

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appeasement

World War I caused the deaths of nearly 9 million people & cost huge sums of money. Most countries in Europe were anxious to avoid another costly war – both in terms of money & lives

The British Prime Minister from 1937, Neville Chamberlain, believed in appeasement. The major aim was to avoid another war.

“Appease’ literally means pacify, soothe or satisfy.



In 1938 Germany and Austria joined together – this was known as Anschluss. Hitler claimed he was uniting all German speaking people in one “greater Germany”

Seeing this, German speaking people in the Czechoslovakia (mainly living in an area known as the Sudetenland – shaded on the map) began to demand they become part of Germany too. Hitler made sure these people received support from Germany. However, Hitler couldn’t just take over the area. Czechoslovakia was a powerful new country and had the backing of the Soviet Union

In September 1938, Hitler demanded that German speakers in Czechoslovakia should be allowed to join his “greater Germany”. War between Germany and Czechoslovakia seemed likely!

Everything depended on the action of Britain, France and the USSR



### British & French foreign policy 1938

PM Chamberlain was determined to avoid war. He made many trips around Europe in September 1938 attempting to make agreements.

Chamberlain took the lead and the French followed. The French also wished to avoid war at all costs. If they didn’t go to war the neither would the Soviet Union.

As a final attempt to avoid war, a conference in Munich was organized

### The Munich Conference

Chamberlain, Hitler, Daladier (French PM) and Mussolini (leader of Italy) all met in Munich to discuss Czechoslovakia. The Czechoslovakian government was not invited.

It was decided that Germany would occupy the Sudetenland within 10 days and other parts of Czechoslovakia would go to Poland and Hungary

The French and British governments agreed. The Czechoslovakian government was told to agree or face Germany alone

Hitler promised not to take over any more land.  
IT WAS GENERALLY FELT GIVING HITLER THE SUDENTENLAND WAS A GOOD PRICE TO PAY FOR PEACE

Chamberlain was congratulated in Britain for avoiding war. Britain and France had given into Hitler's demands, but in return Hitler had promised not to take over any more land.

Chamberlain was very pleased in saying

Source A. Speech by Chamberlain, 3/10/38

"...the Munich agreement has shown that four great powers can agree on a way of carrying out a difficult operation by discussion rather than a force of arms."



"Peace in our time" – Chamberlain returning from Munich showing a piece of paper with Hitler's promise of peace

However, not everyone was so pleased

Source B. Speech by Churchill, September 1938

"We have been defeated without a war. And do not suppose this is the end. This is only the first taste of a bitter drink which will be forced on us year by year. Unless we rise again and take our stand for freedom as in the old days."

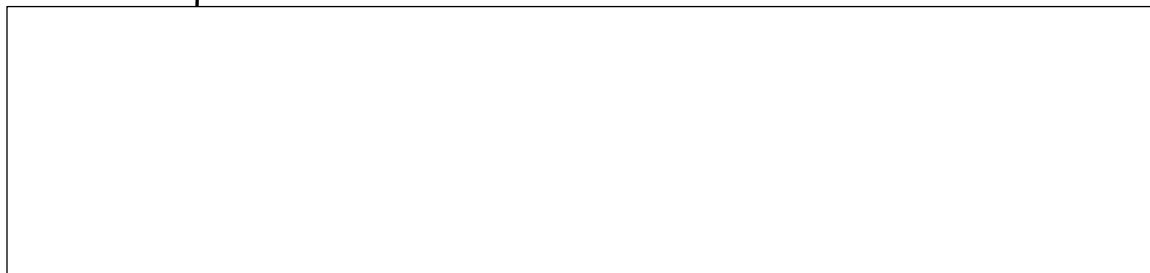
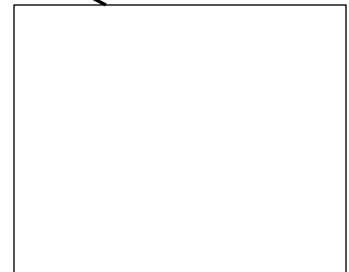
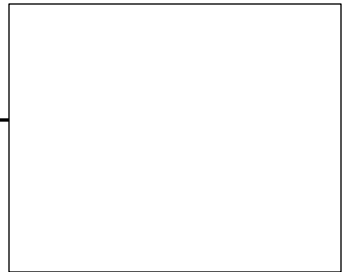
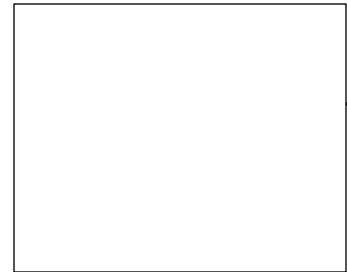
Source C. Speech by Churchill, September 1938

"We have been reduced from a position of safety and power to where we now stand."

### Questions (answer in complete sentences)

1. Define appeasement
2. Who supported appeasement
3. Who opposed appeasement
4. Why were the countries of Europe so keen to avoid another war
5. What did Hitler claim when he united Germany and Austria
6. What was the part of Czechoslovakia where most German speakers lived called
7. Give two reasons why Germany couldn't just take Czechoslovakia
  - a. Which four countries were at the Munich conference
  - b. In your opinion, should any other countries have been invited? Why
8. Why did many people feel giving Germany at Munich was a good idea
9. Translate source A, chamberlain's opinion of the Munich agreement in your own words
10. Using source B and C, explain what Churchill thought of the Munich agreement
11. Was the policy of appeasement justified? Explain

How does this cartoon explain the failure of the League of Nations?



How does this cartoon explain the failure of the League of Nations?

