

Battle of Personalities

Goals	Improvement of argumentation and communication skills; mutual tolerance and ability to defend one's own opinion; emphasis on the development of critical thinking and the ability to empathize
Duration	15 minutes
Difficulty	8th and 9th grade elementary school, high school
Tools and space	Cards with pairs of (historical) personalities, seminar room suitable for group size

Structure of the educational situation

- With an even number of participants in the activity, students sit in pairs at their desks. In case of an odd number of participants, we form one triplet.
- Each pair, or trio, will receive a card with a pair/trio of names of important statesmen, monarchs, or other personalities.
- Each pair will play a game of "Rock, Paper, Scissors" between them, with the winner being given the opportunity to determine which personality they will represent in the dialogue. The loser of the pair will automatically defend the opposite side. In the case of a trio of students, we will determine who each of them will defend specifically. We take into account the different knowledge and character of the students.
- Students can write down their arguments in points on paper before starting the debate.
- Subsequently, the students have a discussion with their opponent(s) based on the rule that they each give one argument to defend their personality. The students regularly take turns arguing. The debate is initiated by the winner of the game "Rock, Paper, Scissors" at the beginning of the activity.
- When one of the parties doesn't find other suitable counter-arguments, the discussion ends with the victory of the opposing party.

Modification of the seminar

- An example of an interesting modification is the division of students into pairs on the basis of gender (i.e. boy versus girl).
- The reign of monarchs or statesmen can be evaluated in the direction of specific areas (e.g. foreign policy, relation to the opposite sex, public appearance, family life, etc.), but this presupposes a deeper knowledge of the context and biography of the personalities.

Methodological notes

- If there is one triplet in a class, it is possible to create a combination of students where one student, who will face the opinions of two of his opponents, is sufficiently communicative and argumentative. Or students can discuss the individual personalities in such a way that the third party will simply defend the third personality.
- The educator will adjust the pairs according to the age and intellectual abilities of the students. For teaching purposes, it is possible to refer students to the short biographies of personalities included in the annex. However, for better understanding the context of their lives, it is suitable to use additional materials.

As an inspirational example, we mention the following pairs:

- Who was the better (emperor) of Caesar, or Napoleon?

Thematic areas for Caesar and Napoleon: family life, military leader, foreign politics, domestic politics, moral stance, importance of reforms, diplomatic skills, marriage policy, self-presentation

- Who was the better monarch of Victoria, or Elizabeth I?

Thematic areas for Victoria and Elizabeth I: family life, moral stance, economic prosperity of the country, construction of the country, domestic politics, foreign politics, religion issues, support of art, selection of advisors

- Who was the better president of Abraham Lincoln, or George Washington?

Thematic areas for Abraham Lincoln and George Washington: domestic politics, moral stance, foreign policy, speaking skills, economic stability of the country, diplomat, important laws and regulation, military leadership, president's legacy to next generations

Conclusion

- Finally, we provide a short time to evaluate the activity and to answer any questions.

Supplement

Elizabeth I (1533-1603 C.E.)



Queen Elizabeth I of England was born in 1533 to Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. Elizabeth was only two years old when her mother was executed on the King's orders. Elizabeth was declared an illegitimate daughter and her situation was difficult. After Henry's death in 1547, she was placed in the care of his widow and sixth wife, Catherine Parr. In 1553, Elizabeth's elder half-sister and devout Catholic Mary ascended the throne and Elizabeth found herself once again in a dangerous situation. Elizabeth was cleverly kept out of the way. As a result, she suffered only a short prison term at the Tower of London in 1554.

Mary's half-sister died soon after, so at the age of 25 she ascended to the throne of England. She chose her advisors carefully. Her first minister was William Cecil. Elizabeth's

ascension to the throne was particularly welcomed by Protestants. She rejected radical Protestant views, but insisted on royal control of the Church. During her reign, many rebellions broke out among both English and Irish Catholics. The Catholic candidate for the throne, Mary Stuart, was imprisoned and executed. At the same time, she tried to stay out of Europe's religious wars. However, in the end, she supported at least Dutch Protestants against Catholic Spain.

Elizabeth encouraged cultural life in England. She also encouraged sea voyages, especially the adventurer Francis Drake. She financially supported the arts, particularly the theatre, and especially the playwright William Shakespeare.

For the last twenty years of her reign, she was at war with Spain. Elizabeth's advisors tried to strengthen the security of the kingdom with a marriage policy. Elizabeth thought about it, but finally resolutely refused. She resented marriage. Moreover, she did not want to hand over power to her husband. However, she probably did not resist other intimate relationships. For example, there is talk of an affair with Robert Dudley.

Elizabeth I of the Tudor family, known as the Virgin Queen, died in 1603.

Queen Victoria (1819-1901 C.E.)

Queen Victoria of Britain, the longest reigning monarch in British history, was born in London in 1819. She was the only child of the Duke of Kent, who was the fourth son of George III and his German wife. She spent her childhood in the isolation of Kensington Palace. She ascended the throne at the age of 18 after the death of William IV.

Victoria married her German cousin, Prince Albert. He was only three months younger than her. Victoria loved and respected her husband greatly. During their 17-year long marriage, a total of nine children were born, including future heir to the throne Edward VII.

Albert showed great interest in art and design. In 1851, Victoria opened the Great Exhibition in London's Hyde Park, an international show of culture and industry. Victoria, too, didn't resist progress, but Albert's untimely death in 1861 had the effect of sapping her psyche. As a widow, she withdrew from public life and her popularity declined.

Her husband was a great mentor and supporter. After his death, she had to adapt to a new situation. Her sympathies were with Benjamin Disraeli, who also prepared Queen Victoria's proclamation as Empress of India in 1876. On the other hand, she disliked the liberal and political opponent of Disraeli - William Gladstone.

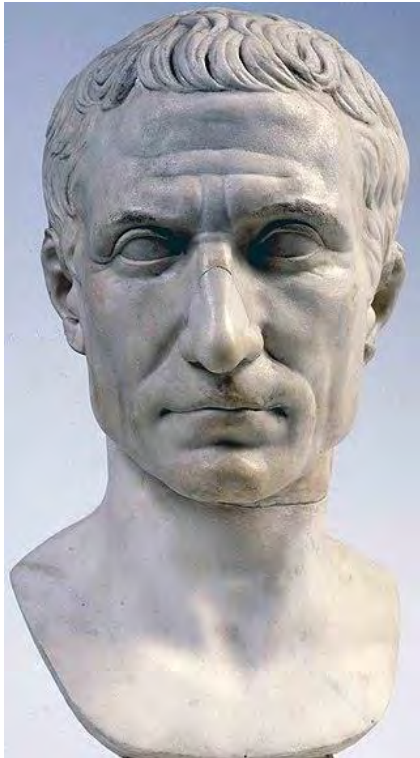
The Widow of Windsor regained popularity on the occasion of Victoria's 50th anniversary on the royal throne in 1887. Ten years later, she celebrated the Brilliant Anniversary in equal seriousness. During the reign of Victoria, Britain fought many colonial wars. Most of those wars were successful. But it was the Boer Wars that caused a wave of social resentment.

Victoria was related to so many royal families that, among other things, she became famous as the "grandmother of Europe." She died in 1901 of a cerebral hemorrhage, ending her 64-year reign. Thanks to the industrial revolution, the colonial empire and a strong navy, at the time Britain became a world power.



Gaius Iulius Caesar (100-44 B.C.E.)

The famous Roman general came from a noble Roman family. Caesar grew up during the decline of the Roman Republic. At first, his name attracted attention because of numerous scandals, such as the effects of relationships with married women. He tried to occupy public offices, but ran out of funds and fell into debt. His political positions were highly populist (e.g., campaigns to allocate land to war veterans and the poor).



In 60 B.C.E, he made a pact with the wealthy politician Marcus Licinius Crassus and the Roman general Pompey to support each other in carrying out a plan to gain positions of power in the state. As the youngest member of the First Triumvirate, he was elected consul, then administrator of the Roman provinces in Gaul (now France). Here, during numerous military expeditions, he showed his military skills. He also undertook expeditions outside the provinces. Numerous victories ensured his wealth, power and fame. He had a strong and loyal army.

At the end of 50 B.C.E, Caesar was called upon by the Senate to disband the army and abdicate. Caesar disobeyed and subsequently conquered Rome with his army. He challenged Pompey for power. Crassus died in 53 B.C.E., and Caesar finally won the battle of Farsal in 48 B.C.E and took control. During his reign, he displaced poor Roman citizens to new colonies, adjusted the calendar, and allowed himself to be depicted on coins.

Caesar, however, also had dictatorial tendencies. In 44 B.C.E, he was assassinated in the Senate. His death caused a number of rebellions and, paradoxically, contributed to the demise of the republic that his assassins sought to preserve. Two years after his death, Caesar was proclaimed a god. Today he is remembered as a brilliant warlord, writer (*Notes on the Gallic War*), and orator.

Caesar had three wives and many mistresses. His best-known partner was Queen Cleopatra of Egypt, with whom he probably had a son, Caesarion.

Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821 C.E.)

The French emperor and general was born into an impoverished aristocratic family in Corsica. He was very tenacious during his younger years. He graduated from a military school and became a second lieutenant in the artillery at the age of sixteen.

His military career fully began during the reign of the Jacobins during the French Revolution, when he was appointed brigadier general. After the fall of the Jacobins, he suppressed an attempted royalist coup, and the Directorate put him in charge of the internal army in Paris. Subsequently, he succeeded as commander of the Italian army. In 1798-1799, he led campaigns in Egypt and Palestine. Returning to France, he took part in a government coup and established a new government - the consulate. Then he becomes the first consul. He was proclaimed consul for life not long after, and in 1804 was crowned emperor of France at Notre Dame Cathedral.



The soldiers liked him. He repeatedly showed his military skills, using maximum force to surprise the enemy. He often awarded soldiers and rewarded them with titles (e.g. Legion of Honor).

At Austerlitz in 1805, he defeated the Austrian and Russian armies. A year later, at the Battle of Jena, he defeated Prussia. In the same year, on the basis of political agreements, he entered into a marriage with the Austrian Archduchess Maria Luisa. Before that, however, his prior marriage had to be annulled.

In 1812, he undertook a campaign to Russia, but failed to assess the situation and had to retreat. Subsequently, in 1813, he was defeated at the Battle of Leipzig, abdicated and interned on the island of Elba. He still managed to escape from the island, but was finally defeated at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. He died in exile on the island of St Helena in 1821. He became a legend, but failed to create the imperial dynasty he had hoped for. One of the most important legacies of his government is the publication of the Code Civil.

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865 C.E.)

The sixteenth president of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, grew up in Kentucky. His father was a farmer and raised his son to work hard. Lincoln didn't receive a deeper education, but he was ambitious and communicative. At the age of thirty, he became a lawyer, a member of the liberal progressive Whig Party, and a congressman.

In 1842, he married Mary Todd, the daughter of a Kentucky planter. The marriage, however, wasn't happy.



After being elected to the U.S. Congress in 1846, Lincoln served in Washington, D.C., returning to Illinois after two years to practice law. His political career was ended at the time by opposition to the U.S. war against Mexico.

He returned to politics after the slavery problem erupted. As a co-founder of the Republican Party, he decided to prevent the spread of slavery. Lincoln dismissed slavery as morally wrong, but didn't identify with the abolitionist movement. Southerners hated him for his anti-slavery stance. However, in 1860, he won the Republican nomination for President of the United States as a compromise candidate. Given the Democrats' split, he won the presidential election with more than 40% of the vote. Staunch Southerners saw his victory as an incentive to leave the Union.

But Lincoln's position in the presidency was precarious. He was despised by the political elite for his origins. Both factions of the Republican Party also opposed him. Moreover, Lincoln was also threatened by disgruntled generals. The president had to maneuver and compromise. Finally, he found support in General Grant.

During his presidency, Lincoln supported the creation of the National Bank, supported the Pacific Railroad Company, and prepared the divided prairies for small farms (the Homestead Act), which gave every citizen the right to 160 acres of free land in the American West. On the issue of slavery, he championed the full civil and electoral rights of black Americans.

His assassination by fanatic John Wilkes Booth at the moment of the Union Army's victory represented a national tragedy.

George Washington (1732-1799 C.E.)

George Washington was an American soldier and politician who became the first President of the United States. He headed the troops of the thirteen colonies—the Continental Army—that won the War of Independence over Great Britain.

According to his origin, he held a seat in the House of Commons of Virginia, where he almost never performed due to his poor debating and speaking skills. Still, as a politician, he was respected and considered the head of the Anti-British Opposition in Virginia.



After the outbreak of the Colonial dispute with Great Britain, he joined the Colonial Party and, as a representative of Virginia, attended the First Continental Congress (1774). Because of his experience in the war with France, when he was first a lieutenant colonel and then a commander of the Virginia Militia, he became commander of the army of the Continental Congress in 1775.

He fought with restraint and caution. He held out until developments in Europe bound the enemy's forces. Only then did he fight decisive battles. After the conquest of Yorktown, he made a victorious peace in 1783.

After a dispute between the disunited American colonies, he assumed the office of President of the Constituent Assembly, convened in Philadelphia and charged with making the crumbling union a unified state (1787).

He refused to accept the impulses of the French Revolution, spoke out against democratic demands, and advocated a policy of non-interference in European disputes. In 1789, he was unanimously elected as the first President of the United States. Washington was one of the founders of the country's two-party system. He was able to pay off the national debt and reorganize the country's administration and army. He supported the re-establishment of relations with Britain. In 1793, he was re-elected President. But his policy of good relations with Great Britain and reticence toward France made him many enemies. In 1798, Washington resigned the presidency. He died soon after.