



Teacher material

Gulag

Activity Plan

I (evocation) 7 min

Pupils will have two minutes to write down, what they associate with the term 'GULAG'. (2 min)

The teacher will ask pupils to list the key words in turn and write them on the board. Existing key words are not repeated. When no new words can be added, the key words on the board will be systematized. (5 min)

After that everybody will say what was written and the teacher will write key words on the board, and try to systematize. For example names, dates, places, categories etc. This exercise gives the teacher an overview of what is well known and what is not.

II (learning)

Pupils are divided into groups. Each group will receive maps, photographs and texts. The exercises are finished collectively. (15 min)

The answers are discussed together. One group will answer, while the others have a chance to complement the answer. (20 min)

III (reflection) 3 min

Discussion: What were the reasons for creating the system of Gulag camps in the Soviet Union? Pupils should explain their position.

Sources:

1. <http://www.memo.ru/history/NKVD/GULAG/maps/ussri.htm> [Source A]
2. http://www.presentepassato.it/Cartine/urss/sistema_gulag.jpg [Source B]
3. *История сталинского ГУЛАГа. Конец 1920-х – первая половина 1950 – х годов. Собрание документов в семи томах, Том 4, Население Гулага: численность и условия содержания. Отв. ред. А. Б. Безбородов, В. М. Хрусталева "Российская политическая энциклопедия" (РОССПЭН), 2004, pp.55, 130; commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gulag_Prisione... [Source C]*