

Yalta Big Three Activity Pack

Students will be divided into groups to take on the roles of **The Big Three: Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin** at the **Conference at Yalta**.

Each group will be provided with an agenda for their leader and country.

Students will familiarize themselves with their roles using the sheets and by conducting any additional research they need.

Students will then write notes for talking points to be pursued in the debate.

A debate will be held to discuss each issue and determine which option the delegates will agree to at the **Conference of Yalta**.

The students can compare the outcome to the real **Yalta Conference**.

Set the scene: World War II is drawing to an end. Even though Japan continues to fight on, Italy has been knocked out of the war, and Germany is close to surrender. The principal members of the Allies will meet once again to discuss the progress of the war. However, this conference will focus on what to do in the time period following World War II.

Task: It is the role of each group to represent your country's wishes at the Conference at Yalta. Read the descriptor page describing your country's aims and desires on various issues concerning World War II and the post-war era. Determine your country's position on each of the topics to be discussed at the conference. Be prepared to defend your country's stand on the issues and willingness to negotiate a resolve with the other Allied leaders.

Principle Leaders:

Winston Churchill - *Prime Minister of Great Britain*

Franklin Roosevelt - *President of the United States*

Joseph Stalin - *Premier of the Soviet Union*

Key Issues:

1. World Organization
2. Liberated Nations
3. Post-War Germany
4. Post-War Poland
5. Continued War in Japan

Great Britain

Leader: Winston Churchill, Prime Minister

- Recognized British politician for over 60 years.
- Veteran of the **Boer War** and **World War I**.
- Recognized the **Treaty of Versailles** had failed and in part led to **World War II**.
- Predicted the appeasement policy of Neville Chamberlain at the **Munich Conference** would fail.
- Agreed to the **Atlantic Charter** with **Franklin Roosevelt**, which supported self-determination and a new **League of Nations**.
- Led Great Britain through World War II. Swore Great Britain would “Never give in” to Adolf Hitler and Germany.

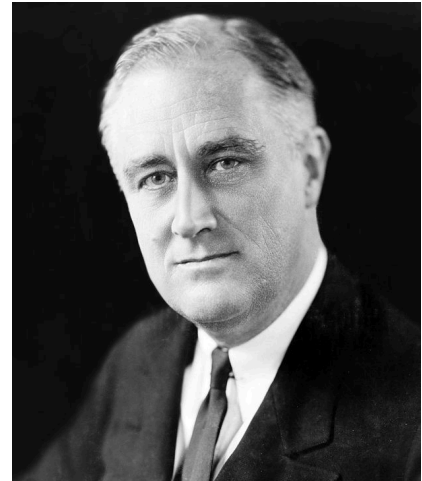


Primary Concerns:

- Feared Great Britain was going to lose power and prestige to the “**super powers**” following World War II. Fear of losing control of the British Empire
- Supported democratic nations in Europe and had even housed **exile governments** during World War II when Germany had invaded their countries (most notably, Lublin government of Poland).
- Country has been destroyed by Germany and many people are starving - Britain is not as economically strong as US and Soviet Union.

United States

Leader: Franklin Roosevelt, President



- Led the United States through the **Great Depression** and World War II.
- Had recently been elected to and began serving his **fourth term** as President.
- Was in very poor health and those close to him saw he was very near to death.
- Recognised the **Treaty of Versailles** had failed and in part led to World War II.
- Agreed to the **Atlantic Charter** with Winston Churchill, which supported self-determination and a new **League of Nations**.

Primary Concerns:

- Twice the United States had been pulled into World Wars. Roosevelt wanted to ensure calamities of this nature would never happen again. United States had a policy of **isolationism**.
- As America was the “**Experiment in Democracy**,” there is the desire and belief in the spread of democracy to other countries.
- Greatest number of American deaths was in the **Pacific Theatre of World War II**. Although Joseph Stalin had asked for assistance in Europe and it was returned with the D-Day invasion, and additional support was provided in the Lend-Lease Plan, the Soviet Union had yet to mount an attack against Japan.

Soviet Union

Leader: Joseph Stalin, Premier

- Leader of the Soviet Union following the death of **Vladimir Lenin** in 1924.
- During internal reform attempts, Stalin led the Soviet Union to economic calamity during **collectivisation** attempts.
- He was very paranoid over threats to his control of the Soviet Union and threats of attacks from outside nations. Within the country, **purges** were staged to eliminate any threats to his power. Information from foreign nations were limited and censored while Soviet secrets were not released.



Primary Concerns:

- The Soviet Union suffered the greatest number of deaths during the war by far of any of the Allied nations at the conference.
- Germany had twice invaded the Soviet Union (officially Russia the first time) during the World Wars. Both had led to great loss of territory and millions of lives. He wants to ensure Germany will never be able to attack their country again.
- Soviet armies had defeated the German forces in Eastern Europe with little help from the other Allied nations.

Conference at Yalta

Diplomacy Sheet

Key Issue	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Creation of the United Nations	Dismantle the League of Nations and do not create a replacement	Create a United Nations separate of the League of Nations	Eliminate the League of Nations and create the United Nations	Create a United Nations to work in coordination with the League of Nations
Structure of the United Nations (assuming Option 1 is not chosen in the previous issue)	All nations have free and equal membership in the United Nations	All nations have membership in the United Nations but only the Allied Nations have voting power	All nations are invited to have representation in the United Nations with certain voting privileges given to Allied leaders	United Nations created with two groups-one with non Allied members and one with only Allied members
Liberated Nations	All nations choose new governments democratically by their own people	Nations will choose their own governments with support (influence) from the Allied leaders	Allied leaders will determine new governments for freed countries	Governments restored to pre-war status
German government	German government would be restored to pre-war status	New democratic government would be created	Germany would be occupied and controlled by Allied nations	Allies would let Germany rebuild its government as they saw fit

Reparations	No reparations	Reparations totaling \$22 billion	Reparations totaling \$92 billion	German economy would be taken over by the Allies and the Allies would pay to rebuild the country
Poland	Lublin government restored (previous government exiled to London during WWII)	Soviet Union create a new Polish government	Create a new democratic government	Poland is eliminated and is divided between the Allied powers
Japan	Soviet Union invades Japan immediately	Soviet Union invades Japan within 3 months following the end of war in Europe	Soviet Union does not invade Japan	Soviet Union does not invade Japan if they agree to surrender immediately

Yalta Conference Lives On

Key Issue	Addressed in Truman Administration	Impact of Yalta on Truman Decision	Present Situation	Impact of Yalta and Truman on the World Today
Creation of the United Nations				
Structure of the United Nations				
Liberated Nations				
German government				
Reparations				
Poland				
Japan				

Full explanation of the assessment method and/or scoring guide:

Students will be required to write a paragraph on each of the issues discussed at the debate. They are expected to write a paragraph on which option they prefer and defend their support of that option. They will bring this paper to the debate and use it as talking points in the course of the debate.

Following the debate, students will be required to fill out the Yalta Conference Lives On sheet to relate the impact of the resolution on the course of history.