

Lesson 1**Focus Question #1****Why was Germany unified after years divided?**

- What events led to the unification of Germany in 1990?
- How did Germany and the world perceive the fall of the Berlin Wall and German re-unification?

Background Information

German unification was forged over time by a changing world order and Germany's post-war reconciliation with its one-time foes. During the 1980s, political overtures by German leaders from both sides, fewer travel restrictions on East Germans, and a weakened East German economy made peaceful mass demonstrations for freedom possible by the end of the decade. On November 9, 1989, East Germany officially opened its borders to West Germany and West Berlin. German citizens no longer had to designate which part of Germany was home.

Essential Content ⚡

Note: The following words/concepts are essential to an understanding of this lesson. Put the words on your Word Wall and use them in context as you teach the lesson.

- ⚡ Unification
- ⚡ Berlin Wall
- ⚡ East Germany
- ⚡ Refugees
- ⚡ Perception
- ⚡ Cold War
- ⚡ Brandenburg Gate
- ⚡ West Germany
- ⚡ Standard of living