

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT
Lesson Title - Wilson's Fourteen Points
From Lisa Bastien

Grade: 11th

Length of class period: 85 minute block

Inquiry: (What essential question are students answering, what problem are they solving, or what decision are they making?)

What role did America play in forming a treaty after World War I?

Objectives: (What content and skills do you expect students to learn from this lesson?)

Students will be able to:

- explain the complexities of creating a treaty that will satisfy the interests of all parties involved
- analyze how successful the Treaty of Versailles will be at maintaining peace post WWI

Materials: (What primary sources or local resources are the basis for this lesson?)

Copy of Wilson's Fourteen Points (see attached)

Peace treaty assignment (see attached)

Activities: (What will you and your students do during the lesson to promote learning?)

- Students should have background knowledge from previous lessons of the causes of WWI, the fighting, American involvement and the collapse of Germany.
- Students in groups of three will create a peace treaty proposal. In that proposal students will have to:
 - address each of the issues that caused the war, thinking of ways to prevent the problem in the future
 - consider issues that caused the U.S. to enter the war
 - consider war reparations
 - try to maintain peace for the future while keeping the Allied nations satisfied
- When the groups have completed their treaties they will present to the class, explaining their reasons for each aspect. After each has presented the whole class should discuss which points should absolutely be included
- Give each student a copy of Wilson's Fourteen Points. Within their groups they will compare their peace treaty with Wilson's Fourteen Points (consider having them create a Venn Diagram)
- Together in their groups they should respond to the following questions after analyzing Wilson's Fourteen Points (see attached)
 - How will the 'Big Four' react to Wilson's proposal? Why?
 - How will the Axis powers react to Wilson's proposal? Why?
 - Does this peace treaty propose a plan that would help avoid future

international problem? Explain

- Teacher will discuss with the whole class how the Allies reacted to Wilson's Plan and the how the Treaty of Versailles came to be the final product.
- Individual Journal Entry: Does the Treaty of Versailles create a lasting peace plan for the world? Explain why or why not

How will you assess what student learned during this lesson?

Group participation in:

- creating and presenting WWI peace treaty
- completing the Venn Diagram (comparing group's peace treaty with Wilson's Fourteen Points)
- answering the questions about Wilson's Fourteen Points

Individual response to the Journal Question

Connecticut Framework Performance Standards:

1.3 Provide examples of conflict and cooperation in world affairs

As a group create a peace treaty proposal that will be presented to class for discussion. In your proposal:

- address each of the issues that caused the war, thinking of ways to prevent the problem in the future
- consider issues that caused the U.S. to enter the war
- consider war reparations
- try to maintain peace for the future while keeping the Allied nations satisfied

Be able to explain and defend your reasoning for each part of your treaty.

Wilson's Fourteen Points

I. Open covenants of peace, openly arrived at, after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view.

II. Absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas, outside territorial waters, alike in peace and in war, except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action for the enforcement of international covenants.

III. The removal, so far as possible, of all economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade conditions among all the nations consenting to the peace and associating themselves for its maintenance.

IV. Adequate guarantees given and taken that national armaments will be reduced to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety.

V. A free, open-minded, and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims, based upon a strict observance of the principle that in determining all such questions of sovereignty the interests of the populations concerned must have equal weight with the equitable claims of the government whose title is to be determined.

VI. The evacuation of all Russian territory and such a settlement of all questions affecting Russia as will secure the best and freest cooperation of the other nations of the world in obtaining for her an unhampered and unembarrassed opportunity for the independent determination of her own political development and national policy and assure her of a sincere welcome into the society of free nations under institutions of her own choosing; and, more than a welcome, assistance also of every kind that she may need and may herself desire. The treatment accorded Russia by her sister nations in the months to come will be the acid test of their good will, of their comprehension of her needs as distinguished from their own interests, and of their intelligent and unselfish sympathy.

VII. Belgium, the whole world will agree, must be evacuated and restored, without any attempt to limit the sovereignty which she enjoys in common with all other free nations. No other single act will serve as this will serve to restore confidence among the nations in the laws which they have themselves set and determined for the government of their relations with one another. Without this healing act the whole structure and validity of international law is forever impaired.

VIII. All French territory should be freed and the invaded portions restored, and the wrong done to France by Prussia in 1871 in the matter of Alsace-Lorraine, which has unsettled the peace of the world for nearly fifty years, should be righted, in order that peace may once more be made secure in the interest of all.

IX. A readjustment of the frontiers of Italy should be effected along clearly recognizable lines of nationality.

X. The peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity to autonomous development.

XI. Rumania, Serbia, and Montenegro should be evacuated; occupied territories restored; Serbia accorded free and secure access to the sea; and the relations of the several Balkan states to one another determined by friendly counsel along historically established lines of allegiance and nationality; and international guarantees of the political and economic independence and territorial integrity of the several Balkan states should be entered into.

XII. The Turkish portion of the present Ottoman Empire should be assured a secure sovereignty, but the other nationalities which are now under Turkish rule should be assured an undoubted security of life and an absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development, and the Dardanelles should be permanently opened as a free passage to the ships and commerce of all nations under international guarantees.

XIII. An independent Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea, and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.

XIV. A general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike.

In regard to these essential rectifications of wrong and assertions of right we feel ourselves to be intimate partners of all the governments and peoples associated together against the Imperialists. We cannot be separated in interest or divided in purpose. We stand together until the end. For such arrangements and covenants we are willing to fight and to continue to fight until they are achieved; but only because we wish the right to prevail and desire a just and stable peace such as can be secured only by removing the chief provocations to war, which this program does remove. We have no jealousy of German greatness, and there is nothing in this program that impairs it. We grudge her no achievement or distinction of learning or of pacific enterprise such as have made her record very bright and very enviable. We do not wish to injure her or to block in any way her legitimate influence or power. We do not wish to fight her either with arms or with hostile arrangements of trade if she is willing to associate herself with us and the other peace-loving nations of the world in covenants of justice and law and fair dealing. We wish her only to accept a place of equality among the peoples of the world, -- the new world in which we now live, -- instead of a place of mastery.

http://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/President_Wilson%27s_Fourteen_Points

Names: _____

Together with your partners respond to the following questions after reading Wilson's Fourteen Points

1.) How will the 'Big Four' react to Wilson's proposal? Why?

2.) How will the Axis powers react to Wilson's proposal? Why?

3.) Does this peace treaty propose a plan that would help avoid future international problem? Explain