



**THE
LEAGUE OF
NATIONS**

The League's Structure and Organisation.

 **Discover:** the various bodies of the League **Explore:** how these operated **Skill:** guided reading.

Like any large organisation (think about the structure of your school) the League had a number of parts to its body. Some of these parts were involved with decision making while other parts carried out the actual work. The most powerful decision making part of the League was the **Council**. The Council contained four permanent members: Britain, France, Japan and Italy. Each of these permanent member held a powerful blocking vote called a veto. This allowed them to stop any decision they did not agree with. The Council met five times a year. The second decision making body was the **Assembly**. This was made up of the remaining members of the League. The Assembly was essentially the League's parliament. It could decide which countries were allowed into the League and make recommendations that could then be put to the Council. Any decisions or recommendations made by the Assembly had to be done by a unanimous vote, meaning that every member had to agree for a decision to be made. The Assembly met once a year. The **International Court of Justice** was the forum where disputes (arguments) between countries could be heard. It was based in the Hague, in the Netherlands. The Court also provided legal advice to the Council and Assembly. However, unlike normal courts it had no power to make sure its ruling were followed because the League did not have an army of its own. The League also contained four committees or commissions. They were largely responsible for carrying out the humanitarian work of the League thus helping achieve its aim of improving lives. The Commissions were: The **Refugee Committee**, designed to help with getting prisoners of war and others displaced in the First World War back to their homes. The **Slavery Commission** was given the job of ending slavery that still existed in some parts of the world. The **Health Committee** worked to prevent or reduce deadly diseases such as smallpox and also educate in areas such as sanitation and hygiene. The **Mandates Commission** was created to ensure that the colonies under the League's control were run fairly and in the interests of the people who lived there. Aside from the commissions the **International Labour Organisation** was a separate body that looked to improve workers' rights and make the workplace safer. It also offered advice and encouraged employers to follow its strategies. The final body part was the **Secretariat**. It connected all the parts of the League, keeping records and preparing reports to guide the other agencies in their work.

Constructing the League of Nations.



Name : _____
 Role : _____


Name : _____
 Role : _____


Name : _____
 Role : _____


Name : _____
 Role : _____


Name : _____
 Role : _____
 How often it met : _____
 Members : _____
 Name of blocking vote : _____
 Weakness : _____


Name : _____
 Role : _____
 How often it met : _____
 Members : _____
 Method of voting : _____
 Weakness : _____


Name: _____
 Role : _____
 Weakness: _____


Name: _____
 Role 1: _____
 Role 2: _____


Name		Role	
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The Global Depression and The League of Nations.

Discover: the causes of the Global Depression **Explore:** how the Global Depression weakened the League **Skill:** sequencing and explanation.

The period following the Wall Street Crash can be seen as one of the great turning points in history. The collapse of the American economy came at a time when the League of Nations was beginning to show some potential. (The Kellogg Briand Pact had been signed in 1928). However, events after 1929 would result in the destruction of the League. As a result of the Wall Street Crash the USA stopped or recalled its loans. Many countries such as Germany relied on (needed) these loans. To try and protect their own goods countries began putting high tariffs on imports. This policy of protectionism only made the problem worse and global trade decreased. As a consequence, many factories were unable to sell what they made and they were forced to close. This created massive unemployment and the world fell into a global, economic depression. People became more and more angry and desperate. This was the perfect environment that allowed extreme leaders into to power. Aggressive leaders such as Mussolini in Italy and Hitler in Germany offered radical promises to desperate people. Once in power these dictators would push the League beyond its limits. For example Italy invaded Abyssinia in 1935, which ended in a humiliating defeat for the League. After this, the League was no longer taken seriously. The impact of the depression is well summed up by AJP Taylor who wrote. *“The real death of the League was in 1935”*.

The Depression Weakens the League.

International Goodwill Eroded

1

League Members Too Busy With Their Own Problems.

2

Dictators Challenge the League

3



Why did the Disarmament Conferences Fail in the 1930's?

Discover: which countries refused to cooperate **Explore:** the reasons for this **Skill:** source comparison and evaluation.



One of the aims of the League of Nations was disarmament. In 1923 the League planned its first disarmament treaty but Britain refused to agree to it, for fear of having to send its soldiers which were needed to defend the Empire. A Disarmament Conference didn't begin until 1932, during a time when European affairs had become more complicated because of the Global Depression. Nevertheless, the Conference looked promising, as it included Russia and the USA. By July 1932, the Conference had passed resolutions including: no bombing of civilians, and banning chemical warfare - but there were no decisions on *how* these resolutions were to be achieved. The biggest issue facing the conference was Germany. Should Germany be allowed to re-arm to the level of its European neighbours, or should the rest disarm to Germany's level set in 1919?

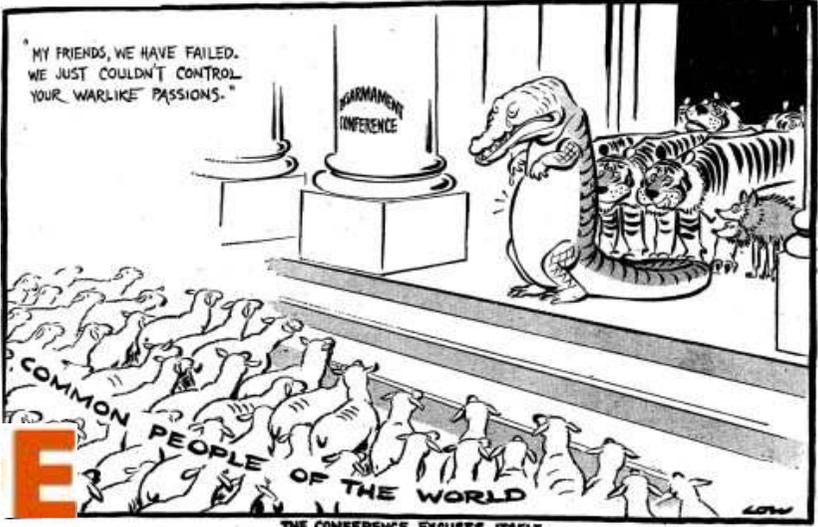
www.cartoons.ac.uk/group/league-nation **A**

B Germany had been involved in the League for 6 years and many people now accepted that Germany should be treated more fairly than it was said in the terms of the Treaty of Versailles. The question was, should everyone disarm to the level that Germany had been forced to or should the Germans be allowed to rearm to the level of other countries? The Germans walked out of the conference in July 1932 when the other countries refused to disarm to the level that Germany had had to. In May 1933, Hitler returned to the conference and promised that he wouldn't rearm if 'in five years all other nations destroyed their arms'. www.allinfo.org.uk/revision-gcse/hitler.htm

The British delegation tried to persuade Germany to return to the conference, but these only angered France (who saw them as an attempted 'sell-out'). The conference ended in April 1934 with the so-called 'Barthou note' in which French Foreign Minister Louis Barthou announced that France would no longer play any part in the conference, but would look after its own security in '*whatever way was necessary*'. www.johndclare.net.



D



E

The main reason for failure was that France and Germany could not agree. The French wanted to be certain that if they reduced the size of their armed forces that they would not be threatened by Germany. The Germans wanted the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, which restricted the size of their armed forces, abolished. Neither side would give way. After Hitler became Chancellor of Germany in January 1933, he refused to accept any reductions in armed forces and claimed that since Germany was already disarmed, the other countries should follow its lead.

www.dhahranbritish.com/history/A8_Disarmament.htm **F**

What question regarding Germany needed be addressed at the 1932 conference ?

www.icHistory.com

How far does source C support F?

Points of support / corroboration

P1:

P2:

Points not supported / corroborated

P1:

P2:

Mostly supports Does not support

How similar are the messages in sources D / E?

Message of source D

Message of source E

Mostly similar Not similar

Quick Questions

What does King Kong represent in D?

What about the crocodile, tigers and hyena in E?

Most to blame for the failed 1932 conference?

What is NOT suggested in A that is in B-F?

Puzzled About the League of Nations?

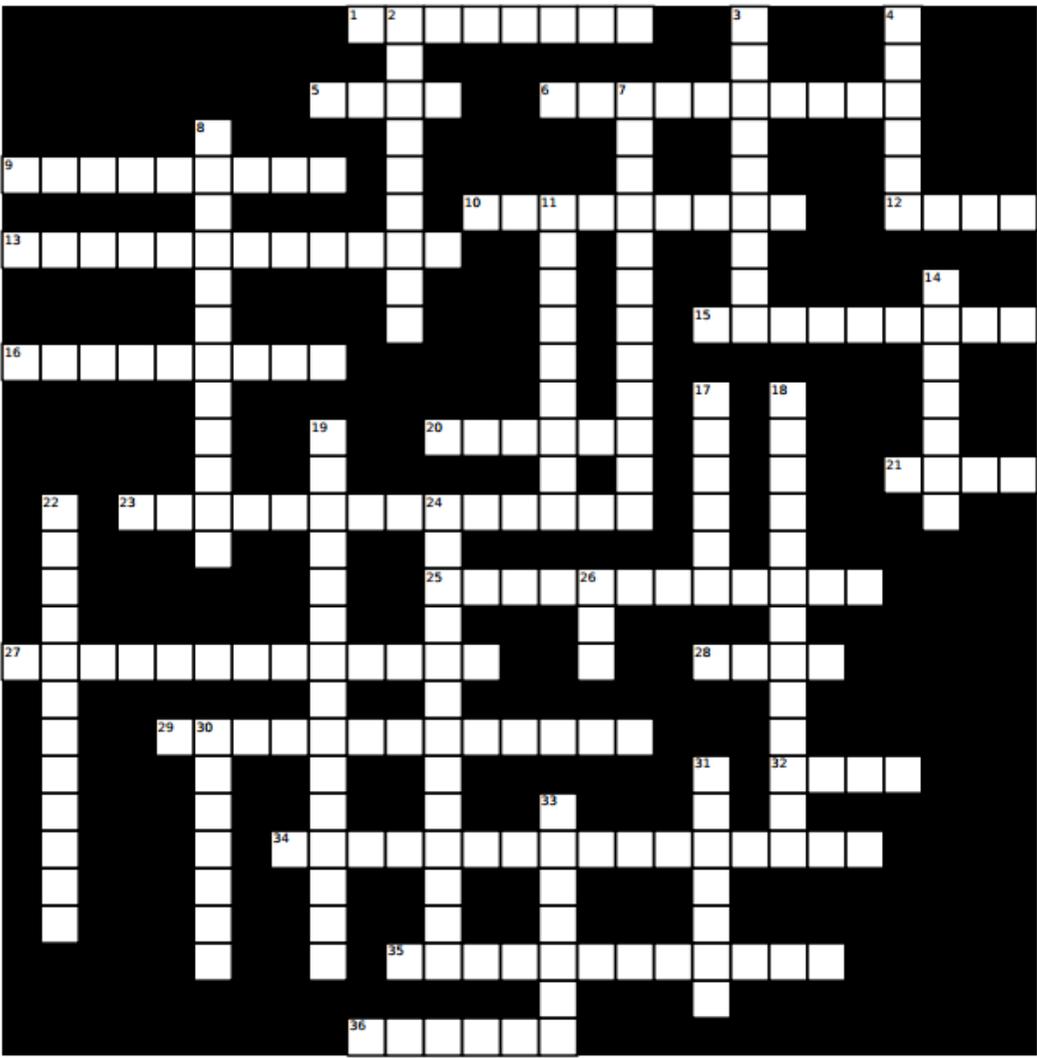


Review: the League of Nations, events, places and people.

Skills: revision, logical thinking and research.

Across

- 1 Health Commission helped reduce this **(A)**
- 5 Not a member.
- 6 A successful disarmament treaty.
- 9 'The Real Death of the League was in 1935'
- 10 Made decision making difficult **(B)**
- 12 The League never had one of these.
- 13 A league for winners was seen as un...
- 15 A punishment the League did use.
- 16 Invasion that killed the League in 1935.
- 20 'All bark...'
- 21 The League's aims, not front or back.
- 23 They agreed this behind the League's back.
- 25 It took 12 months.
- 27 A pact when 65 countries rejected war.
- 28 Helped 400 000 of these get home. **(C)**
- 29 Tariffs on imports
- 32 The Assembly was described as 'A talking...?'
- 34 They became the parents of Wilson's baby
- 35 Why the USA didn't join **(D)**
- 36 Bullied by Italy but then bullied Bulgaria



Down

- 2 Britain didn't want him to ally Hitler **(E)**
- 3 Event that humiliated the League in 1931.
- 4 Where the League lived.
- 7 When people get desperate and angry.
- 8 Do as I say not as I do **(F)**
- 11 Didn't join as membership was seen as unfair.
- 14 Where permanent members sat.
- 17 Where one of these ran **(G)**
- 18 Absent father of the League.
- 19 The trigger of the economic, global depression.
- 22 Just a telling off.
- 24 Finland and Sweden wanted these.
- 26 Sanction on Italy but importantly not this.. **(H)**
- 30 One of the commissions or committees
- 31 Allowed to join in 1926 after the Locarno Treaty.
- 33 Commission to run the colonies.



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H

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Cartoon
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and
Abyssinia

Model
League of
Nations
Activity

Timelines and Review

League
Structure
Diagram

The Global
Depression

Land Disputes

Aims

Investigation
Why did the
League Fail?

Structure of the League

The
Disarmament
Conference

Assessment

Interactive Storyboards

