

# Learning-Focused Lesson

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The Next Generation of Learning-Focused  
Plan for the concept, topic or skill – Not for the class period

Topic: Causes of War

<p><b>Learning Goals for this Lesson:</b></p> <p>I can identify the causes of different wars in history.</p> <p>I can evaluate how the past influences current events.</p> <p>I can support my opinions and theory with historical evidence.</p>	<p><b>Standards:</b></p> <p>WH.H.1.3- Use historical analysis and interpretation to: (1) identify issues and problems in the past, (3) analyze cause-and-effect relationships and multiple causations, (5) evaluate the influence of the past on contemporary issues;</p> <p>WH.H.1.4- Use historical research to: (2) obtain historical data from a variety of sources, (3) support interpretations with historical evidence;</p> <p>WH.H.7.3- Analyze economic and political rivalries, ethnic and regional conflicts, and nationalism and imperialism as underlying causes of war;</p> <p>WH.H.8.1- Evaluate global wars in terms of how they challenged political and economic power structures and gave rise to new balances of power;</p> <p>WH.H.8.7- Explain why terrorist groups and movements have proliferated and the extent of their impact on politics and society in various countries</p>
<p><b>Students will know:</b></p> <p>How to evaluate primary source documents and make inferences from those documents</p>	<p><b>Students will be able to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analyze primary source documents</li><li>• Make inferences from historical documents</li></ul>
<p><b>Lesson Essential Question:</b></p> <p>What are the causes of war?</p> <p>Can we learn from history to prevent war?</p>	
<p><b>Activating Strategy:</b></p> <p>Class will discuss what they think causes war.</p>	

## Key Vocabulary to preview and Vocabulary Strategy:

- Causation
- effect

## Lesson Instruction:

### Learning Activity 1:

Group inquiry into causes of war.

### Assessment Prompt for LA 1:

Students will be divided into groups. Number and size of groups will depend on total class size. Each group will be assigned one or two major wars that have occurred in world history. The number of wars each group is assigned will be determined by the total number of groups. Each group will be given primary source documents that relate to each war it is assigned. Groups will read and analyze the documents to determine whatever information they can about their assigned war(s).

### Graphic Organizer:

Written Document Analysis Worksheet

[http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/written\\_document\\_analysis\\_worksheet.pdf](http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/written_document_analysis_worksheet.pdf)

### Learning Activity 2:

Group project formation

### Assessment Prompt for LA 2:

Groups will be required to create a digital presentation to share with the entire class to explain the causes of their assigned war(s).

### Assignment:

Students will choose one cause of war from the class generated list. Students will write a five paragraph essay explaining how that item has caused wars in the past and how it may lead to future wars.

### Learning Activity 3:

Whole Class Discussion

### Assessment Prompt for LA 3:

Once each group has presented, the class as a whole will create a list of the various causes of war. Once the class list is created, the class as a whole will discuss current events in the Middle East and if the students think that the world as a whole, or certain countries, are headed towards

war. Students will be required to use the class generated list of causes to support their views.

**Summarizing Strategy:**

Students will compare their answers from the activating strategy to the class generated causes of war. They will determine how accurate they were in their original opinions