



Life in Europe 1945-1949

14-16 years

What was it like to live in postwar Europe?

Teacher Material

[Activity Plan.](#)

[Life Stories at a Glance.](#)

[Picture sources to accompany some of the life stories files.](#)

[Evidence files grid.](#)

Student Material

[Life Stories.](#)

[Character Profile worksheet.](#)

[Textbook pages](#)

[Table of characters and countries.](#)

[Useful maps.](#)

[Evidence files grid.](#)

[Evidence files.](#)

In this module, students find out about a life story from the time and then use the experience of the person they have studied as evidence to support themes relating to Europe 1945-49. They can then go on to research from evidence files to present on the topic of postwar Europe.



In this activity your students will each study the life experience of a different person who lived in Europe in the period 1945-49. Students will then learn more about what life was like in Europe in these years from some textbook pages. They will suggest where their character's experiences support what is written in the textbook pages and what Europe's people needed to have a good life in the future. This central activity can be done in a lesson. There are also opportunities to extend the work to develop students' source work skills and/or to enable them to investigate life in 1945-49 in more depth.

Learning outcomes

Students will



1-2 hours (with variants and extensions)

- Gain a sense of period by studying the life experience of a person (or people) from the period 1945-9.
- Identify the extent to which life experiences were similar or different in 1945-9 and suggest reasons for these.
- Be able to describe in detail and with nuance what life was like in Europe 1945-49.
- Compare life in 1945-9 with life in Europe today.
- Learn that the European project was a suggested way forward to achieve peace and stability for war-torn Europe.

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