

Berlin Conference Simulation

Overview: In this lesson, students will participate in a simulation of the Berlin Conference. At this meeting, European nations looked to divide up the African continent among themselves in order to colonize Africa and gain access to its resources.

Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in Social Studies (3. Geography)

Sub-Strand 3. Human Systems

Standard 8.

Processes of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of the earth's surface.

9.3.3.8.1

Define the concepts of nationalism and sovereign political states and explain how sovereignty is impacted by international agreements.

9.3.3.8.2

Describe the effects of nationalism and supranationalism on the establishment of political boundaries and economic activities.

9.3.3.8.3

Analyze the impact of colonialism on the emergence of independent states and the tensions that arise when the boundaries of political units do not correspond to the nationalities or ethnicities of the people living within them.

Grade Level: 9 – 12

Objective: This lesson is designed to provide students with the opportunity to participate in a simulation that will require them to conduct research on various countries in Africa and identify reasons why European countries wanted to gain control of various lands in Africa. This lesson will also provide students with the opportunity to analyze the impact colonialism had on the people of Africa in the 1800s and in the future.

Time: 2 – 3 fifty-minute class periods

Required Materials:

1. Atlases that contain various maps of Africa (ex. political, physical, climate, vegetation, natural resources).
2. Berlin Conference Activity Student Instructions
3. Berlin Conference Request Forms Worksheet

4. Berlin Conference Activity - Germany Worksheet

Suggested Procedure:

1. Background information necessary to provide your students with prior to conducting this activity:
 - a. Colonialism – reasons for European interest in Africa and how it affected both regions of the world
 - b. Imperialism – reasons for European interest in Africa and how it affected both regions of the world
2. Assign students into groups of 3 or 4.
3. Assign each group one of the following countries to represent in the Berlin Conference:
 - a. Germany
 - b. Portugal
 - c. Belgium
 - d. Italy
 - e. Great Britain
 - f. Netherlands
 - g. Spain
 - h. France
4. In groups, have students decide what land in Africa their country wants and why they want the land. Students will need to access maps of Africa.
5. Have each group present their country's request to Germany. There will be two rounds for groups to present their requests for land. Have the group representing Germany look at all these requests and determine what areas of Africa each country is to receive. Have each country group complete the attached request forms to present to Germany.
6. Upon completion of this activity, have each student reflect individually on the activity by answering questions which describe their role in the activity. Have the students representing Germany individually answer slightly different reflective questions to describe their role in the simulation.

Extension Activities:

1. Students use this same activity to discuss issues that Southeast Asian countries experienced when European nations colonized them.
2. Students use this same activity to discuss issues that countries in South America and Central America experienced when European nations colonized them.

Assessment:

1. Group Reflection Questions on Berlin Conference Simulation Activity

Berlin Conference Activity

Name: _____

Period: _____

Directions: You will be placed in groups of 3 or 4 to represent one of the following countries, which your group will be assigned:

Germany

Belgium

Great Britain

Spain

Portugal

Italy

Netherlands

France

Your group will need to decide what land in Africa your country wants and why your country wants that land. There is a map of Africa found on page _____ in your book. You may also want to refer to pages _____ in the _____ atlas.

Your group will then present your request to Germany. Your group will have TWO (2) opportunities to make requests for land. Germany will look at all these requests and determine what areas of Africa each country will receive. Your group will need to complete the attached request forms to present to Germany.

Reflection Questions: To be completed, *individually*, at the conclusion of the activity. They are due at the beginning of class the day after the activity is completed.

1. Reflection on the activity itself.
 - a. How did your group determine which areas of land your group wanted in Africa?

 - b. What things did your group take into account when determining what land your group wanted in Africa?

 - c. If you were not able to gain the land you wanted in Africa during your group's 1st request, what changes did you make to your group's 2nd request?

 - d. In your opinion, was this conference the best way to determine which countries gained control of land in Africa?

Berlin Conference Activity - Germany

Name of Country: GERMANY

Name(s) of Group Members: _____

DIRECTIONS: Use the following chart to determine what areas of land each country wants during each request and what land you, Germany, gave them. You should also label these on a map of Africa to share with the conference.

Country	Request # 1 Areas of Land	Request # 1 Results	Request # 2 Areas of Land	Request # 2 Results
Germany				
Portugal				
Belgium				
Italy				
Great Britain				
Netherlands				
Spain				
France				

1. How did your group decide which country received specific land? Explain your answer.

2. What did your group base this decision on? Be specific in your answer.

Reflection on the activity itself.

1. What did you think of this activity?

2. Your country was also able to receive land. How did your group determine which areas of land your group wanted in Africa?

3. If you were not able to gain the land you wanted in Africa during your 1st round request, what changes did you make to your 2nd round request?

4. In your opinion, was this conference the best way to determine which countries gained control of land in Africa?

5. What impact do you feel the Berlin Conference had:

a. On Africa in the late 1800s?

b. On European Countries in the late 1800s?

c. On the World in the late 1800s?

6. What impact do you feel the Berlin Conference will have on the future relations between Africa and other countries? Explain your answers.

7. Is there a connection between imperialism and the Berlin Conference? Explain your answer.

8. Is there any connection between the Berlin Conference and the conflicts going on in Africa today? Explain your answers