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Unit: Croatian War

Lesson 1: Introduction to Croatian War

Lesson 2: Museum Visit

Lesson 3: Battle of Vukovar

Unit description:

In this unit students will learn about Croatian war, crucial event of recent Croatian history. In the 90s of the 20th century, Croatia became an independent state, but it had to fight for its independence with weapons. The whole consists of three teaching lessons. In the first lesson, students are introduced to the chronology of the war, the most important battlefields and the results of the war. Students receive instructions on how to create a poster or ppt presentation after completing the unit. The introductory lesson is followed by the second teaching lesson, the museum and viewing of the exhibition dedicated to the Homeland War. In the third teaching lesson, the battle for the city of Vukovar is discussed.

Objectives and key competences

- point out the difficulties during the creation of the sovereign Republic of Croatia
- point out the people's right to freedom and self-determination
- condemn the resolution of conflicts by the use of force
- develop students' attitude towards war destruction and human casualties
- point out who is the aggressor and who is the victim and condemn the war of conquest
- explain the causes of civilian casualties in the Croatian War
- explain the role of the international community in the Croatian War
- explain the course and features of the battle for Vukovar using a map

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- argumentation and development of critical thinking using written sources
- empathetic exchange of history, sensitivity and immersion in the conditions of others

### Lesson I. Introduction to Croatian War

In the first teaching lesson, students will analyze the causes, course, features and consequences of the Croatian War.

In the introductory part of the teaching unit, the teacher explains the breakup of Yugoslavia and the causes that led to the start of the war in Croatia with the help of a ppt presentation. Then, with the help of materials and an animated map, students create a timeline with the most important battles of the war. The time period begins with the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia in December 1990 and ends with the signing of the Dayton Agreement in December 1995.

In the final part of the unit, students present their work and answer questions about the consequences of the war.

1. Explain how the Homeland War affected the demographic picture of Croatia.
2. Explain how the Homeland War affected the economic development of Croatia.

<https://www.e-sfera.hr/dodatni-digitalni-sadrzaji/384febbc-3aed-409b-88b2-42b357309b17/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EyxOBHFYVNo>

Consequences of the war: <https://www.e-sfera.hr/dodatni-digitalni-sadrzaji/ca9ca9f3-47e6-40c7-a866-1d923b1a4766/>

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## Lesson II. Museum visit

In the second teaching lesson, students will visit an exhibition dedicated to the Croatian War. The purpose of the visit is to stimulate students' interest in the study of the past, enable an understanding of the present and the acquisition of knowledge and skills necessary for informed and active participation in society as citizens of the local community, Croatia, Europe and the world. Getting to know local or national history through national localities contributes to the student's understanding of pan-European changes and inter-national connections.

## Lesson III. Battle of Vukovar

In the last teaching unit, the battle for the city of Vukovar is covered. Using a map, the teacher explains the course and characteristics of the battle for Vukovar. In further work, the emphasis is placed on the violation of the rights of war and the suffering of civilians. Students use the text in the textbook, written sources, maps and photographs.

1. On the basis of photographs and written sources, draw a conclusion about the methods of warfare of the attackers during the siege of Vukovar.
2. Argue the claim: the siege of Vukovar was primarily directed against civilians.
3. Describe the work of the Vukovar hospital in wartime conditions. It singles out difficulties that would not have existed if the attacker had respected the law of war.

Source: <https://www.e-sfera.hr/prelistaj-udzbenik/01b36003-72e1-4cd2-b872-bf7c63d615b5>

## Results and output

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After processing the unit, the students create a digital poster or ppt presentation on the chosen topic from the Croatian War.

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