Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to analyze the causes of World War II and understand the key factors that led to its outbreak.

Materials and Prep

- Internet access for research
- Notebook or paper for taking notes
- Pencil or pen

Prior knowledge of basic World War II events and key players would be helpful but not necessary.

Activities

1. Research the major causes of World War II, such as the Treaty of Versailles, the rise of dictators, and economic instability.
2. Create a cause-and-effect diagram to visually represent the interconnectedness of the various causes.
3. Write a short essay analyzing the cause that you believe had the greatest impact on the outbreak of World War II, providing evidence to support your argument.
4. Engage in a class discussion or debate, sharing your analysis and listening to other students' perspectives.

Tenth Grade Talking Points

- "World War II was a global conflict that lasted from 1939 to 1945."
- "The Treaty of Versailles, which ended World War I, played a significant role in setting the stage for World War II."
- "The harsh terms imposed on Germany by the Treaty of Versailles, including massive reparations and territorial losses, created resentment and economic instability."
- "The rise of totalitarian dictators, such as Adolf Hitler in Germany, Benito Mussolini in Italy, and Joseph Stalin in the Soviet Union, contributed to the outbreak of the war."
- "Expansionist policies pursued by these dictators, seeking to gain more territory and resources, escalated tensions and led to conflicts."
- "The failure of appeasement policies, such as the Munich Agreement, to effectively address the aggressive actions of these dictators increased the likelihood of war."
- "The global economic depression in the 1930s also played a role in creating conditions that led to the outbreak of World War II."
- "Nationalism and the desire for self-determination in various countries further fueled the conflicts."
- "The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary in 1914, which triggered World War I, can be seen as a distant cause that set in motion a chain of events leading to World War II."
- "Understanding the causes of World War II is crucial for comprehending the lessons learned from history and preventing similar conflicts in the future."