



### Abstract

*This role play has been designed to illustrate the diplomatic processes that were at work during the Versailles Conference in 1919. Students adopt the role of nation delegates negotiating a treaty to be signed. Germany was not involved in the negotiation but is required to sign or else.*

### Keywords

*schools, diplomatic process, war, Versailles Conference*

### Group Size

Designed for high school students, the role play may be applied to other levels. Six nation groups are involved: Great Britain, France, Germany, USA, Italy, New Central European Nations (Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Austria). The role play itself does not specify the number in each group.

### Learning Opportunities

Participants take on the roles of the nations each of which is led by the head of the government. Participants learn historical facts and gain a greater appreciation of the diplomatic process that formed the Versailles Treaty.

### Time and Setting

Set in 1919 at the Hall of Mirror in Versailles Palace, France.

### Resources

The historical treaty is at <http://net.lib.byu.edu/~rdh7/wwi/versailles.html> The BBC has a collection of video resources only available to UK: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/Versailles%20Treaty>

### Learning Activities

- Students meet first within their own delegations. They must establish in writing their demands from the other groups and they must write what they are willing to give up as a nation. They write a rough draft called a "proposal" using a chart of "concessions" and "demands" on each side of the page.
- Students then meet in the Hall of Mirrors. Each nation will present its demands and concessions. The teacher summarizes these.
- [A sample treaty](#) is distributed and the delegations fill in blanks. For each blank, the delegations vote on the topic.
- Students sign the treaty according to national delegations.

- If time remains, students debate the treaty in a mock Senate and discuss how history would have been different if such a treaty had been approved by the Senate.

### **Links**

[http://www.cyberlearning-world.com/lessons/ushistory/treaty\\_of\\_versailles\\_simulation.htm](http://www.cyberlearning-world.com/lessons/ushistory/treaty_of_versailles_simulation.htm)

Several slightly different versions are available from the web including:

<http://www.greenfield.durham.sch.uk//NewFiles/The%20Treaty%20of%20Versailles%20negotiation%20game.doc>

[http://www.cyberlearning-world.com/lessons/ushistory/treaty\\_of\\_versailles\\_simulation.htm](http://www.cyberlearning-world.com/lessons/ushistory/treaty_of_versailles_simulation.htm)