



Protecting the Tyne: Gott Strafe England

Lesson Plan: Gott Strafe England	
Teacher/s	Date
Subject History	Year
Learning Objectives Understand connections between local, regional, national and international history. Understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims.	Success Criteria The children will be aware of the role of propaganda and morale on both sides during the First World War.
Key Questions Why would many German people enjoy or sympathise with the <i>Gott Strafe</i> propaganda campaign? Why would images of hi-tec weapons like airships and submarines be a popular theme for a propaganda campaign? Both sides called upon God to support them during the war. Why do this in both prayers and propaganda?	
Starter Activity/Introduction The <i>Gott Strafe</i> campaign was very popular and approved by the Kaiser. It reflected the strong views of many Germans that Britain should have stayed neutral during the conflict. Stickers like the resource in this activity weren't official but were often placed on letters next to postage stamps. Discuss the range of new, and for the time, hi-tec weapons that made the war so grim. Think why people might be pleased to see images of them deploying against an enemy.	Resources These websites are a useful starting point for online research: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_German_weapons_of_World_War_I http://nationalinterest.org/feature/the-five-deadliest-weapons-world-war-i-11010
Main Activity Use the internet to research the wide variety of German weapons: search terms might include First World War/ World War One U-boat, Big Bertha, Flammenwerfer, Zeppelin, Albatross, German sea or naval mines.	Resources <i>Gott Strafe</i> England activity sheets
Plenary Compare and contrast the children's chosen weapons and captions. Which work best and why?	Resources





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Many Germans had expected Britain to stay out of the war in 1914 and felt betrayed when the British fought alongside the French. ***Gott Strafe England*** was a popular propaganda campaign in Germany during the First World War. The slogan meant God Punish England. It was used on posters, postcards and stickers, like this image. Here the latest German weapons are going into action: an aeroplane, a submarine and an airship.

What other German weapons do you know about: machine guns, the big guns of the artillery, mines dropped by submarines, flame throwers? Research one or two German weapons of your choice and design a new sticker for the *Gott Strafe* campaign. Work your ideas up in rough and use the blank sticker on the next page for your finished design.



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