

LESSON PLAN - HISTORY - 3rd stage of education

Topic: Miracle on the Vistula River or human genius? - The Polish-Bolshevik war

Participants: secondary school or vocational school students, the lesson can also be conducted with other groups of young people over 14 years of age.

Duration: 45 minutes

Core curriculum

Teaching content - specific requirements:

XLI The struggle for the rebirth of the Polish state after the First World War.

The student:

5) characterises the process of the formation of the Polish eastern border, with particular reference to the Polish-Bolshevik War;

Lesson objectives:

The student:

- understands the significance of the Polish-Bolshevik War
- understands the role played by Lt. Col. Jan Kowalewski
- knows the stages of the Polish-Bolshevik War
- knows when the Battle of Warsaw took place
- explains the terms: Battle of Warsaw, Miracle on the Vistula River, Peace of Riga, General Żeligowski's Rebellion
- recognises different narrative perspectives in the source texts

Materials:

→ Cyphers Game - is an IPN gaming project that takes a closer look at the history of the Polish-Bolshevik War. It is available for free on Steam and is compatible with VR goggles, Windows PC and mobile devices supported by iOS and Android.

It was developed as an FPP (first person perspective) game, consisting of three missions. They describe the course of the Polish-Bolshevik War and the influence of Polish cryptology on its victorious outcome. Each player can break the Bolshevik ciphers and destroy a Soviet armoured train. Players take on the roles of authentic soldiers of the 1920 Polish-Bolshevik War, operate complex communication devices from 100 years ago and save Europe from communist enslavement.

<https://ipn.gov.pl/pl/dla-mediow/materialy-do-pobrania/162352,Gra-szyfrow-najnowszy-projekt-gamingowy-Institutu-Pamieci-Narodowej.html>

→ Red Army ciphertexts intercepted and translated by Jan Kowalski - they can be printed out or displayed on the blackboard (Appendix no. 1)

→ a statement by Vladimir Lenin on the Polish-Bolshevik War (Appendix no. 2)

→ Access to the Internet - The "Wiktoria 1920" project was prepared by the KARTA Centre on behalf of the NIEPODLEGŁA Programme Office, as part of the

celebrations of the 100th anniversary of Poland's regaining independence and rebuilding Polish statehood. Materials: www.niepodlegla.gov.pl. Copyright: "Niepodległa" Programme Office.

→ Sheets of paper or notebooks, pens

→ Laptops or telephones - at least one in each group

COURSE OF THE LESSON

No.	Course of the lesson	Time in minutes	Materials
1.	<p>Before the lesson, the students were asked to familiarize themselves with Cyphers Game. The lesson starts with a discussion about the game: which historical events are referred to in the game's storyline, who succeeded in completing the game's stages, what did they achieve.</p> <p>https://ipn.gov.pl/pl/dla-mediow/materialy-do-pobrania/162352,Gra-szyfrow-najnowszy-projekt-gamingowy-Instytutu-Pamieci-Narodowej.html</p>	3 min.	
2.	<p>If the students do not say so themselves, the teacher informs them that the various missions from the game relate to the stages of the Polish-Bolshevik War:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Vilnius Operation - the Kiev Operation - The Battle of Warsaw 13-25 August 1920 - General Żeligowski's rebellion and the occupation of Vilnius - Peace of Riga 	5 min.	
3.	<p>Origin and causes of the Polish-Bolshevik War</p> <p>A discussion on the situation of Poland after the First World War. Identifying the causes of the Polish-Bolshevik War. Emphasising the importance of the withdrawal of the German army from the area of the former Russian Empire, to the 1914 border, which was replaced by the Bolshevik Western Army as a result of bilateral agreements, as well as the border between Poland and Russia that has not been established for several hundred years and the non-recognition of the Bolshevik rule in Russia in the international arena.</p> <p>Historians are disputing which battles can be considered the beginnings of the war.</p> <p>Events that are considered to be the causes of the Polish-Bolshevik War:</p>	5 min.	

	<p>It is usually assumed that the war began on 14 February 1919 - with the fights near Grodno</p> <p>Today, it is increasingly said that the battles of Vilnius, which began on 3 January 1919, are considered the beginning of the Polish-Bolshevik War.</p>		
4.	<p>Miracle on the Vistula River or human genius?</p> <p>The teacher discusses the stages of the Polish-Bolshevik War and shows the Soviet dispatches deciphered by Jan Kowalewski, printed out or displayed on the board - Appendix no. 1. We discuss Józef Piłsudski's strategy and the significance of the dispatches deciphered by Jan Kowalewski.</p>	10 min.	Appendix no. 1
5.	<p>The impact and significance of the Polish-Bolshevik War</p> <p>a) impact of the war</p> <p>b) significance - analysis of the source text by V. Lenin on the Polish-Soviet War - Appendix no. 2.</p>	5 min.	Appendix no. 2
6.	<p>Group work - Victory of 1920 - notes from the war</p> <p>Students, working in groups, choose one week of the Polish-Bolshevik War, using the website: https://niepodlegla.gov.pl/o-niepodleglej/ . They then analyse the information and write down their conclusions. They try to answer the question: who are the authors of the statements? What are the published photographs and posters about/what do they represent? From what perspective do they portray the events of the war? Each group presents its findings in front of the class. The exercise is designed to show a multi-voiced narrative of the Polish-Soviet War. Students will read statements representing the perspectives of authors with different worldviews, professions or places of residence. With this variety of testimonies, perhaps they will gain a better understanding of the events of one hundred years ago. This activity can also be given to students to complete at home, or it can be turned into a larger history project carried out in a separate lesson unit.</p>	15 min.	laptops or telephones - at least one in each group, notebooks or sheets of paper, pens
7.	End of lesson and final conclusions.	2 min.	

Appendix no. 1

source

of

illustrations

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b3/Kowalewski_1920.jpg

https://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jan_Kowalewski#/media/Plik:Szyfrogram_sowiecki_1920.jpg

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Stacja Oddział

Przyjęto na stacji dnia

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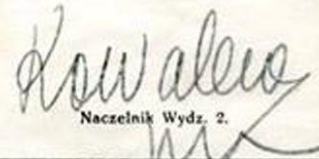
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Ścisłe tajne.

Tłumaczenie szyfrogramu.

Od: Sztabu IV armji Do: Sztabu Zachodn. frontu ^{Przejęto: 14/VIII} ^{Odczytano: 15/VIII.}

U w a g i	T R E Ś Ć ^{Rev. 441.}
Oficerów /- równa się - „komandnyj so-taw”, walczących - równa się - „bojcow”	<p>KOMZA. dn. 13/VIII.</p> <p>DO Szefa Sztabu Zachodniego frontu.-</p> <p>Podaje meldunek o stanie liczebnym IV armji według danych, na 10/VIII.</p> <p><u>12 dywizja strzelców</u>: oficerów-518, bagnetów 2823, szabel - 376, walczących - piechoty: 3540, zaprowiantowanych - 9263, karabinów maszynowych - 86. Dział polowych - 24, ciężkich dział - 3, koni - 3083, wozów - 837.</p> <p><u>18-a dywizja strzelców</u>: oficerów-482, bagnetów-4289, walczących - piechoty:- 6807, zaprowiantowanych - 11490. Karabinów maszynowych - 97, automatów - 29, dział polowych - 23, koni-1606, wozów - 560.</p> <p><u>53-a dywizja strzelców</u>: oficerów-573, bagnetów - 2146, szabel - 62, walczących piech. - 4593, zaprowiantowanych-10636, karabinów maszynowych - 7, automatów - 25, dział pol. - 24, koni-2530, wozów - 712.</p> <p><u>54-a dywizja strzelców</u>: oficerów- 660, bagnetów - 3218, walczących piech.- 5624, szabel - 160, zaprowiantowanych - 13273, karabinów maszynowych - 119, automatów - 28, dział polowych - 6, koni - 752, wozów - 237.</p> <p><u>163 brygada strzelców</u>: oficerów-206, bagnetów - 1390, walczących piech.-2406, zaprowiantowanych - 3786, karabinów maszynowych - 35, dział polowych - 8, koni (brak końca)</p>
Deszyfrował:	Za zgodność z oryginałem:  Naczelnik Wydz. 2.

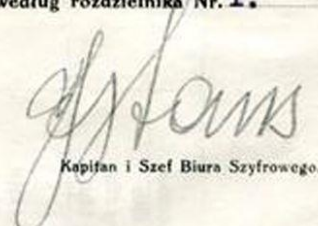
NACZELNE DOWÓDZTWO W. P.
(SZTAB GENERALNY)

Warszawa, dnia

192

Oddział nr. Biuro Szyfrowe
Sz. № 3552, II.

Rozesłano według rozdzielnika Nr. 1.



Kapitan i Szef Biura Szyfrowego.

Appendix no. 2

Vladimir Lenin, 2 October 1920.

If Poland had become Soviet, if the workers of Warsaw had received from Soviet Russia the help they had been waiting for and welcomed with joy, the Treaty of Versailles would have been shattered and the whole international system, established thanks to the victories over Germany, would have collapsed. France would not have a buffer separating Germany from Soviet Russia. It would not have a battering ram against the Soviet Republic. [...] This is why the Red Army's arrival near Warsaw marked an international crisis. [...] The matter took such a turn that a few more days of the Red Army's victorious offensive, and not only would Warsaw have been captured (which was not so important), but the Treaty of Versailles would have been shattered. This is the international significance of this Polish war.

W.I. Lenin, "Dziela", Warsaw 1955, vol. 31, pp. 307-308.