



Why do we learn what about World War 1?

Understanding what factors can shape the interpretations of history we are taught in school

[Teacher Material](#)
[Activity Plan](#)

Student Material

[Summary of the curriculum on World War 1 from a UK school](#)
[Why we learn about World War 1 in the way we do - from a UK school](#)
[Timeline of World War 1 at historiana.eu](#)

Acknowledgements

Learning activity written up by Helen Snelson from Module 2 of International School Network 1914/2014: *Europe lost and found in war and peace*, a project run by Interkulturelles Zentrum, Wien 2013-14. With the support of the Historiana learning and historical content teams and EUROCLIO trainees.

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More information about the sources is included in the material for teachers.

This learning activity is designed to help students to reflect upon how they are taught about World War 1 and to explore the factors that determine what they are taught. They question people to find out about how decisions are made about their school curriculum and then compare this to a curriculum from another school. They discuss the similarities and differences between the curricula and hypothesise as to why these exist. (There are opportunities to explore this aspect in more depth if the school has an E-twinning partner and/or if the teacher is part of the EUROCLIO network.) Finally, students decide how they would interpret World War 1 for an exhibition in a European history museum.



Learning outcomes

Students will

- Learn that their school history curriculum is an interpretation;
- Compare their school curriculum about World War 1 to that of another school;
- Hypothesise about the reasons for similarities and differences between the curricula;
- Identify the varied factors that influence the selection of these school curricula and discuss how these have shaped them as interpretations;
- Develop criteria for deciding what to include in an exhibition interpretation of the First World War for a museum of European history;
- Decide the contents of that exhibition and present to their peers and teacher in order to persuade them that their interpretation would be suitable.

1-2+ hours

14-16 years