

# **Teaching American History Project**

## **Atlantic Charter**

### ***What is to become of the world after war?***

By: Michael Meyer

**Grade:** 7-12

**Length of Period:** 84 Minutes

**Inquiry:** What is the best plan for the world after World War Two is over?

#### **Objectives:**

Students will know and be able to:

- Investigate a primary source document and analyze its significance to history.
- Assess world problems and create actionable solutions.
- Empathize with former world leaders by revisiting their problems.

#### **Materials:**

- Copy of Atlantic Charter for each student found at <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wwii/atlantic.htm>
- Pen and Paper for each student

#### **Activities:**

- Initiation: Ask short answer question to be written down and assessed: If you could change one thing about the world what would it be, and how could it be actually changed?
- Have students in groups of two give one of them the position of England and the other the position of the United States. Have them create a list of what caused WWII and ask them to make a formal list of 10 ways these problems could be avoided in the future.
- Give to each group a copy of The Atlantic Charter. Ask them to explain the purpose of the charter then have them compare the concepts of the charter with the concepts of their piece.
- Students will then complete a page of critical thinking questions about the Atlantic Charter which once completed will be discussed in a full class setting.
- Closure: Students will be asked if their answers to the initiation question have changed.

#### **Assessment:**

- Informal: Collect Student Charter
- Formal: Collect and grade student's critical thinking questions.

#### **CT State Standards:**

- use primary source documents to analyze multiple perspectives
- initiate questions and hypotheses about historic events they are studying
- display empathy for people who have lived in the past

## Critical Thinking Questions for The Atlantic Charter

1. What is the purpose of this document?
2. Why is it important to the authors of the Atlantic Charter that no countries seek to expand their borders?
3. Is the fourth point of the charter an attainable goal? Why is/isn't it attainable?
4. What is the benefit of a worldwide collaborative trade?
5. What are the negative aspects of worldwide collaborative trade?
6. Why does the charter focus on Nazis and not the Italians or Japanese?
7. Why is freedom of the seas important to the authors of the charter?
8. The eighth article of the charter calls for abandonment of force, what does this mean?
9. Is the abandonment of force a realistic goal? Why or Why not?
10. Predict/analyze the success of the goals of the charter.

1. With a partner Create 8 solutions to the problems the world faced during WWII.
2. Read the Atlantic Charter and summarize the 8 articles in your own words
3. Compare the two, do any of yours match up?

	Your 8 ways to fix the world	Summery of The Articles of the Atlantic Charter
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

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