

How close to success did the Allies come in the Russian Civil War?

Learning Objective: To evaluate the strategic options of foreign powers supporting one side at a turning point in a civil war and to assess how close they came to success.

Learning Outcomes

Pupils will have;

- Recalled Allied aims for intervention in the Russian Civil War from prior learning in Lesson Two
- Discussed what might have counted as success for the Allies in the light of their aims
- Arranged cards of key events of the Russian Civil War in to chronological order
- Annotated a map of Russia to show the positions of Red and White forces by January 1919
- Considered the options facing Allied leaders in January 1919
- Debated whether the Allied leaders made the best decision
- Annotated a second map of Russia to show Red and White forces at the end of the Russian Civil War
- Debated the relative importance of possible reasons for the outcome of the Russian Civil War
- Debated how close the Allies came to success in their intervention.

Starter or Initial Stimulus Activity

Display Slide Two and introduce the enquiry question. Display Slide Three and allow a limited time for individuals to recall any Allied aims for intervention in the Russian Civil War they might recall from prior learning in Lesson Two. Ask pairs to discuss these aims and lead discussion in class, taking suggestions from pupils (if necessary write up the aims for display). Against the clock ask pairs to use their knowledge of Allied aims to list what Allied success in the Russian Civil War might have looked like. Again lead discussion and display an agreed list for future reference.

First Main Learning Activity

Display and explain the names and terms relating to both sides in the Russian Civil War from Slide Four (if necessary display them with definitions for future reference). Ask pupils to carefully read and place copies of the cards outlining events from the Russian Civil War from Slide Six in chronological order. On a copy of the map of Russia from Slide Seven (and using the cards) ask them to annotate their maps showing the position of White and Red forces in January 1919 in different colours. Display Slide Eight and ask pairs to discuss how close to success the Allies appeared to have come by this date.

Second Main Learning Activity

Explain that pupils will now be putting themselves in the position of Allied leaders debating what to do next in January 1919. Introduce the three options listed on Slide Nine, ensuring that all pupils understand them. Ask pupils to look back at their timeline and allow a limited time for pairs to discuss which might be the best options. Lead discussion, taking suggestions from pairs and allowing pupils to challenge the views of others. Display the actual decisions taken by Allied leaders after the Treaty of Versailles on Slide Ten and lead discussion considering whether the right ones were made.

Second Main Learning Activity

Ask pupils to annotate a second map of Russia (copied from Slide Eleven) identifying the position of the Red and White forces after the Russian Civil War in different colours, showing the victory of the Reds.

Give out copies of the possible factors explaining the victory of the Reds from Slides Thirteen to Sixteen, ensuring that all pupils understand them. Give pairs a limited amount of time to discuss which reason might be the most important in explaining the Red victory. Display Slide Seventeen and ask pupils to write a paragraph explaining which factor was most important and why. (Better answers will link these factors together)

Plenary

Set up a number line on a wall between one and ten. Refer pupils back to the enquiry question "How close to success did the Allies come in the Russian Civil War?" At one end of the number line put the label "Really close", in the middle "Fairly close" and at the other end "Not close at all". Refer back to the criteria agreed for Allied success and ask pairs to discuss where they would place themselves on the number line. Then ask individual pupils to stand by the number they most agree with. Lead discussion asking individuals to justify their position on the number line and probe their reasoning (pupils should be able to justify their position by reference to the agreed criteria for Allied success and specific details about the Civil War they have just studied).