

Bunkers and Bases: Military Installation Reuse

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Unit Focus: Reduced military presence in Germany

Big Concepts: US military in Germany, Protection of the environment, Land Use

Essential Understanding:

Students will understand that Germany is faced with land use decisions as a result of closure of military installations through the country. What ever decisions are made will need to be consistent with German values and present economic conditions.

Essential Questions:

1. What is the reason for the military presence in Germany?
2. What plans regarding the military in Germany are being considered by United States and some possible affects of these plans on Germany?
3. How will German values toward the environment affect the decisions on what should be done with no longer needed military installations?
4. What would you recommend to Germany as a possible use for no longer needed ammunition bunkers?

Related Arizona Standards and Performance Objectives:

Grade 7

Strand 2: World History

Concept 9: Contemporary World

PO 3. Analyze how world events of the late 20th century and early 21st century (e.g., terrorism, globalization, conflicts, interdependence, natural disasters, advancements in science and technology, environmental issues) affected, and continue to affect, the social, political, geographic, and economic climate of the world.

PO 4. Compare the economic, political, and social aspects of a country identified in Concept 8 above during the first half of the 20th century to its contemporary economic, political, and social aspects.

Strand 4: Geography

Concept: Environment and Society

PO 7. Compare different points of view and research on environmental issues (e.g., land use, natural resources, wildlife, biomes).

Assessment Type:

Group Product

Summative Assessment:

Project Proposal and PowerPoint slide show outlining possible use for a closed military installation.

Directions/Criteria:

Project Scoring Checklist - Mastery is 80% (80 of 100 points)

Directions: Working with your group, you will create a proposal for how to use this property. Your proposal will need to include the following:

- Convert the metric measurements of the bunkers and the land area.
- Description for the proposed use of the area.
- An explanation of why your plan is a good one.
- Pictures or illustrations of your plan.
- How your group considered the German concern for the environmental impact and how it will help the German economy.

You will present the main points of your proposal using PowerPoint and any other visual aides you believe will enhance your proposal.

Directions for Exceeding the Standard:

Students will demonstrates extreme creativity in planned use of the property with more than one possible use being conducted on the property. Careful consideration is given to how the proposal would affect the environment. Students may have included visual aids that enhance presentation. Students might also conduct an Internet search for other projects involving converted military bases.

Lesson 1: The United States Military Presence in Germany

Essential Question #1 and #2:

What are major economic concerns for Germany as a result of military base closures?

Basic Facts and Knowledge:

How the military buildup resulted in Germany.

Big Idea: No nation has sent more armed forces and created as many military installations beyond its borders as the United States during the Cold War. The forces were intended to deter Soviet aggression and to respond quickly if needed. The buildup began in 1947, after Stalin brought down an Iron Curtain in Central Europe and communism seemed to be spreading. Nearly 1,700 US installations, large and small, were located in the Northern Hemisphere.

Economic impact on communities is often tied to proximity to military bases.

Instructional Strategies:

- Introduce the lesson by showing students the map of current military bases in Germany and discuss the questions.
- Read an article from DW-World.De
"US Troop Pullout to Hit Local German Economies"
- Students complete the graphic organizer as they read the article.

Formative Assessments:

Check the graphic organizer to ensure students have correctly identified the main idea and supporting details from the article.

Resources Needed:

- Map of current military bases
- *DW-World.De*
August 17, 2004
"US Troop Pullout to Hit Local German Economies"
www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,1299315,00.html
- Graphic organizer

Additional Teacher Background Information:

<http://www.bicc.de/publications/bulletin/bull0199.pdf>

<http://www.bicc.de/publications/bulletin/bull0498.pdf>

Lesson 2: Germany's Environmental Policy

Essential Question 3:

How will German values toward the environment affect the decisions on what should be done with no longer needed military installations?

Basic Facts and Knowledge:

- ❖ Germany, as a European Union member, adheres to the “European Union’s Environmental Policy”.
- ❖ Germany as a nation is very concerned about protecting and preserving the environment.

Instructional Strategies:

- ❖ Prerequisite knowledge: The basic history of the European Union.
- ❖ Brainstorm as a class possible reasons why European countries might need a common environmental policy.
- ❖ Distribute Handout 20 and read aloud as a class. Stop to discuss and highlight any parts of the policy that might need to be considered when proposing military bases conversions.

Formative Assessments:

Have students share with a neighbor one or two important parts of the EU environmental policy.

Resources Needed:

Handout 20 “European Union’s Environmental Policy” from *Germany in Europe Enduring Issues* –Topic 4 Lesson 2 Transatlantic Outreach Program

Lesson 3: What to do with 325 Ammunition Bunkers

Essential Question 4: What would you do with no longer needed ammunition bunkers?

Basic Facts and Knowledge:

The bunkers were built in the 1980's by NATO to store ammunition. In 1994, the military pulled out of the area and the ammunition shelters were turned over to the German government. The bunkers are surrounded by a large forested area, located in a rural area near the town of Kevelaer in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, near the border of the Netherlands. Each bunker is approximately 1200 sq. meters of floor space. The results of environmental testing showed no contamination of the area.

North Rhine-Westphalia is one of 16 states in Germany.

Instructional Strategies:

- Provide students with photographs #1 and 2 and a general description of the ammunition bunkers located in North Rhine-Westphalia,
- Show students on a map the location of North Rhine-Westphalia.
- Divide students into small groups (3 to 4 students) and tell them they will be forming a company that will be presenting a proposal to the government for the state of North Rhine-Westphalia about what to do with some no longer needed ammunition shelters and a large piece of land.
- Give students time to produce a proposal for what to do with the bunkers.
- After the proposal is completed, students will use PowerPoint to prepare the presentation.
- Once the storyboard is complete, students can begin to prepare their presentation using PowerPoint.
- Students will present their proposals using PowerPoint slide shows to the class who will act as the government officials for North Rhine-Westphalia.
- A vote will be taken to decide the best use of the property.
- After students have presented their ideas, show the class the photographs of the actual conversion project for the bunkers.
- If possible, visit the webpage for the traberpark for additional photographs and information.
- You may also want to share with students the article about bunkers being used as bat roosts.

Formative Assessments: Completed Proposal and PowerPoint storyboard

Resources Needed:

- ❖ Map – The States of the Federal Republic of Germany from Welcome to Germany Topic 1, Lesson 3 Transatlantic Outreach Program
- ❖ Student Project Directions
- ❖ Project Proposal Form
- ❖ Power Point storyboard
- ❖ Photographs #1 and 2 of the bunkers before
- ❖ Photographs of the conversion project results
- ❖ Scoring Checklist

<http://www.traberpark.de/heybergframeset.htm>

(Note: right click and use option to translate page to English)

Use Google Earth (<http://earth.google.com/>) and enter the Traberpark address: Im Auwelt 45 47624 Kevelaer, Germany (You will get a great view of the terrain and area surrounding the Traberpark)

“Converting an old military bunker into bat roosts” from <http://www.worlddeer.org/britishbats/otherpages/bunker.html>

This is an interesting article about bunkers near Berlin which were turned into bat houses.

Current US military bases in Germany

Reminder: Germany is about the size of Arizona. What do you notice about the number of military bases in Germany? Why do you think there are so many? What other questions does this map bring to mind for you?



What would you do with 325 ammunition bunkers and 150 hectares of land?

Background Information:

The bunkers were built in the 1980's by NATO to store ammunition. In 1994, the military pulled out of the area and the ammunition shelters were turned over to the German government. The bunkers are surrounded by a large forested area, located in a rural area near the town of Kevelaer in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, near the border of the Netherlands. Each bunker is approximately 1200 sq. meters of floor space. The results of environmental testing showed no contamination of the area.

Task:

Working with your group, you will create a proposal for how to use this property. Your proposal will need to include the following:

- Convert the metric measurements of the bunkers and the land area.
- Description for the proposed use of the area.
- An explanation of why your plan is a good one.
- Pictures or illustrations of your plan.
- How your group considered the German concern for the environmental impact and how it will help the German economy.

You will present the main points of your proposal using PowerPoint and any other visual aids you believe will enhance your proposal.

Directions:

First, brainstorm with your group possible uses for the property. Once you have agreed on a plan, complete the *Proposal Application* form. Next, use the storyboard provided to create an eight slide PowerPoint presentation of your proposal. Once your storyboard has been approved, you may begin the actual PowerPoint presentation you will present to the class.

“US Troop Pullout to Hit Local German Economies”

DW-World.DE
August 17, 2004

Directions: Read the article and complete the graphic organizer

Main Idea:

Detail #1 (Who is involved?):

Detail #2 (What will be done?):

Detail #3 (How many soldiers involved?):

Detail #4 (Why are US soldiers in Germany?):

Detail #5 (What might be the effect of the pullout):

Project Proposal Form

Name of proposed project:

Project members:

A short description of project:

Possible Environmental Impacts:

Possible Economic Benefits:

Attach any drawings or illustrations to support your project idea?


Bunker Use Proposal Storyboard

Title of the Presentation

Names of Students

Introduction

Map Showing Location of North Rhine-Westphalia



Planned Use

Environmental Impacts

Economic Benefits

Other Great Things About Proposal

Summary or Conclusion Slide

Credits

List the sources that you used for your information and images.

Photographs 1 and 2
Ammunition Bunkers located in the state of North Rhine Westfalia
near the town of Kevelaer



After Conversion Photos

Vacation Homes



RV Park



Horse Stables and Trotter Park



Additional Uses of the Bunkers:

Growing mushrooms, art gallery, and other small businesses

“US Troop Pullout to Hit Local German Economies”

DW-World.DE
August 17, 2004

Directions: Read the article and complete the graphic organizer

Main Idea:

The pullout of US military will greatly affect Germany, especially in small town who depend US for economic benefits.

Detail #1 (Who is involved?):

The United States Military and the people and government of Germany.

Detail #2 (What will be done?):

US may remove troops and close military bases.

Detail #3 (How many soldiers involved?):

Half of the 71,000 (approximately 35,000-36,000) troops stationed in Germany.

Detail #4 (Why are US soldiers in Germany?):

The build-up began after World War II, more and more troops arrived as the Cold War began. During the 1950's and 1960's had troops in more than 500 cities and downs.

Detail #5 (What might be the effect of the pullout):

Bases and soldiers contribute to the economy of the towns and help support many jobs. Spend money in shops and pay local landlords rent.