

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will understand the significance of The Enabling Act of 1933 and its impact on the political landscape of Germany during that time.

Materials and Prep

- Internet access for research
- Notebook or paper for taking notes
- Writing utensils

Activities

1. Research and Summarize

Using the internet, research The Enabling Act of 1933 and its historical context. Take notes on the key points and summarize the information in your own words.

2. Create a Timeline

Using the information gathered from your research, create a timeline that highlights the major events leading up to the passing of The Enabling Act of 1933. Include key dates and brief descriptions of each event.

3. Role Play

Imagine you are a member of the German Reichstag during the time of The Enabling Act. Write a short dialogue or monologue where you express your thoughts and concerns about the act. Consider the political climate and the potential consequences of its implementation.

4. Debate

Find a partner and engage in a friendly debate about The Enabling Act of 1933. One person should argue in favor of the act, highlighting its perceived benefits, while the other person argues against it, emphasizing the potential risks and drawbacks.

Talking Points

- **Background:** The Enabling Act of 1933 was a law passed by the German Reichstag on March 23, 1933, that granted Adolf Hitler and his cabinet the power to enact laws without the involvement of the Reichstag itself.
- **Political Context:** The act was a response to the Reichstag fire, which occurred on February 27, 1933, and was used by the Nazi Party to justify the need for increased government control and suppression of political opposition.
- **Implications:** The passing of The Enabling Act effectively marked the end of the Weimar Republic and the establishment of a totalitarian regime under Hitler's leadership.

- **Consequences:** The act paved the way for the implementation of Nazi policies and the erosion of civil liberties in Germany, ultimately leading to the Holocaust and World War II.