

COMPARISON: MEXICAN AND RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONS

Purpose

In this activity, you will compare the Mexican and Russian Revolutions, a comparison that asks you to think about how things changed both over time, and in different areas of the world. By comparing two revolutions, you will see how political revolutions are generally similar in terms of their causes, while the consequences that follow vary greatly. Political revolutions still happen around the world today, often sparked by causes similar to those you have studied. Seeing this will allow you to use your understanding of earlier revolutions to better understand the ones occurring today.

Practices

Causation, CCOT, writing

In this activity, you will compare the Mexican and Russian Revolutions. You'll identify both the causes of revolutions as well as the continuities and change over time as you explore the similarities and differences. Additionally, you'll work on your writing by crafting a multi-paragraph response for a comparison prompt.

Process

In this activity, you'll compare and contrast the causes and consequences of the Mexican and Russian Revolutions. Then, you'll evaluate the similarities and differences to write a multi-paragraph response for a comparison prompt.

Your teacher will either hand out or have you download the Comparison—Mexican and Russian Revolutions worksheet. Next, working individually, use the articles “The Mexican Revolution” and “The Power of One: The Russian Revolution” to answer the questions and complete Part 1: Identifying and Describing of the Comparison Tool (included in the worksheet). After all sections in Part 1 of the tool have been answered, use the similarities and differences identified and described in Part 1 to complete Part 2 of the tool. In Part 2, you'll write two thesis statements in response to the following prompts:

- *What was the most significant similarity between the Mexican and Russian Revolutions?*
- *What was the most significant difference between the Mexican and Russian Revolutions?*

Remember that you can use the acronym ADE (amount, depth, and endurance) to help determine historical significance. Consider if these similarities and differences affected most people in Mexico and Russia (amount); if people in Mexico and Russia were deeply affected by these similarities and differences (depth); or if these similarities and differences were long lasting (endurance).

Finally, you will use your thesis statements to individually write a multi-paragraph response for a comparison prompt: *Develop an argument that evaluates the extent to which the causes and effects of the Mexican and Russian Revolutions were similar.*

Your teacher will collect your worksheets and paragraphs to assess how your comparison skills are progressing.

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Part 1: Identifying and Describing

1. Write the topic of comparison at the top of the chart, and then add the cases you're comparing and their associated time periods and locations.
2. Respond to the questions in the Part 1 chart for each case you're comparing. Use the resources provided.
3. After responding to the questions for each case, identify and describe the similarities and differences between these cases.

Part 2: Analyzing

1. If you were going to write two essays about the similarities and/or differences you've identified for this topic, what are two thesis statements you might use? Write one thesis statement about similarities and one about differences.
2. If required, use your thesis statements to craft a response to the comparison prompt for this activity.

Topic of Comparison

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Part 1: Identifying and Describing

Cases You're Comparing		
Time Period		
Location		

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Politics/Economic/Social <i>What were the causes of the revolution?</i>		Similarities	
		Differences	
Politics <i>How successful was the revolution?</i>		Similarities	
		Differences	
Social <i>How did this revolution affect different communities within each of these regions, such as different social classes, genders, and ethnic minorities?</i>		Similarities	
		Differences	

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Part 2: Analyzing

Thesis Statement 1: Similarities	
Thesis Statement 2: Differences	
Response	