impacted post-war Europe and set the stage for WWII. Together, they discuss alternate outcomes, such as what might have happened if the treaty had been more lenient.
 - **Outcome:** Learner understands how decisions in one era influence global events in the next.

Lesson 3: The Rise of Totalitarianism

- **Topic:** Fascism and communism in the interwar period
 - **Base Material:** A **map** showing the political landscape of Europe in the 1920s-1930s, alongside short summaries of the rise of Mussolini, Stalin, and Hitler
 - **Ability Goal:** Analyze ideologies and their historical impact
 - **Exercise: Role Play: Multiple Narratives**
 - Using the map and summaries, mentor and learner role-play citizens of totalitarian regimes, debating whether they support or resist the government. The mentor asks guiding questions based on the summaries (e.g., “Why would someone support Hitler's policies?”).
 - **Outcome:** Learner engages with the complexities of totalitarianism by exploring multiple perspectives.
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Lesson 4: World War II and Its Aftermath

- **Topic:** World War II and the beginning of the Cold War
 - **Base Material:** **Timeline and map** of WWII major battles, turning points, and post-war consequences (e.g., the division of Germany, formation of NATO, and the Warsaw Pact)
 - **Ability Goal:** Compare and contrast historical events
 - **Exercise: Event Showdown**
 - Mentor and learner compare events from WWI and WWII using the timeline and map. They analyze the differences in causes, military strategies, and outcomes, leading to discussions about why WWII led to the Cold War rather than a peace agreement like after WWI.
 - **Outcome:** Learner develops the ability to compare and contrast events, recognizing patterns in global conflicts.
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Lesson 5: The Cold War – East vs. West

- **Topic:** The Cold War tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union
- **Base Material:** A **timeline** highlighting key Cold War events (e.g., Berlin Blockade, Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam War) and a **map** showing the division of Europe
- **Ability Goal:** Identify themes and patterns in global history
- **Exercise: Thematic Timeline**
 - Using the provided timeline and map, the mentor and learner create a thematic timeline, focusing on key moments of ideological conflict, proxy wars, and nuclear deterrence. The learner then discusses how these themes shaped the global stage.

- **Outcome:** Learner gains insight into the overarching patterns of the Cold War and the impact of ideological divides.
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Lesson 6: Decolonization and Nationalism

- **Topic:** Decolonization movements in Africa and Asia
 - **Base Material: Primary sources** (e.g., excerpts from speeches by Kwame Nkrumah or Mahatma Gandhi) and a **map** of newly independent nations
 - **Ability Goal:** Understand the role of movements and ideologies in shaping history
 - **Exercise: Source Detective**
 - The mentor and learner analyze a decolonization speech together, identifying key themes of independence and anti-colonialism. Then, the learner uses the map to track where and how these ideas spread.
 - **Outcome:** Learner develops skills in analyzing historical sources and connecting ideas to global movements.
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Lesson 7: The Civil Rights Movement in the U.S.

- **Topic:** The U.S. Civil Rights Movement and global civil rights struggles
 - **Base Material: Photographs and text excerpts** from key civil rights moments (e.g., Selma march, speeches by MLK) and comparisons with global movements
 - **Ability Goal:** Analyze historical sources and connect past to present
 - **Exercise: History Today**
 - Using the visual and text sources, mentor and learner discuss the tactics and goals of the Civil Rights Movement. The learner then compares these with modern movements like Black Lives Matter.
 - **Outcome:** Learner recognizes the continuity of social justice movements across different eras.
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Lesson 8: The Vietnam War and Global Protest Movements

- **Topic:** The Vietnam War and global protests of the 1960s
- **Base Material: Political cartoon and protest photographs** from the era, showing different perspectives on the war
- **Ability Goal:** Recognize multiple perspectives in history
- **Exercise: Debate Time!**
 - Mentor uses political cartoons to present pro- and anti-war perspectives, and the learner engages in a structured debate defending one side, followed by switching sides.

- **Outcome:** Learner refines their ability to defend and critique historical arguments.
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Lesson 9: The End of the Cold War

- **Topic:** The collapse of the Soviet Union
- **Base Material:** **Timeline and map** of the collapse, showing key factors such as Gorbachev's reforms and the fall of the Berlin Wall
- **Ability Goal:** Analyze cause and effect in historical events
- **Exercise: Cause-and-Effect Map**
 - Using the timeline and map, mentor and learner co-create a cause-and-effect map, showing the interplay between reforms, popular uprisings, and international pressure.
 - **Outcome:** Learner understands how the Cold War ended and how its legacy continues today.

Teaching Instructions

Lesson 1: Understanding the Causes of World War I

1. Show a basic timeline or map of Europe before WWI.
 2. Explain one cause of WWI (e.g., alliances or militarism).
 3. Discuss with the learner how this cause led to the war (use examples).
 4. Ask the learner to explain one cause back to you using the timeline.
 5. Have the learner identify how another cause contributed to the start of the war.
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Lesson 2: Trench Warfare Simulation

1. Show a simple diagram or map of trench warfare.
 2. Explain how trenches were used and why this strategy was important.
 3. Roleplay as soldiers—have the learner make decisions in a trench warfare scenario (e.g., should we attack, wait, or retreat?).
 4. Discuss the hardships of trench warfare (e.g., disease, lack of supplies).
 5. Ask the learner to describe how trench warfare affected the war's outcome.
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Lesson 3: The Treaty of Versailles Debate

1. Present the key points of the Treaty of Versailles.
 2. Take on the roles of different countries (Germany, France, UK, etc.).
 3. Have the learner argue how their country feels about the terms of the treaty.
 4. Discuss together why the treaty was so controversial.
 5. Ask the learner to predict how the treaty might lead to future conflicts (e.g., WWII).
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Lesson 4: The Rise of Totalitarianism

1. Show a brief overview of a totalitarian regime (e.g., Nazi Germany, Stalinist USSR).
 2. Discuss with the learner the key traits of totalitarian governments (e.g., control of media, suppression of opposition).
 3. Look at one primary source together (e.g., a propaganda poster).
 4. Ask the learner to explain how this source reflects totalitarianism.
 5. Have the learner analyze another source on their own and describe its message.
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Lesson 5: Economic Collapse and the Great Depression

1. Show a graph of the stock market crash or unemployment rates during the Great Depression.
 2. Explain one major cause of the Great Depression.
 3. Discuss the impact of the economic collapse on everyday people.
 4. Roleplay a scenario where the learner is a business owner during the Depression. Ask them what decisions they would make.
 5. Have the learner explain how the Great Depression affected global politics (e.g., rise of fascism).
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Lesson 6: World War II - Key Turning Points

1. Present a map of major WWII battles (e.g., D-Day, Stalingrad).
 2. Choose one battle and explain why it was a turning point in the war.
 3. Ask the learner to describe what made the battle significant using the map.
 4. Discuss what would have happened if the battle had gone differently.
 5. Let the learner explore another battle and explain its outcome.
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Lesson 7: The Cold War - The Space Race

1. Show a timeline of key Space Race events.

2. Explain the rivalry between the US and the Soviet Union.
 3. Discuss how space exploration became a symbol of political power.
 4. Have the learner create a fictional mission for the US or USSR and describe its impact on the Cold War.
 5. Ask the learner to explain how the Space Race affected technology and international relations.
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Lesson 8: Decolonization and Independence Movements

1. Present a map of the world post-WWII, showing countries gaining independence.
 2. Choose one country and briefly explain its struggle for independence (e.g., India, Algeria).
 3. Discuss why colonized countries wanted independence and the challenges they faced.
 4. Ask the learner to roleplay as a leader of a colony. What decisions would they make?
 5. Have the learner explain the long-term impact of decolonization on global politics.
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Lesson 9: Civil Rights Movements Across the World

1. Show images or brief descriptions of key civil rights leaders (e.g., Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela).
 2. Choose one movement and explain its goals and methods.
 3. Discuss why non-violent protest or armed struggle was chosen.
 4. Have the learner take on the role of an activist. What strategy would they choose?
 5. Ask the learner to compare civil rights movements from different countries.
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Lesson 10: The End of the Cold War and Fall of the Berlin Wall

1. Show a brief timeline or map of Cold War events leading to the fall of the Berlin Wall.
2. Explain the significance of the fall of the Berlin Wall.
3. Discuss with the learner why the Cold War ended.
4. Roleplay as a family in divided Berlin. Ask the learner what life would be like before and after the wall fell.
5. Ask the learner to predict the impact of the Cold War's end on modern Europe.