

Appeasement Worksheet

Appeasement means giving something to an aggressive country in the hope it will persuade them to keep the peace. It usually refers to France and the UK's policy towards Italy and Germany from 1935 to 1939.

This work-sheet will be mostly concentrating on Germany, but it is also important to know that the UK and France also followed a policy of appeasement towards Italy (which was ruled by the fascist leader **Benito Mussolini**). During the 1930s Italy invaded and conquered two independent nations (Ethiopia and Albania) whilst the rest of the world did little to stop them.

Recap Task: Treaty of Versailles Recap

Think about the terms of the **Treaty of Versailles** (Loss of territory, Limits on armed forces, No soldiers allowed in Rhineland, Had to make payments to Allies, Had to take total blame for WWI, Could not unite with Austria).

For each of these terms write down **ONE** reason why Hitler and the German people would like to get rid of it (Sentence starter: 'The German people would not have liked this because...')

Extension: Which of the terms do you think would be most unpopular and why? (one PEEL paragraph)

Appeasement Timeline

(at the same time as this was going on, Hitler was increasing the size and strength of the German army, navy and air force even though he wasn't allowed to under the Treaty of Versailles)

7 March 1936: Germany marches soldiers into the Rhineland (a region on their western border) even though this forbidden under the Treaty of Versailles.

28 May 1937: **Neville Chamberlain** becomes Prime Minister of UK.

12-13 March 1938: Germany invades and **annexes** (marches in and seizes) Austria (a German-speaking country), uniting the two countries. This event is called the **Anschluss** ('joining' in German). This was also forbidden under the Treaty of Versailles.



10 April 1938: **Édouard Daladier** becomes Prime Minister of France.

30 September 1938: **Munich Agreement** is signed by leaders of Germany, Italy, UK and France (pictured left). This allows Germany to annex a part of Czechoslovakia called **Sudetenland**. They claimed it because the majority of the population spoke German. Hitler promises to leave the rest of Czechoslovakia alone. Chamberlain returns home to UK saying he has guaranteed '**peace for our time**'.

14-16 March 1939: German soldiers march into Czechoslovakia. The country is split up. Part of it becomes a new country called the Slovak Republic whilst the rest is placed under German control. France and UK do nothing.

31 March 1939: UK and France say they will guarantee that Poland will stay independent and support them if Germany invades.

23 August 1939: Germany and the Soviet Union sign an agreement saying they will not invade each other.

1 September 1939: Germany invades Poland, starting WWII.

3 September 1939: France and the UK (as well as Australia, New Zealand and India) declare war on Germany in response to its invasion of Poland.



Main Task: Was Appeasement a Mistake?

On the table TICK (✓) the box next to each statement if you think it proves Appeasement was the right thing to do and put a CROSS (x) if you think it proves it was a mistake.

Statement	Proves Appeasement was the right thing to do (✓) or a mistake (x)
Britain's army and navy had become weak - delaying war with Germany gave them time to build up their strength.	
Some people thought Germany had been treated too harshly by the Treaty of Versailles so they should be given a chance to recover some land.	
Giving into Hitler's demands made him feel he could do what he wanted without fear of being challenged.	
The German military were getting stronger and stronger as time went on, meaning that defeating them in war would become harder.	
Most of the public in the UK (and France) did not want another war - many of them remembered WWI and all of deaths and injuries it caused.	
Just a few months after the Munich Agreement, which allowed him to annexe Sudetenland, Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia despite promising not to.	
Appeasement scared the USSR (Soviet Union) into making a deal with Hitler in August 1939 because they were worried that because Germany had been allowed to get so strong they might invade them.	

In complete sentences, answer these questions in your books using the information on the table and the timeline. You can use the sentence starters if you want to.

1. Why might some people think Germany deserved a fair deal? (Sentence starter: 'Some people might think Germany deserved a 'fair deal' because...')
2. Why was giving into Hitler's demands dangerous? (Sentence starter: 'Giving into Hitler's demands was dangerous because...')
3. What did Appeasement give the UK a chance to do? (Sentence starter: 'Appeasement gave the UK a chance to build up...')
4. Why might some members of the public in UK and France support Appeasement? (Sentence starter: 'Some people in the UK and France might support Appeasement because...')
5. What did Appeasement scare the USSR into doing? (Sentence starter: 'Appeasement scared the USSR into...')
6. Who were Chamberlain and Daladier? Why do you think they might not want to challenge Hitler? (Sentence starter: 'Chamberlain and Daladier were... and they did not want to challenge Hitler because...')
7. What did Austria and Sudetenland have in common? Why would this make Hitler want to add them to Germany? (Sentence starter: 'People in Austria and Sudetenland both spoke ..., Hitler would want to add them to Germany because...')
8. How do you think the German public reacted to Hitler's actions in breaking the Treaty of Versailles? (Sentence starter: 'People in Germany would have thought Hitler breaking the Treaty of Versailles was...')
9. What did Chamberlain say he had 'guaranteed' after the Munich Agreement? (Sentence starter: 'Chamberlain said the Munich Agreement had guaranteed...')
10. Do you think if UK and France had stood up to Hitler earlier, they could have stopped WWII breaking out? (Sentence starter: 'I think that if UK and France had stood up to Hitler they could have... this is because...[give some reasons to support your answer]')

CHALLENGE:

Imagine you are a reporter for *The Brentford Times* in 1939 (just before the outbreak of WWII) - write a two-paragraph article about **Appeasement**. You can either be in favour of it OR against it. Make sure your opinion is clear to the reader and remember to include facts from the table and events from the timeline.