

Activity Plan for First World War Research

Objectives:

- To understand the different approaches and perspectives on teaching World War I in school.
- To gather information through interviews and research that will facilitate a discussion about the significance of World War I in education.

Preparation Before the Lesson:

1. **Assign Research Task:** Instruct students to explore how World War I is taught in their school. Encourage them to gather insights from various sources, including:
 - Teachers (History, English, etc.)
 - Older pupils (students who have already studied this topic)
 - School curriculum documents (if available)
2. **Provide Guiding Questions:** Share the following questions to guide their research:
 - **What age groups learn about World War I?**
 - **In what school subjects do you learn about World War I?** (History, Literature, etc.)
 - **Is the study of World War I optional, compulsory, or a mixture of both?**
 - **How long do you study World War I?** (Weeks, months, etc.)
 - **Are there any specific themes or aspects of World War I emphasized in your lessons?** (Causes, consequences, battles, social impact, etc.)
 - **How do teachers assess students' understanding of World War I?** (Projects, essays, tests)
 - **What resources are used in class?** (Textbooks, documentaries, literature)
3. **Encourage Note-Taking:** Ask students to take detailed notes during their interviews, emphasizing both the content they learn and the method of delivery. They should look out for differences in teaching styles, resources used, and the overall engagement in the topic.
4. **Set a Deadline:** Give students a deadline for completing their research and preparing to share their findings in class. This could be a week or two before the lesson.

Lesson Plan:

1. **Introduction (15 minutes):**
 - Begin with a discussion about why studying World War I is important.
 - Share some interesting facts about the war to pique interest.
2. **Group Sharing (30 minutes):**
 - Divide students into small groups and have them share what they found through their research. Encourage them to discuss the various factors mentioned in their guiding questions.

- After the group discussions, have each group summarize their findings and share with the whole class.

3. Class Discussion (20 minutes):

- Facilitate a class-wide discussion addressing the following:
 - Are there any significant differences in how World War I is taught across grades and subjects?
 - What common themes emerged from their research?
 - How do the teaching methods and resources affect students' understanding and engagement with World War I?

4. Reflection (15 minutes):

- Conclude the lesson with a reflection activity. Ask students to write a short paragraph about what surprised them or what they found most interesting about how World War I is taught.
- Optionally, they can suggest ways that make learning about World War I more engaging based on their discussions.

5. Homework Assignment:

- As an extension, students can choose one aspect of World War I that interests them and write a brief report or create a presentation to share in a future class.

Additional Notes:

- Encourage students to think critically about the educational methods and resources used in their school.