

Failed Promises: The Treaty of Versailles and End of World War I

Historical Context: The Versailles Conference

The First World War (1914–1918) had been bad. 10 million people died. The part of France where there had been fighting – the ‘Western Front’ – was totally destroyed.

In November 1918, Germany had signed a cease-fire. It was called ‘the Armistice’. The Germans could not fight any longer. But they did not think they had surrendered.

In January 1919, delegates from 32 countries met at Versailles, near Paris, to make treaties to end the war. The meeting was known as the Versailles Conference.

This self-guided lesson studies what happened at the Conference, the treaties that the leaders made, and what the world thought about them



Political Cartoon

Title: Giving Him Rope?

Identify and explain the main idea of this political cartoon.

GIVING HIM ROPE?

GERMAN SOLDIER (to Allied Soldier). "HERE, I SAY, STOP! YOU'RE HURTING ME! [Laid]
I ONLY WANT ENOUGH I MAY BE ABLE TO WRIGGLE OUT OF THIS YET!"

Characterize the “Big 3.” Who were they and what were their overall goals at the Versailles Conference?

Georges Clemenceau

Woodrow Wilson

David Lloyd George

Select 3 Words/Phrases to accurately characterize the tone or feeling of the Versailles Conference.

Summarize the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

Characterize the German reactions and responses to the terms of the treaty? What problems could this pose for the future of peace in Europe?



Title: Peace and Future Canon Fodder

Caption: The Tiger: "Curious! I seem to hear a child weeping."

Labels: Above the head of the naked child it says "1910 Class", the newspaper at the child's feet says "Peace Treaty"

Identify and explain the main idea of this political cartoon.

List the new nations that were created as a result of World War I.

Summarize the benefits and drawbacks to "self-determination.