

# The Warsaw Uprising

## General lesson plan

Lesson objectives:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The student knows what the Warsaw Uprising was and what goals it was supposed to fulfil</li><li>• The student characterizes the framework of the Warsaw Uprising</li><li>• The student evaluates the reasons for the failure of the Warsaw Uprising and its consequences</li></ul>

Forms:

exploratory method, analysis of source materials, discussion.

List of sources and tools:

1. Warsaw Rising computer game
2. Oral History Archive of the Warsaw Rising Museum, <https://www.1944.pl/archiwum-historii-mowionej.html>
3. Text about the issuing of the order starting the uprising in the calendar of the Polish History Museum, <https://muzhp.pl/pl/e/1778/komendant-glowny-ak-gen-tadeusz-bor-komorowski-wydal-rozkaz-o-rozpozeciu-1-sierpnia-1944-r-o-godz-1700-powstania-w-warszawie>
4. Korzenie Miasta website <https://zdjecia.korzeniemiasta.pl/>

Before class, encourage students to play the Warsaw Rising game.

Which of the students heard something about the Warsaw Uprising and would like to share their knowledge? The teacher completes the answers so that basic information is provided at the introduction stage: <i>When the Germans were clearly losing the war, an uprising broke out in Warsaw on 1 August 1944.</i> <i>After 63 days of fighting, the uprising collapsed and failed to achieve its goal.</i> During this class, we will try to learn more about this topic and reflect on what led to the defeat of the uprising.	5 minutes
Who fought in the uprising? Soldiers of the Home Army and the civilians who supported them. The insurgents were just as numerous as the German soldiers, but they were much worse equipped and armed. Children did not fight - the few who participated in the uprising were engaged in auxiliary tasks, such as carrying dispatches. The insurgents were often young, but mature enough to make a conscious decision that they wanted to fight.  The characters in the Warsaw Rising game are imaginary, although they could be exemplary silhouettes of the insurgents. The task for the students is to read, in groups, the profiles of real participants in the uprising who survived and shared their memories in the Oral History Archive. Students look for answers to the following questions -	10 minutes

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. what did these people do during the uprising?</li> <li>2. did they previously belong to the underground movement?</li> <li>3. what important events from the period of the uprising do they talk about?</li> </ol> <p>People: Witold Bartnicki "Wiktor", Juliusz Kulesza "Julek", Maria Turowska "Myszka"</p>	
<p>After reading the descriptions, students present their answers to the questions posed. If any of the issues are omitted, the teacher presents the most important threads:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>The uprising was fought by units that secretly trained to fight throughout the war, such as the Zośka or Parasol Battalions. Less prepared but willing Warsaw residents also joined the fight.</i></li> <li>2. <i>In the early stages of the fighting, the insurgents achieved many successes - the capture of the Polish Security Printing Works, the Prudential building - Warsaw's tallest skyscraper at the time, or the capture and liberation of the KL Warschau concentration camp called "Gęsiówka."</i></li> <li>3. <i>After a few days, the insurgents began to defend themselves.</i></li> </ol>	5 minutes
<p><i>Maintaining success for a long time was not possible. What were the uprising's commanders hoping for? Did they think that the brave but poorly prepared insurgents would be able to permanently defeat the Germans and capture all of Warsaw?</i></p> <p>Let's take a look at the calendar page from the Polish History Museum. Students read the text and answer the questions on their own - why did the commanders decide to start the uprising? What were they hoping for? <i>The uprising was to last a few days, possibly defending itself for about 14 days until the Red Army crossed the Vistula River to come to its aid.</i></p> <p>The Soviets, however, did not help the insurgents and waited on the right bank of the Vistula River for the fall of the uprising, which if it was won, would make it difficult for the communists to take power in Poland.</p>	10 minutes
<p>The teacher displays the Korzenie Miasta website on the screen. The website contains data from several superimposed aerial maps - the user chooses between the right and left maps. By moving the vertical line the user can compare the city from different periods:</p> <p>July 27 - photos from before the outbreak of the uprising (you can see the roofs of buildings, Saski Palace is visible, there are no bomb holes anywhere).</p> <p>August 12 and September 5 - the city is on fire, it is difficult to see anything in the photos because of the clouds of smoke.</p> <p>November 4 - you can see that most of the buildings are burnt and there are no roofs, only the ruins of the walls stand. Bomb craters can be seen in the city squares, the Saski Palace is gone, and there are street quarters which are empty - there are not even ruins. It is worth pointing out to the students that even before the uprising, a part of the city was empty and completely demolished - this is the area where the ghetto was located. Depending on the availability of equipment - students can compare the presented maps on their own.</p>	10 minutes
<p>The uprising ended with huge losses and the destruction of almost all of Warsaw, it was a great tragedy - every fifth inhabitant of the city died. It is difficult to assess whether the lack of aid from the Soviets could have been foreseen. Whether or not we believe that the decision to start the uprising was right, we should remember the heroism and courage of the thousands of Warsaw residents who fought for freedom.</p>	5 minutes