

The Warsaw Uprising

Lesson III-Effects and consequences

Learning objectives - general	Lesson objectives:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I, 4. Placing historical processes, phenomena and facts in time and putting them in order and establishing cause and effect relationships. II, 3. Distinguishing between informative, explanatory and evaluative layers in historical narrative. II, 4. Explaining cause and effect relationships, analysing historical phenomena and processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The student is able to assess the scale of Polish losses in the Warsaw Uprising The student evaluates the implementation of the political goals of the uprising
Specific content - detailed	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> XXXIV, 4. the student characterizes the political and military activities of the Polish Underground State, including forms of resistance to the occupiers; XXXIV, 5. the student explains the causes and describes the consequences of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising and evaluates the attitude of the Allies and the Soviet Union toward the uprising. 	

Forms:

exploratory method, analysis of source materials, discussion.

List of sources and tools:

- Korzenie Miasta website, <https://zdjecia.korzeniemiasta.pl/>
- 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>
- IPN's virtual exhibition on Operation Tempest, https://ipn.gov.pl/strony-zewnetrzne/wystawy/akcja_burza/index.html

<p>A reminder of the previous lesson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - after initial successes on 2-4 August, the insurgents went on the defensive. - deprived of Soviet support, the insurgents had to surrender to the better armed and equipped German forces - on 2 October, the command of the uprising signed a treaty on the cessation of hostilities. 	5 minutes
<p>Teacher's introduction - after signing the capitulation, the inhabitants of Warsaw were evacuated. One of the conditions of surrender was that the combatants be recognized as soldiers and treated as prisoners of war. After the evacuation of the city, the process of consistent and planned destruction of the remnants of Warsaw began - buildings were blown up and burned in accordance with Hitler's personal orders. Warsaw was to be wiped off the map and demolished to its foundations.</p>	5 minutes

<p>The teacher presents specific figures: One in five insurgents died during the uprising - about 10,000 soldiers 150-200 thousand civilians - city residents - were killed More than 600,000 of the city's residents were forcibly displaced, including about 150,000 who were sent to labour camps or concentration camps.</p>	
<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: 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). 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. 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>	5 minutes
<p>Group work - students are divided into 4 groups. Based on the information provided in the introduction, each group synthesizes and describes the effects of the uprising: gr. 1 - social /breaking up families, unprecedented migration within the country, everyone lost someone close, destruction of the Polish intelligentsia, start of persecution of Home Army activists/ gr. 2 - military /the uprising ended in defeat, the shattered Home Army lost any combat capability./ gr. 3 - political / the disintegration of the Home Army eliminated the obstacle to the Sovietization of Poland, the seizure of the ruins by the Red Army - the "liberation of Warsaw" laid the groundwork for narratives about the key role of the USSR in defeating the Germans, Stalin's political decision to rebuild Warsaw legitimized the communist takeover in the eyes of many Poles. gr. 4 - economic / material damage to Warsaw was estimated in 2004 at over 18 billion zlotys from 1939. Today it is an amount worth more than 65 billion zlotys. Huge costs also include the death or inability to work of many people, weakening the economy, and the costs related to the care and treatment of war invalids/ The groups work for 10 minutes, after which they present their findings. The teacher corrects or supplements the students' findings as necessary. The most important effects described above should be mentioned in the discussion.</p>	20 minutes
<p>Was it worth it? Was the decision to start the uprising right? The teacher encourages students to express and justify their own opinions. The teacher concludes by pointing out to beware of ahistorical thinking. We have an advantage over the commanders of the uprising, because we know how history unfolded (we know what talks were held day after day in London and Moscow, we have access to then-secret documents). On the other hand, the attempt to fairly assess the command's decision (extremely difficult), should not affect the positive assessment of the heroism of the freedom fighters.</p>	10 minutes