

## **LESSON PLAN**

### **YERTLE THE TURLTE**

**1. Objective:**

- a. The purpose of this lesson is the introduction to students of Adolf Hitler and his rise to power. (Note to the teacher: The homework assignment questions can be adjusted to meet your needs. Since this is an introduction lesson to Adolf Hitler and Germany’s rise to power, it has student predicting and inferring.)

**2. Anticipatory Set:**

- a. Students will be asked the following questions:
  - i. What do you know about Adolf Hitler (Hitler)?
  - ii. What did he do to rise to power?
- b. Students will be asked to read Dr. Seuss’ story, Yertle the Turtle. As they are reading, students will be asked to make any connections with Yertle and Hitler. (Note to the teacher: when you are done teaching the rise of Hitler, one should go back and discuss what he did to rise to power. At that time, revisit the images of Yertle stacking turtles to rise to power. Each turtle represents what Hitler did in his own rise. Also, you will be able to discuss how Mack rebelled and how the Allie Forces were the “burp.”)

**3. Teaching/Presentation (includes Input, Modeling, and Checking for Understanding):**

- a. The teacher will read Yertle the Turtle by Dr. Seuss. (While read, it should be projected with an LCD projector onto a white screen. This allows the students to read along with the story. I have attached a copy of Yertle the Turtle, which has been scanned and placed into a PowerPoint Presentation, it is labeled “*yertle the turtle-by dr suess.*” I have not placed the story into Photo Story because it does not allow the teacher to stop and ask questions from the students as he/she reads the story.)
- b. Students will be divided into two groups. Group one will be the Yertle group, and group two will be the Mack group. As the teacher reads, students will fill out their graphic organizers on Yertle or Mack. The graphic organizer is a skelton that allows students to record what Yertle or Mack though, saw, said, went, felt, loved, and heard. (50 Graphic Organizers for Reading, Writing, & More: Reproducible Templates, Student Samples, and Easy Strategies to Support Every Learner, Irwin-DeVitis; Bromley; Modlo; page 43. The graphic organizer is attached, please see the files labeled “*getting into character map-blank, getting into character map-yertle, or getting into character map-mack.*”. It is helpful to copy the graphic organizer using two colors. This helps students know what character they are responsible for. Furthermore, it helps you with the class discussion.)

- c. The teacher will demonstrate how to fill in the graphic organizer and will let students know that they do not need to write full sentences, but students are to write one to two words that each character did on the lines with each line being filled.
- d. The teacher will read aloud Yertle the Turtle, and students will be filling in their graphic organizers.
- e. As the teacher reads the books, stop throughout and make sure students are able to identify the two main characters.

**4. Closure:**

- a. When the teacher is finished reading, give students two minutes to finish their graphic organizers.
- b. Ask students to compare and contrast Yertle and Mack.
- c. Reread the last page and ask students to explore the significance of this quote:

*“And the turtle, of course. . . all turtle are free  
As turtles and maybe, all creatures should be.”*

- d. The teacher will share and students will discuss the quote, “*With great power comes great responsibility.*” (Spider-Man, 2002) (Please see attachment of bulletin board pictures.)

**5. Independent Practice:**

- a. Students’ homework is on the back of the graphic organizer (Please see the attached file labeled, “*yertle the turtle questions-ww2*”).
- b. (Note to the teacher: Continue to use this quote in your room to define people who have power and how they use their power. Students know the quote from the movie Spider-Man and connect to it. Thus, it will help them make connection to Yertle, Hitler, and other leaders you would like to study and the choices they made in their political careers.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_/Period: \_\_\_\_\_

## Yertle the Turtle

*“With great power comes great responsibility.”* Uncle Ben told this to Peter Parker in Spiderman. What does it mean? *(Note to the teacher: If you discussed this in class, then omit this question.)*

Did Yertle use his power responsibly?

Why did you think all the turtles obeyed Yertle and made a turtle stack?

Who do you think Yertle is in *The Rise of Dictators and World War II*?

Who do you think Mack is in *The Rise of Dictators and World War II*?