**Topic 9: ‘International conflicts and crises in the 20th century (I) – the two world wars’**

**Case study: War and Inventions—Medicine**

**Activity 1: War and Harm**

Students are divided into 4 groups and each group completes the related learning activity.

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| **Group 1** | **Group 2** |
| Study Source A below, and answer the related questions.  Source A: The following passage is related to a new type of weapon and the damage it did.   |  | | --- | | On 22 April 1915, German forces’ attack featured a weapon that had not been used before on the Western Front…  When the gas attack was over … The [river] bank was absolutely covered with bodies of gassed men. Must have been over 1,000 of them. And down in the stream, there was also full of bodies as well.  Edgar Huggins (British soldier)  Our eyes were streaming with water and with pain. Luckily again for me I was one of those who could still see... Anyone who could see, like I was, would go in front. And half a dozen or 10 or 12 men each with their hand on the shoulder of the man in front of them and lines – you could see lines and lines and lines of British soldiers going back with rolls of bandages round their eyes going back towards Ypres.  Beryl Hutchinson (British soldier) |   Source: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/voices-of-the-first-world-war-gas-attack-at-ypres>   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Related war: |  | Location of battle: |  | | Weapon used: |  | | | | Damage brought by this weapon: |  | | | | Study Source B below, and answer the related questions.  Source B: The following passage is related to a new type of weapon and the damage it did.   |  | | --- | | In December 1915, Allied commanders had met to discuss strategies for the following year and agreed to launch a joint French and British attack in the region of the River Somme in the summer of 1916.  The offensive in Somme began at 07.30am on 1 July 1916. The inexperienced British soldiers were ordered to advance in long, close-formed lines. German machine-gunners emerged from their intact shelters and mowed down the oncoming British infantry.  57,470 British casualties – of which 19,240 were killed – making the first day of the Somme the bloodiest in British military history. |   Source: <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/what-happened-during-the-battle-of-the-somme>   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Related war: |  | Location of battle: |  | | Weapon used: |  | | | | Damage brought by this weapon: |  | | | |
| **Group 3** | **Group 4** |
| Study Source C below, and answer the related questions.  Source C: The following passage is related to a new type of weapon and the damage it did.   |  | | --- | | In the late evening of 13th February 1945, several hundred British bombers flew a first raid against the city centre of Dresden. They were followed a few hours later by an even more devastating wave of attack, and during the daytime on 14th and 15th February 1945 by American B-17 bombers. These four air raids reduced practically the whole of the centre of Dresden to rubble, and cost the lives of 25,000 inhabitants.  In its sixth year, the Second World War which Germany had unleashed and which had already claimed so many millions of victims, returned to Dresden with a vengeance. The bombing struck a city which was home to hundreds of thousands of ordinary people, and a cradle of priceless cultural treasures, but at the same time a city which was fully integrated into the German war effort. |   Adapted from: <https://www.dresden.de/en/city/07/13th-of-February.php>   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Related war |  | | Location of battle: |  | | Weapon used: |  | | | | | Damage brought by this weapon: | |  | | | | Study Source D below, and answer the related questions.  Source D: The following passage is related to a new type of weapon and the damage it did.   |  | | --- | | 8:15 am on August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb used against human beings was dropped on Hiroshima. The atomic bomb exploded 43 seconds after being dropped, creating a fireball that blazed like a small sun. More than 1,000,000℃ at its center, in one second the fireball reached a radius of over 200 meters, and the surface temperatures near the hypocenter rose to 3,000 to 4,000℃. At the time of the explosion, fierce heat rays and radiation burst out in every direction, causing the air around the fireball to expand and creating a super-high-pressure blast. The complex interactions of these three factors inflicted tremendous damage upon the city.  The damage inflicted by the atomic bomb was characterized by instant and massive destruction, indiscriminate mass slaughter, and radiation. In particular, the damage caused by the radiation led to decades of human suffering. The City of Hiroshima estimates that approximately 140,000 people had died by the end of December 1945, when the acute effects by the radiation subsided. |   Adapted from: <https://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/english/264912.html>   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Related war |  | | Location of battle: |  | | Weapon used: |  | | | | | Damage brought by this weapon: | |  | | | |

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