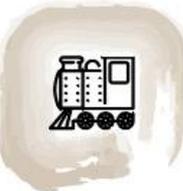


IO4

Webquest History JKPeV-GERMANY



Web Quest Title

Back to the Past

Key competences: cultural and historic awareness and expression; digital competence; social and civic competence; teamwork; collaboration; communication; critical thinking.

Key words: German history; online research; referencing; teamwork.

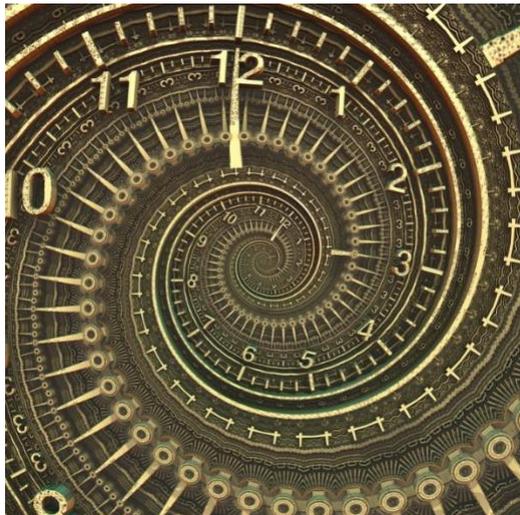
Introduction

German history is complex. German nation has a long and tumultuous history, which intertwines with the history of its neighbouring countries and the rest of Europe. Many events have marked what is called “German region” and influenced it so as to be transformed to the Federal Republic of Germany-to the Germany of today. History is all around us! And indeed, Germany has a rich history that influenced and shaped its culture, values and traditions. And history is inescapable. It is important to understand a country’s history in order to explain the past and to find out connections through time. Learning about the past provides insight for the present and the future. And these linkages between past and present lead human beings to have a deep understanding of the condition of being human. All people are living stories and so are German people! In order to understand the richness of European life in the 20th Century and to live in harmony with Europeans, it is essential to realise Germany’s past and how this past affects this country in 21st century and the whole Europe.



Tasks

You are a scientist in Germany, and you work in a laboratory. You are about to successfully complete a very important experiment. This experiment is about the invention of a time machine that will help people to travel back into time to better understand European history. But your machine is still unstable. As you are finishing the last settings, you suddenly find yourself travelling back into Germany's past. Although this was not planned, you take this



opportunity, before finding a solution to return to the present, so as to be able to report back to your fellow beings what you experienced.

During your stay in this past era, you will make an inventory of historical moments-events and situations-that you observed which are part of Germany's history, but they also affected and shaped European history. These historical moments should be part of a certain historical period that you find interesting or particularly important and influential for shaping European history.

The final outcome of your journey to the past will be a scientific report concerning what you experienced during your stay in the past times.

Make your research taking into consideration the socio-political situation of these important moments you observed. Analyse and synthesize them and also look for pictures, art and symbols related to each moment.

And don't forget! This scientific report should shed light to the European history!

Process

In order to produce this scientific report, you are going to work in groups of two (2).

Follow the steps and try to organise yourself, to be rigorous and conscientious, so as the final outcome to be of high quality.

This scientific report should be in digital form. You can develop it as a Word file document, or as a Powerpoint presentation or as a video file. It's up to you to decide which format you are going to choose!

Step 1: Go discover the surroundings alone

By working alone and not with teammate, go on the internet to start your research. Have a look on the interactive timeline on segu-geschichte.de (link below). You will identify and understand the different German historical periods that had an influence on the rest of Europe. Select the periods that you think are the most interesting to deal with (3 or 4 subjects max).



Photo: Putzger, *Historischer Weltatlas*, 89. Auflage, 1965



The unification of Germany by Bismarck, the 30-year war, the First World War or the Cold War can be examples. You don't have to spend so much time implementing this first step. Its purpose is to have an overview of German history and to prepare yourself for brainstorming.

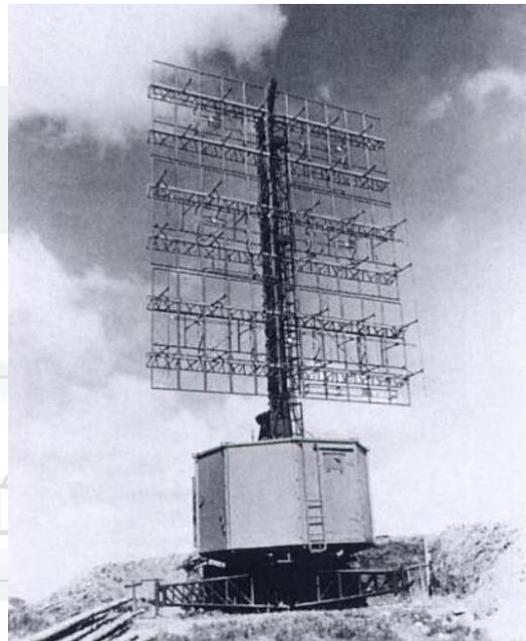
Step 2: Share your first impressions

Now it's time to meet with your partner to share the results of your preliminary research. Present, explain and discuss your findings. Tell your teammate what caught your attention and why. It could be helpful to keep notes or to develop a mind map regarding what historical moments grabbed your attention. Express freely and with respect to your partner your ideas and opinions. Discuss about the meaning of the term "European History" and try to define it. The result of this knowledge and insight exchange will be the determination of the historical period over which you are going to conduct your further research in order to discover certain historical moments-events and situations-that impacted European history.

Step 3: Organise your work for better control

You decided how you are going to proceed with your task! With which historical period you are going to deal with! Now it's time to organise your work!

Try to make up your mind as a team, on what aspects of the historical period of German history-events and situations-are you going to work and finally present your findings. You may agree to present your observations as a synthesis of the main events of the certain historical period. Or, you may decide to present them as an analysis of the geopolitical, sociological or economic situation. Another option is to work on the medical or technological advances of this period. Or, you may choose to refer to all of them somehow! Whatever you decide, don't forget that these aspects should show clearly how they influenced the European history.



After selecting the way you are going to present the results of your research, divide the work that should be done. Each one of you should undertake certain activities. Should focus on certain aspects in order to make the research. One of you may carry out research on the geopolitical and sociological historical moments and the other one may cope with the economic historical moments and technological advances.

Step 4: Looking for information

You will now get to the heart of the matter by searching for information regarding the aspects of the historical period you are going to include in your scientific report. And you are going to do it alone! Not with your partner!

Even if you have already decided to include in your scientific report an analysis of certain historical moments, in the end you have to synthesise them in order to present them in a more concrete and understandable way.

So, try, while you are conducting this research, to analyse as deep as you can the historical period. Try to find the connections between the German history and the European history and how these connections affect our lives in the 21st century. Find images of artwork, of symbols or picture that illustrate what exactly happened in certain historical moments. A picture is worth a thousand words! This is the only way to make your scientific report relevant and meaningful!



Caspar David Friedrich –

Photographic reproduction: [Cybershot800i](#).

And finally, don't forget that the images you are going to use should be royalty free and that you have to keep an archive of the sources you find. You are going to need them!

Step 5: Take stock of your discoveries

Once you have finished your research, meet with your partner to share your results. First, create a definition of the period you have studied. Then, discuss about the contents of your scientific report. Find out the titles and the sub-titles and write them down. Make the outline of your report. And of course, decide about the format of your report. You are going to present it as a Word file, or as a Powerpoint file, or as a video file? Discuss about the images you are going to include and also about the style of writing the text (word file), or the script (Powerpoint file or video file). In this report you have to refer also to the definitions you gave to the term "European History". You have also to write down about how European history was affected by the historical moments you identified and why. And also to point out the impact these moments have on our daily life in the 21st century. Proceed with putting your findings on "paper". Each one of you should write about the research she/he conducted. You may do it by yourself or in cooperation with your teammate, if you think that you need his/her help. After finishing the first draft, share it with your partner and make all the appropriate changes and correction. When you are doing this part of the work keep in mind that your feedback should be provided with respect. Don't criticise your partner's work. Only try to make the output better and your partner to feel that he/she develops himself/herself.

Step 6: Production of the final output

You have the content of your scientific research report ready! Now it's time to develop your final product. To develop the final output in digital form. Even if you decided to present your report in a Word format, or in Powerpoint format or in video format, try to be creative! Discuss and make up your mind regarding the design of your report. What colours are you going to

use, what fonts, the size of fonts etc. And don't forget to include images, even if you are going to create a Word file.

Step 7: Reference

Your final output is a scientific document. So, the information included should be accurate and properly referenced. In the end of your work, these sources should be cited. Only information from specific sources may be published. All sources have to be referenced in the same way. So, decide with your partner about it. One common citation style is APA (<https://apastyle.apa.org/>).

Step 8: Back to the present

After this journey to the past, you finally found a way to come back to the present! Your research assignment has come to an end! Now it's time to present your work, as a team, to your audience.

Even if you developed your final output in a Word file format, you have to find a creative way of presenting it! It may be a Powerpoint presentation with the main topics/points of your research, or to use another form of presenting it. It is important to define the historical period that caught your attention and why and to speak about the process you followed through this "journey" and what are the lessons-learned. Finish your presentation with a quote or a call-to-action!

Resources

The following resources can be used for fulfilling your task:

Name	Link
Google	http://www.google.de
Bundeszentral für politische Bildung	https://www.bpb.de/geschichte/deutsche-geschichte/
Wikipedia	https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geschichte_Deutschlands
ZDF	https://www.zdf.de/dokumentation/die-deutschen
Geo	https://www.geo.de/778-thma-deutsche-geschichte
SeGu – interaktive Übersicht über Epochen	https://segu-geschichte.de/zeittafel-geschichte/
APA citation	https://apastyle.apa.org/

Evaluation

By completing this activity, you will acquire the following knowledge, skills and attitudes:

Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discover and understand better the German history • Discover and understand better European history • Learn about important historical events • Learn important aspects of German history and its impact on European history • Understand the meaning of making connections between certain historical incidents. • Learn about citation methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop creative thinking and analytical thinking • Develop research skills to find out important and quality data/information • Find linkages between the past and the present times • Form and argue opinions • Develop political intelligence • Use of qualitative analysis • Develop writing skills • Compare multiple versions of events • Use of software like Word and Powerpoint or/and video production software for developing a scientific report • Effective use of the steps needed to be implemented so as a scientific report to be created • Develop presentation skills so as the message to be delivered effectively to the target audience. • Use of the gained knowledge to present an integrated product • Use of organizational skills to carry out the current activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness of cultural diversity in Berlin • Appreciation of the role of the history plays in our lives • Increase of confidence in using information effectively • Increase of confidence in communicating effectively a message • Be agile • Willingness to cooperate and be open-minded • Feel free to express ideas and opinions • Feel more creative and able to innovate • Be more open to new methods of learning • Be more empathetic

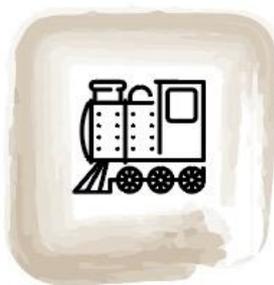
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selection of specific databases to find specific information.• Locate information by using electronic databases.• Develop information literacy skills	
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Conclusion

You are awesome! You managed to return to the present safe and sound! And richer as you gained valuable knowledge and insights regarding German and European history. About what it means to be human and to live in Europe in the 21st century! About what is needed in order to change and build a better society without repeating the mistakes of the past! Now have some rest, reflect about what you learned and spread it all over the world!



PAST-TIMES



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