

Theme: Olsztyn - local stories from World War II

Lesson duration: 45'

Year: 11-16

Learning Objective:

The general objective of the lesson is to encourage students to discover family and local war stories and develop a sense of national identity.

Objective:

- student knows the sequence of historical events,
- student knows the basic dates and events during World War II,
- student knows that the end of World War II is not the end of the human tragedy,
- student wants to learn about the history of his family/town/country.

During the lesson, the aim of socio-cultural competences was to acquire the skills of:

- listening to each other;
- working in a group;
- assessing one's own observations;
- arguing one's own opinion.

Methods and techniques used to achieve the lesson objective:

- lecture,
- teacher's personal example - family stories,
- description,
- films,
- photos,
- discussion,
- educational game,
- exhibition,
- checking basic knowledge by asking questions.

Methods of work:

- providing - based on the lecture and explanation of events, description and talk;
- exposing - a presentation of the film and photos and an exhibition of the family collection of postcards;
- activating - educational game - wheel of fortune with questions.

Materials and Resources:

The lesson was prepared based on audio, visual and audiovisual materials, available interviews with witnesses of historical events and scientists dealing with war topics:

1. Audio: statement by Karol Sacewicz, PhD, head of the IPN branch in Olsztyn.

(<https://radioolsztyn.pl/w-olsztynie-uczczono-bohaterow-wrzesnia-1939-roku-starali-sie-zachowac-polskosc/01714465>)

2. Photos:

- Monument to soldiers at the military cemetery on Szarych Szeregów Street in Olsztyn



Fot. A. Piedziewicz

Source: <https://radioolsztyn.pl/w-olsztynie-uczczono-bohaterow-wrzesnia-1939-roku-starali-sie-zachowac-polskosc/01714465>

- Representatives of the Institute of National Remembrance commemorated the heroes of September 1939 who died in Olsztyn.



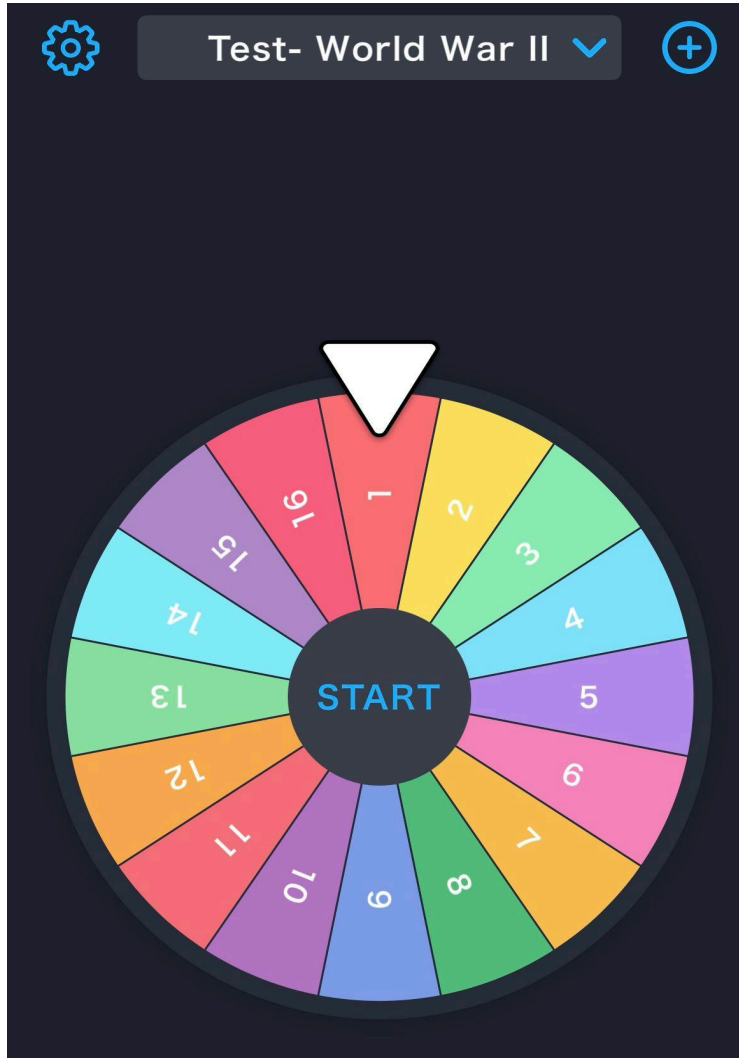
Fot. A. Piedziewicz

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Films:

- of the film "In the Lair of the Beast" -
https://www.facebook.com/AllensteinOlsztyn/videos/181232303221788?locale=pt_BR;
 - fragments of the film
https://www.facebook.com/AllensteinOlsztyn/videos/1040639116299162?locale=pt_BR;
3. memories of Andrzej Zawadzki (son of the then deputy secretary of the Olsztyn commune - <http://www.archiwum.olsztyn-jurajski.pl/aktualnosci/3292>;
 4. a family collection of old postcards from Olsztyn from the war period - in a very close family of a teacher, postcards with the image of Olsztyn (streets, buildings, people, events) are collected;
 5. websites:
 - <https://visit.olsztyn.eu/category/2/historia-olsztyna#:~:text=W%201939%20r.,zamordowany%20w%20obozie%20koncentracyjnym%20Hohenbruch.>;
 - <https://www.pap.pl/aktualnosci/makabryczne-dni-w-historii-olsztyna-mordy-gwalty-i-rabunki>;
 - <https://przystanekhistoria.pl/pa2/tematy/okupacja-sowiecka/97890.Mitologia-wyzwolenia-Warmii-i-Mazur-przez-Armie-Czerwona.html>;
 6. Wheel of Fortune with prepared questions:
 1. What was the ghetto?
 2. What were the extermination camps?
 3. Why were the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?
 4. What date is considered to be the start of World War II?
 5. Where was the first battleship Schleswig-Holstein to open fire at 4:45?
 6. In accordance with the Yalta agreements, how many occupation zones was the territory of Germany divided into after World War II?
 7. Name the four occupation zones into which the territory of the Third Reich was divided after the war.
 8. Name two countries that remained neutral until the end of World War II.
 9. Give the date of the USSR's aggression against Poland.
 10. Who was the prime minister of the Polish government-in-exile until July 1943?
 11. What was the Holocaust?
 12. What was Operation Barbarossa?

13. What were the „Łagry” (polish)?
14. Explain the abbreviation AK.
15. Name two countries that were allies of Poland.
16. Who formed the so-called Big Three?



Lesson plan

Stages	Teaching and Learning Activities	Materials	Time Allotment
I Opening	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Greet student 2. Discussion of current affairs 3. Presentation of the lesson topic: Olsztyn - local stories from World War II and the general objective of the lesson. 		5'
Main Activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to the lecture and reminder of basic information about the beginning of World War II in the world; 2. Description of the situation of the city of Olsztyn before 1939; 3. Lecture on the history of Olsztyn in the years 1939-1945; 4. Presentation of the city's situation after 1945; 5. Reflection and discussion; 6. Viewing the exhibition of family postcards prepared in the classroom; 7. A test of questions drawn on the wheel of fortune. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presentation; • photos; • films; • interviews; • postcard collection - exhibition; • wheel of fortune. 	30'
Closing Activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Homework: What happened during the war in my town? 2. Ask the students about how they feel. 3. Feedback -Students answer the questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we know? • How will we use it? • What was conducive to learning? • What did we like? • What will we give up next time? 4. Farewell 		10'

Description of the lesson:

The lesson begins with a welcome and a discussion of the current affairs of the class. Then the topic and main goal of the lesson are given.

The lecture begins with a review of the most important events during the outbreak of World War II and a presentation of the city of Olsztyn before 1939.

Then a description of Olsztyn in the years 1939-1945. The lecture ends with a description of events and an audiovisual presentation showing the "end of the war" in the city of Olsztyn and the entry of the "liberating" Red Army. After the lecture, there is time for a short reflection and discussion.

In order to systematize knowledge, questions placed on the wheel of fortune have been prepared. The student answers the drawn question.

After the main activities, students receive homework.

At the end of the lesson, students can evaluate the activities. During the exchange of opinions, we will consider: What do we know?

- How will we use it?
- What was conducive to learning?
- What did we like?
- What will we give up next time?

The lesson ends with a farewell to the students.

Homework: What happened during the war in my town? Prepare a presentation or speech about the history of your city in the years 1939-1945.

- Talk to your parents about family stories
- find information about your city during the war.

Evaluation results:

An effort was made to ensure that the lesson was not boring for the students. Films and photos were also used during the lecture. A mini exhibition was also prepared in the room. At the end of the lesson, the students' knowledge was tested through a didactic game.

The lesson explored local and family histories from the teacher's hometown. Students were given homework to learn about their own family and/or local histories as well.

There is also time for feedback from students. This is important because it will give us feedback on what students liked and what to skip next time when preparing a lesson.

Additional information:

The lesson was prepared for a group of 8 students aged 11-16 at the Polish School "Lajkonik" at the Association for the Support of the Polish Language, Polish History and Culture "Lajkonik" e. V. with a branch in Offenburg, Germany (<https://lajkonik-freiburg.de/pl/>).

The choice of the lesson topic is not accidental. It is the teacher's hometown and the partner city of Offenburg. The cooperation between the cities is advanced. They are organized as part of the cooperation of exchanges of students from schools and universities. The secondary goal of the discussed topic is therefore to promote the city of Olsztyn and learn about its history. The 80th anniversary of the end of World War II is of particular importance for the history of Olsztyn. While the conventional end of the war falls in 1945, according to historians and witnesses of historical events, the war began in Olsztyn. In historical descriptions, in 1945, with the entry of the "Red Army" troops into the city of Olsztyn, tragedy and hell for the residents began. Using the example of the city of Olsztyn, it was shown that the year of the end of World War II is only conventional...