



Thinking Focus: **War**

Violent conflict between states involving weapons, destruction and death.

Curriculum Focus

Support pupils to develop a general understanding of war which they can then apply to specific ones such as WW1 and WW2. Use the ideas and resources to listed here to cover themes including definition, principles, causes, reasons, impact, theories, data and stories. Pupils can work independently or collaboratively through 3 levels of learning: Basic, Deeper and Long-term.

"The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting."

Sun Tzu, The Art of War

Knowledge, Skills & Values

Thinking about war requires maturity and an ability to understand how different views can lead to organised conflict and planned violence. Pupils will need to think broadly about the different aspects of war and be prepared to encounter the horrors that it can involve. Use your professional judgement to decide if and how to present this theme. Is teaching about war a motivation to seek peace?



Text

goodreads.com/author/quotes/1771.Sun_Tzu

Ancient Chinese military text applicable to non-violent conflict.

Use the ideas to win a debate or argument.

Data

ourworldindata.org/war-and-peace

Facts and figures of war in charts and graphs.

Identify trends, anomalies, connections, causes, surprises.

Map

bombsight.org

Map of WWII bombs dropped on London

Connect bomb explosions to current use of land; explain targets.

1. Basic Learning

What is war?

Why does war happen?

Choose a war from the last 100 years:

- Who fought and why?
- Was the world better, afterwards?
- How many people died?
- What could have happened instead?

Make a diorama of a scene from this war.

2. Deeper Learning

Are humans 'programmed' to fight wars?

What will war be like in the future?

Choose 2 or more wars:

- How were they similar?
- How were they different?

List at least 5 things common to all wars.

What is your personal theory about war?

Create a simple image to mean war & one for peace.

3. Long-term Learning

How do the principles of war relate to arguments?

How do the principles of war relate to physical fights?

What 5 key questions would you ask in order to understand any war?

Is war necessary? Is war ever 'good'?

Create a memorable and useful concept map of your learning about war. Use images, colour and shape.

Jus ad Bellum: The Right to go to War

Jus in Bello: The Rules of War



Graphic Novels

Maus by Art Spiegelman

Persopolis by Marjane Satrapi

Palestine by Joe Sacco

Fox from Sarajevo by Joe Kubert

Rules

[youtube.com/watch?v=HwpzzAefx9M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwpzzAefx9M)

A Red Cross short animation about the rules of war - Jus in Bello

Which rule is the most important?

Justification

bbc.co.uk/ethics/war/just/cause_1.shtml

Summary of Jus ad bellum - ethical justification for war.

Who decides if a war is just? Who has the right?

Hope

[youtube.com/watch?v=NC45TRP4lq0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NC45TRP4lq0)

The world today is the least violent that it has ever been.

Will it continue to be this way?