

## What Will Happen with Germany? – The Potsdam Conference. Die Beschlüsse der Potsdamer Konferenz in einem Gruppenpuzzle erarbeiten (Klasse 9/10)

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The "Great Three" (Winston Churchill, Harry S. Truman and Joseph Stalin) in a break during negotiations in front of the Cecilienhof Palace in Potsdam (1945).

Im Sommer 1945, also vor gut 70 Jahren, berieten die Vertreter der drei Siegermächte USA, Vereinigtes Königreich und Sowjetunion auf der Potsdamer Konferenz über die Zukunft Deutschlands nach dem zweiten Weltkrieg.

Ihre Schüler\*innen und Schüler\*innen setzen sich im Rahmen eines Gruppenpuzzles mit den wirtschaftlichen, politischen und territorialen Bestimmungen des Potsdamer Abkommens auseinander, erarbeiten thematischen Wortschatz und erstellen einen Überblick über zentrale Beschlüsse der Konferenz. Auf dieser Grundlage diskutieren sie die Frage, ob die Teilung Deutschlands bereits 1945 im Rahmen des Potsdamer Abkommens beschlossen wurde.

**Klassenstufe:** 9/10

**Dauer:** 4 Stunden und Test

**Bereich:** Nachkriegszeit

**Kompetenzen:**

- einen Überblick über politische, wirtschaftliche und territoriale Regelungen des Potsdamer Abkommens erstellen
- zentrale Beschlüsse der Potsdamer Konferenz wiedergeben und erläutern
- die Bedeutung des Potsdamer Abkommens für die Teilung Deutschlands 1949 diskutieren
- Informationen aus Textquellen entnehmen und unbekannte Begriffe erklären

## Verlaufsübersicht zur Reihe

1. Stunde: After the War: What will happen with Germany?
2. Stunde: The Potsdam Agreement under closer examination – experts work alone
3. Stunde: The Potsdam Conference under examination – experts discuss their results
4. Stunde: The agreements at a glance – creating an overview in the home groups

## Verlaufsübersicht zu den Stunden

1. Stunde: After the War: What will happen with Germany?

Material	Verlauf
M 1	<b>The Potsdam Agreement and the founding of the two German states</b> / Erarbeiten der Leitfrage mithilfe eines Bildimpulses
M 2	<b>The jigsaw method</b> / Erläutern der Phasen eines Gruppenpuzzles
M 3	<b>Basic information on the Potsdam Conference</b> / Erarbeiten der Rahmenbedingungen der Potsdamer Konferenz anhand eines Informationstextes
M 4	<b>The Allies' goals</b> / Erarbeiten der Ziele der Alliierten anhand eines Auszugs aus dem Abkommen

2. Stunde: The Potsdam Agreement under closer examination – experts work alone

Material	Verlauf
M 5	<b>Question sheet for analysis</b> / Übersichtsblatt zum Analysieren einer schriftlichen Quelle
M 6–M 11	<b>Jigsaw on the territorial, political and economic decisions</b> / Erarbeiten der Beschlüsse der Potsdamer Konferenz anhand von Textauszügen; Anlegen eines Glossars
M 12	<b>Hint cards</b> / Erläuterung von Schlüsselbegriffen für leistungsschwächere Schüler

3. Stunde: The Potsdam Conference under examination – experts discuss their results

Material	Verlauf
M 13	<b>Matching important terms</b> / Auswählen der für die Gruppe relevanten Begriffe
M 14	<b>Comparison of results</b> / Austauschen der Ergebnisse innerhalb der Experten-Gruppe
M 15	<b>Preparing the presentations for the home groups</b> / Vorbereiten der Präsentationen in den Stammgruppen anhand eines Arbeitsblatts mit vorgegebenen Redemitteln

4. Stunde: The agreements at a glance – creating an overview in the home groups

Material	Verlauf
M 16	<b>Overview of the decisions</b> / Präsentieren der Ergebnisse in den Stammgruppen; Zusammenführen der Ergebnisse in einer Übersicht; Diskutieren der Leitfrage

## Materialübersicht

<b>1. Stunde:</b>	<b>After the War: What will happen with Germany?</b>
M 1 (Bd)	The Potsdam Agreement (1945) – founding of the two German states (1949)
M 2 (Fo)	The jigsaw method – how it works
M 3 (Tx)	What will happen with Germany? – The Potsdam Conference
M 4 (Tx)	The Potsdam Agreement – the Allies' goals
<b>2. Stunde :</b>	<b>The Potsdam Agreement under closer examination – experts work on it</b>
M 5 (Ab)	What kind of text is this? – Question sheet for analysing a source
M 6 (Tx)	The Potsdam Agreement – territorial decisions
M 7 (Ab)	The territorial decisions – a glossary
M 8 (Tx)	The Potsdam Agreement – political decisions
M 9 (Ab)	The political decisions – a glossary
M 10 (Tx)	The Potsdam Agreement – economic decisions
M 11 (Ab)	The economic decisions – a glossary
M 12 (Tx)	Important terms – hint cards
<b>3. Stunde</b>	<b>The Potsdam Conference under discussion – experts discuss their results</b>
M 13 (Ab)	The Potsdam Agreement – matching terms
M 14 (Ab)	Decisions of the Potsdam Agreement – working in the expert group
M 15 (Ab)	Experts' presentations – language support
<b>4. Stunde</b>	<b>The agreements at a glance – creating an overview in the home groups</b>
M 16 (Ab)	The Potsdam Agreement – creating an overview of the decisions

### Lernerfolgskontrolle

M 17 (LEK) The Potsdam Conference – how well do you know it?

**Ab:** Arbeitsblätter – **Bi:** Bildimpuls – **Fo:** Folie – **LEK:** Lernerfolgskontrolle – **Tx:** Text

## M 1 The Potsdam Agreement (1945) – founding of the two German states (1949)



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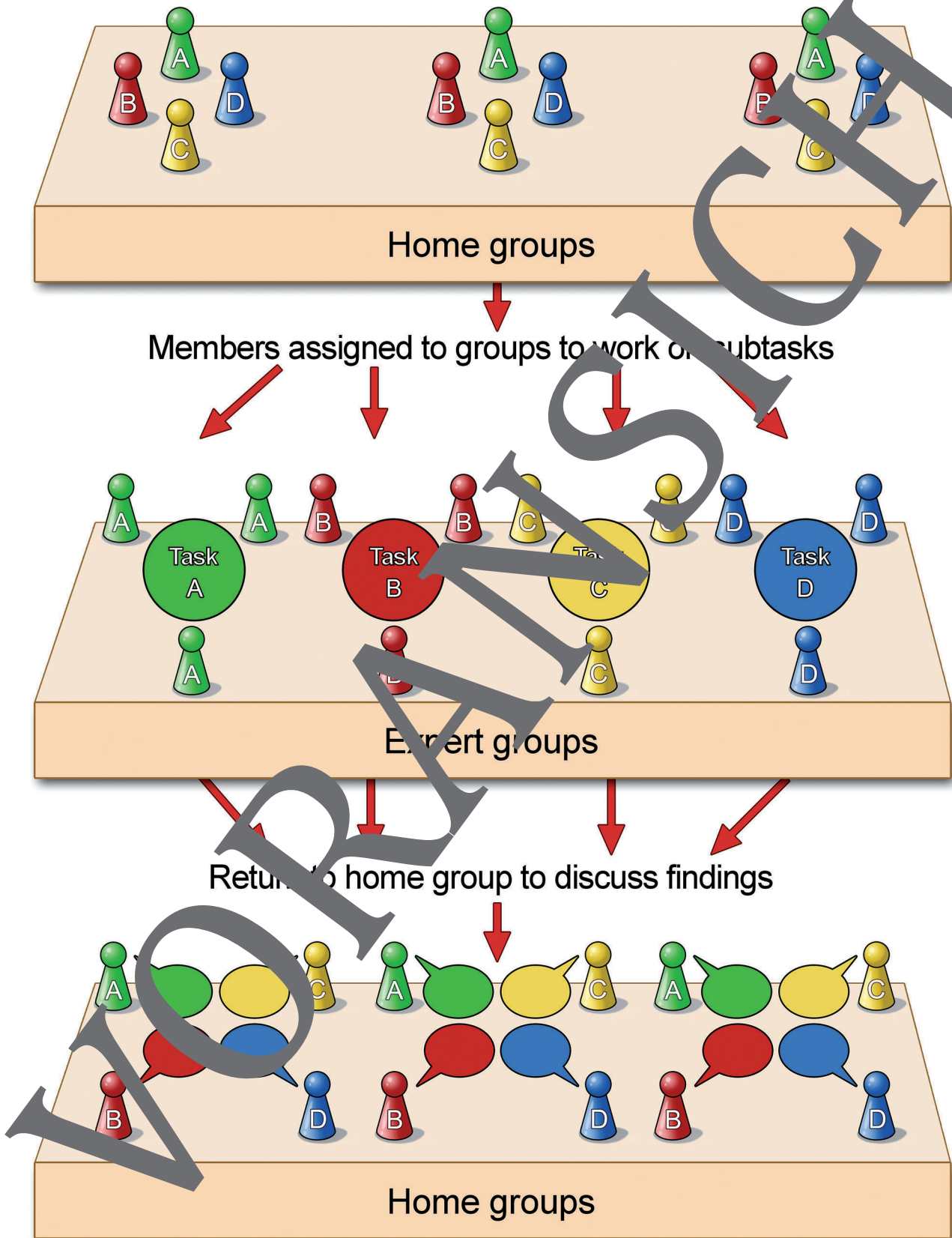
In 1945  
the victorious powers  
met in Potsdam  
to discuss the future  
of Germany  
after World War II.



In 1949 Germany was  
split into two parts:  
The Federal Republic  
of Germany in the  
West (FRG), and the  
German Democratic  
Republic (GDR)  
in the East.

**Task:** Describe the two pictures and elaborate on their historical context.

## M 2 The jigsaw method – how it works



## M 8 The Potsdam Agreement – political decisions

Group "Politics"

The victorious powers of World War II met at the Potsdam Conference to decide about Europe's future after 1945. They declared their decisions in the Potsdam Agreement. The following excerpt is about political arrangements in Germany.

### Report of the Tripartite Conference of Berlin ("Potsdam Agreement")

2 August 1945

The purposes<sup>1</sup> of the occupation of Germany by which the Control Council shall be guided are:

The complete disarmament<sup>2</sup> and demilitarization<sup>3</sup> of Germany [...].

To destroy the National Socialist Party<sup>4</sup> and its affiliated<sup>5</sup> and supervised<sup>6</sup> organizations, to dissolve<sup>7</sup> all Nazi institutions [...]

5 To prepare for the eventual reconstruction of German political life on a democratic basis [...].

All Nazi laws which provided the basis of the Hitler regime or established discriminations on grounds of race, creed<sup>8</sup>, or political opinion shall be abolished<sup>9</sup>. [...]

War criminals and those who have participated in planning or carrying out Nazi enterprises involving or resulting in atrocities<sup>10</sup> or war crimes shall be arrested and brought to judgment<sup>11</sup>. [...]

10 All members of the Nazi Party who have been more than [...] participants in its activities and all other persons hostile<sup>12</sup> to Allied purposes shall be removed from public [...] office<sup>13</sup> [...].

German education shall be so controlled as completely to eliminate<sup>14</sup> Nazi and militarist doctrines and to make possible the successful development of democratic ideas. [...]

15 The administration of affairs in Germany should be directed towards the decentralization of the political structure and the development of local responsibility. [...]

[...] For the time being, no central German Government shall be established. Notwithstanding this, however, certain essential central German administrative departments [...] shall be established [...].

Source: [http://potsdamer-konferenz.de/dokumente/protokoll\\_...php](http://potsdamer-konferenz.de/dokumente/protokoll_...php)

### Annotations

1 **purpose:** aim, intention – 2 **disarmament:** Abrüstung – 3 **demilitarization:** Entmilitarisierung – 4 **National Socialist Party:** NSDAP – 5 **affiliated:** angeschlossen, angegliedert – 6 **supervised:** überwacht – 7 **to dissolve sth.:** to formally end sth. – 8 **creed:** Religion – 9 **to abolish sth.:** to officially end a law/system – 10 **atrocities:** an extremely cruel and violent action – 11 **to bring so. to judgment:** jmdn. vor Gericht bringen – 12 **hostile:** being against sth. – 13 **public office:** öffentliches Amt – 14 **to eliminate sth.:** etw. beseitigen/ausschalten

### Tasks

1. Read the excerpt from the Potsdam Agreement and analyse the source. Use the question sheet.
2. Create a glossary in which you explain in your own words the most important statements and terms. Mark the passages in the text which you have chosen.
3. Divide the source into four sections by drawing lines. Give each section a title.
4. Get together with your expert group and compare your results.

## M 11 The economic decisions – a glossary

Group "Economics"

Which decisions about economic arrangements are declared in the Potsdam Agreement? Creating a glossary will help to analyse the text source.

### Tasks

1. Explain the terms and statements in the chart.

term/statement	What does it mean?
"eliminate Germany's war potential"	
"the German economy shall be decentralized"	
"primary emphasis [...] given to the development of agriculture and peaceful domestic industries"	
"Germany shall be treated as a single economic unit"	
"reparation claims"	

2. Explain further terms or statements from the text which you find relevant.




**Tip:** If you can't explain the terms based on their context, use a dictionary.

## M 12 Important terms – hint cards

Read the hint cards and get some help with important terms about the Potsdam Conference.

### Who were the "Great Three"?

This term refers to the three leaders of the allied nations who took part in the Potsdam Conference.

Winston Churchill (United Kingdom), Harry S. Truman (USA) and Joseph Stalin (U.S.S.R.).



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### What are reparations?

This term refers to compensation payments, for example money payments or delivery of goods. By paying reparations, a conquered country compensates the victorious country for losses and damage resulting from the war.

**compensation:** Wiedergutmachung, Ausgleich



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### What are removals?

The dismantling of industrial facilities is called "removal". In the Potsdam Agreement, the Allies decided that part of the reparations, especially to the Soviet Union, should be paid through removals. Thus, the Soviets were to receive dismantled German industrial facilities.

**dismantling:** Abbau, Montage

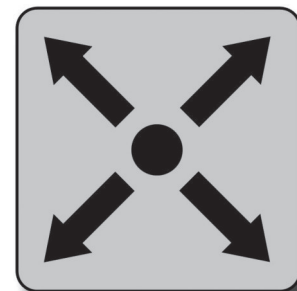


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### What does "decentralized" mean?

This term refers to the dissolution of political or economic centers and the transfer of responsibilities to smaller, more local administrative authorities. What was centrally decided in Nazi Germany would now be decided on a local or regional level.

**dissolution:** Auflösung





## M 15 Experts' presentation – language support

You have become an expert on parts of the Potsdam Agreement. This worksheet will help you to prepare the presentation in your home group.

**Task:** Fill in the following worksheet with the most important information about the topic you have worked on with your expert group.



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### Introduction

My expert group discussed \_\_\_\_\_. The decisions can be summarised with the following keywords: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Main part

Now I'll explain what these terms mean.

The first term means that \_\_\_\_\_.

This is clarified in section \_\_\_\_\_ of the text excerpt, where it says \_\_\_\_\_.

The second decision refers to the term \_\_\_\_\_.

The third decision \_\_\_\_\_.

All in all, the Allies wanted to \_\_\_\_\_.

### Conclusion

In the expert group we discussed whether there was any indication that Germany would later be divided. We concluded that, in our section of the Potsdam Agreement, there is/are no/one/a few/one indication(s) about the later division of Germany. We arrived at this conclusion because \_\_\_\_\_.

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