The Causes of The Second World War

This resource supports the Free Causes PowerPoint
The Causes of the Second World War

**Starter:** use the images to help determine six major factors that helped cause the Second World War

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>My Guess</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
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</table>

1. [Image of Churchill]
2. [Image of Hitler]
3. [Image of Stalin]
4. [Image of military scene]
5. [Image of olive branch and soldier]
6. [Image of diplomats shaking hands]
### The Causes of the Second World War

**Aim:** Consider and explain how six causes helped cause the Second World War and the rank their importance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 : The Legacy of WW1</th>
<th>2 : The Failure of League</th>
<th>3 : The Global Depression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Main Point:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Describe WHY the League Failed</strong></td>
<td><strong>Word</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:</td>
<td>Best fit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:</td>
<td>Option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Example 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>HOW the League’s Failure helped cause WW2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sanction</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:</td>
<td>Together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:</td>
<td>Extreme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Example 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>HOW Appeasement helped cause WW2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Collective</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1:</td>
<td>In need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:</td>
<td>Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:</td>
<td>Force</td>
</tr>
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**4 : Hitler’s Foreign Policy**

**Main Point:**

**Example 1**

**Example 2**

**Explain HOW this it helped cause WW2 (LINK)**

**5 : Appeasement**

**Describe Appeasement in 1938**

**HOW Appeasement helped cause WW2**

1:

2:

3:

**6 : The Nazi-Soviet Pact**

In August ______ Hitler and _______ surprised the world by signing the Nazi–Soviet Non-______________ Pact. Even though they were sworn ___________ both felt they could benefit from the agreement as they gained more ___________ to prepare for war. They also agreed to divide ___________ between them. It helped start the war because it gave Hitler the confidence to invade ___________ without fear of an immediate attack from the Soviets.
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<th>5: Appeasement</th>
<th>6: The Nazi - Soviet Pact</th>
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The Munich Agreement
The Long and Short Term Causes of WW2

- Discover: the causes of the WW2
- Explore: how to classify them
- Skill: causation and classification.

**The Treaty of Versailles**
The treaty was seen as severe. It damaged Germany economically, made her weak and hurt German pride. Hitler would use this bitterness and anger as fuel for his speeches and to justify for his foreign policy.

**The Global Depression**
The Wall Street Crash marked the start of a Global Depression. This helped dictators come to power and other countries were too weak to stand against them.

**Hitler becomes Chancellor**
Fuelled by his anger at Versailles and helped to power by the depression, Hitler’s foreign policy would eventually push Europe to war. He started with rebuilding the small, weak German army.

**The League of Nations Fails**
The League was created on the idea of Collective Security: countries standing together against aggression. In 1935, the League failed to stop Mussolini’s attack on Abyssinia. The League was not taken seriously after this event.

**The Rhineland: reoccupied**
The Rhineland was German land on the border with France. Under Versailles, Germany was forbidden from putting troops there. Hitler took a gamble and marched his army into this area.

**The Nazi-Soviet Pact**
The NSNAP was a surprising agreement between Hitler and Stalin. It opened the way for Hitler to invade Poland without fear of Soviet attack.

**The Munich Agreement**
As Hitler grew stronger he wanted more. Europe feared war over the Sudetenland. After talks in Munich, Germany, the Sudetenland was given to Hitler. In return, he promised this was his last territorial demand.

**Anschluss: Austria annexed**
Austria and Germany had been banned from joining together. Hitler (Austrian) believed the two countries should be united. He ignored Versailles and arranged a vote. The Austrians voted to join with Germany.

**The Failure of the League**

**Trigger**

**Long Term Cause**

**Short Term Cause**

**Tippping Point**

**Versailles**

**Global Depression**

**Hitler’s Foreign Policy**

**The Nazi-Soviet Pact**

**The Causes of WW2 Timeline 1919-1939**
- June 1919: The Treaty of Versailles signed
- 1924: Hitler writes Mein Kampf
- Oct 1929: The Global Depression begins
- Jan 1933: Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany
- 1933: Hitler begins to rebuild his army in secret
- Jan 1935: The Saar is returned by plebiscite
- Oct 1935: Abyssinia Invasion: The League is dead
- Mar 1936: Rhineland reoccupied
- Nov 1936: Rome Berlin Axis: Hitler Mussolini Alliance
- 1937: The Spanish Civil War
- Mar 1938: Anschluss with Austria
- 1938: Stalin pushes for an alliance with Chamberlain
- Sep 1938: The Munich Agreement
- Mar 1939: Nazis invade Czechoslovakia
- Aug 1939: The Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact
- Sep 1939: Germany invades Poland
- Sep 1939: Britain declares war on Germany
- Sep 1939: The Second World War has begun
- Jun 1941: Operation Barbarossa: Germany attacks USSR
The Long and Short Term Causes of WW2

Discover: the causes of the WW2  Explore: how to classify them  Skill: causation and classification.

- **The Treaty of Versailles**: June 1919
  - The treaty was seen as too severe. It damaged Germany economically, made her weak and hurt German pride. Hitler would use this bitterness and anger as fuel for his speeches and to actions.

- **Hitler becomes Chancellor**: 1933
  - Fuelled by his anger at Versailles and helped to power by the depression, Hitler’s policy would eventually push Europe to war. He started with rebuilding the small, weak German army.

- **The League of Nations Fails**: 1935
  - The League was created on the idea of Security: countries standing together against aggression. In 1935, the League failed to stop to Mussolini’s attack on Abyssinia. The League was not taken seriously after this event. failure.

- **Rhineland: reoccupied**: 1936
  - The Rhineland was German land on the border with France. Under Versailles, Germany was from putting troops there. Hitler took a gamble and his small army marched in.

- **The Failure of Appeasement**: 1938
  - Austria and Germany had been banned from joining together. Hitler (Austrian) believed the two countries should be united. He ignored Versailles and arranged a vote. The Austrians voted to Anschluss: with Austria

- **Operation Barbarossa**: 1941
  - Germany attacks USSR

- **The Saunders is returned by plebiscite**: 1939
  - Hitler (Austrian) had been banned from joining Austria and Germany had been banned from joining together. Hitler (Austrian) believed the two countries should be united. He ignored Versailles and arranged a vote. The Austrians voted to Anschluss: with Austria

Now colour code red circles to classify events into major causes.

- Versailles
- Global Depression
- Hitler’s Foreign Policy
- The Failure of the League
- Appeasement
- The Nazi-Soviet Pact
Prelude To War: growing tensions, 1914 - 39.

The Treaty of Versailles

Give 4 terms of the treaty that angered Germans
1: 
2: 
3: 
4: 

‘The League is dead’

1919 1920 1929 1935 1936 1937 1938 1939

The Wall Street Crash

The League is born

Growing Nationalism

Rhineland Reoccupied

The Spanish Civil War

Munich Agreement (Sept)

The Nazis March Into Poland
September 1939

How did the Nazi-Soviet Pact influence Hitler’s decision to invade Poland?

Anschluss (March)

Anschluss with

The event that effectively killed the League?

1: The Wall Street Crash
2: 
3: 
4: 
5: 
6: 
7: 

With the effective death of the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ in 1935 following the Abyssinia invasion Hitler gambled and marched troops into the German Rhineland. This was an example of _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ . Lord Lothian of Britain described this as ‘No more than the Germans walking into their own _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ’.

The Nazis March Into Poland
September 1939

How did the war in Spain help speed up the start of WW2?
Task: make connections or links between the factors that contributed towards the Second World War
## Linking The Causes Of The Second World War

**Task:** make connections or links between the factors that contributed towards the Second World War

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Connection</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The F _ _ _ _ W _ _ _ _ W _</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Global Depression</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The Failure of the League</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hitler’s Foreign Policy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nazi-Soviet Pact</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summarise: the reasons for the causes of WW2  
Explore: the relationship between factors  
Skill: making links.

1: The Treaty of Versailles
- Too Severe
- Helped Hitler’s rise.
- Links to: 3 + 5

2: The Global Depression
- Links to:

3: Hitler’s Foreign Policy
- Links to:

4: The Failure of the League
- Links to:

5: Appeasement
- Links to:

6: The Nazi-Soviet Pact
- Links to:
Ranking The Causes Of The Second World

Task: assign 60 ‘credits of blame’ to the causes of the First World War.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranked Cause</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Legacy of WW1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>The Nazi–Soviet Pact</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appeasement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 60 credits
Ranking The Causes Of The Second World War

Mission: to recap and rank the causes of the Second World War

My Rank Order

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

Agreed Pair / Group Order

Most Important

Least Important
The Cartoon About The Man and The Big Ball

Discover: how to identify main features of a cartoon
Explore: how to interpret these features
Skill: cartoon analysis and evaluation.

Message of the cartoon (write this AFTER completing DEC process)

Describe the main features of the cartoon.

Explain what each of these features means / represents

Context: what historical event is this cartoon about?

Reliable or Not? (Circle a score below)

Unreliable 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Reliable
How Similar Are Cartoons A and B?

Skill: how to interpret and compare cartoons using the COP principle—content, origin, purpose.

The cartoons are similar to ... (some, limited, large extent)

The cartoons’ content is / is not similar

The cartoons’ origins are / are not similar

The cartoons’ purposes are / are not similar ...
### Determining The Usefulness of A Source Using NACHOS

**Discover:** how to judge the usefulness of a source using ‘NACHOS’  **Explore:** how useful the source presented below is  **Skill:** source analysis and evaluation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N</th>
<th>Useful: explain or tick</th>
<th>Not Useful: explain or tick</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nature</td>
<td>This means source type. EG: Letter, speech, diary, book, poster, newspaper report.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>author</td>
<td>This is the who and when. Are they an expert. Is it a primary eyewitness or secondary information?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>content</td>
<td>This means what it tells us. Does it contain important info, is it factual, opinion or biased?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happening</td>
<td>This is about context. What was happening when the source was made. Could this add or detract value?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omitted</td>
<td>is about limitations of the source. What is left out and the things it cannot tell us.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special reason</td>
<td>is about motive or why. Is it propaganda, persuasion or created for another specific purpose?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I asked Hitler about one in the morning while we were waiting for the draftsmen whether he would care to see me for another talk... I had a very friendly and pleasant talk, on Spain, (where he too said he had never had any territorial ambitions) economic relations with S.E. Europe, and disarmament. I did not mention colonies, nor did he. At the end I pulled out the declaration which I had prepared beforehand and asked if he would sign it. As the interpreter translated the words into German Hitler said “Yes I will certainly sign it.” When shall we do it? I said "now", and we went at once to the writing table and put our signatures to the two copies which I had brought with me.

Chamberlain in a letter to his sister Hilda,  
Sent on the 2nd of October, 1938.

**How useful is source A?**

**Intro:** Not useful / somewhat / very useful

**P1:** Content: does the **reliability** influence usefulness?

**P2:** Origin Useful?

**P3:** Other reason?

**Conclude:** the source is / is not useful. Answer should always have a ‘yes’ element!

Useful: O  
Not Useful: O
ACTIVITY # 18 / 101 - FOLLOW ME

**How it works:** Complete after ranking activity?

1: Select 6 students - assign each, one of the causes of the Second World War. Allow them time to prepare an argument demonstrating why their cause was most important.
2: Present a concise opening argument to the class.
3: Students then join / follow their cause of choice.
4: Continue the debate allowing all students to contribute once they follow a cause.
5: Students can switch at any time.
6. Wrap up and rank the outcome.

**Suggestions**
Teacher to join / help the person with least followers

**Skills**
Persuasion
Debate
Listening

**Adapt to**
Any causes activity
Why the League of Nations failed
CAUSE 1

THE LEGACY OF WW1
CAUSE 2
THE LEAGUE
OF NATIONS
CAUSE 3
GLOBAL DEPRESSION
CAUSE 5

APPEASEMENT
CAUSE 6

NAZI - SOVIET PACT
WWW.icHistory.com
Causes of the Second War Timeline
The Causes of the Second World War

**Starter:** use the jumbled events list to help identify images and put them into chronological order 1-12.
## The Causes of the Second World War Timeline

**Task:** to organise the dates and events into the correct chronological order.

### Jumbled Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>D</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Rhineland Reoccupation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sept</td>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Nazi Soldiers Invade Poland - WW2 Begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Hitler become Chancellor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1914-18</td>
<td>The First World War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>1919</td>
<td>The Treaty of Versailles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>1920</td>
<td>The League of Nations Set Up : No USA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1939</td>
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<td>The Nazis Invade Czechoslovakia</td>
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<td>1939</td>
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<td>1938</td>
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<td>Anschluss + The Munich Crisis</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>1929</td>
<td>The Wall Street Crash - Global Depression</td>
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### My Ordered Timeline

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<td>1914 - 18</td>
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### Extension: Timeline with revision image / sketch

- The First World War
- 1914 - 18
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**Timeline with revision image / sketch**

![Image of soldiers]  
1914 - 18
### The First World War: 1914-1918

Reasons why WW1 increased French hatred and fear of Germany:
1: __________________________
2: __________________________
3: __________________________

### The Treaty of Versailles

Three reasons why Germans were angry with this:
1: __________________________
2: __________________________
3: __________________________

### The League Set Up

Major absentee?
____________________________

Method to keep the peace: CS
____________________________

Failed to deal with:
____________________________

### The Wall Street Crash

How did this help Hitler?
____________________________
____________________________
____________________________
____________________________
____________________________

### Hitler Chancellor

3 breaks of the treaty before 1936:
1: __________________________
2: __________________________
3: __________________________

### Abyssinia Invasion

Why League failed with this?
____________________________

How League failed?
____________________________

### Rhineland Reoccupation

Why:
____________________________

What:
____________________________

Result:
____________________________

### The Spanish Civil War

Why did Hitler get involved in the Spanish Civil War?
R: __________________________
A: __________________________
F: __________________________
T: __________________________

### The Munich Crisis

Why did Chamberlain follow a policy of Appeasement?
C: __________________________
A: __________________________
N: __________________________
T: __________________________

### Nazis Invade Czech

Why:
____________________________

What:
____________________________

Result:
____________________________

### The Nazi-Soviet Pact

Reasons Hitler signed this?
1: __________________________
2: __________________________
3: __________________________

Consequence of the NSP?
1: __________________________
2: __________________________

### The Nazis Invade Poland