

How did the policy of appeasement help to cause WW2?



Learning Outcomes

- By the end of this revision session:
- You will be able to describe what appeasement is. (C/D)
- You will be able to explain why GB followed the policy of appeasement in the 1930's. (C/B)
- Some of you will be able to assess the impact of appeasement & decide if it was a good idea or not.

Guess who?

Rules of the game

The following slides show pictures of people who are key characters from the period that we have been studying.

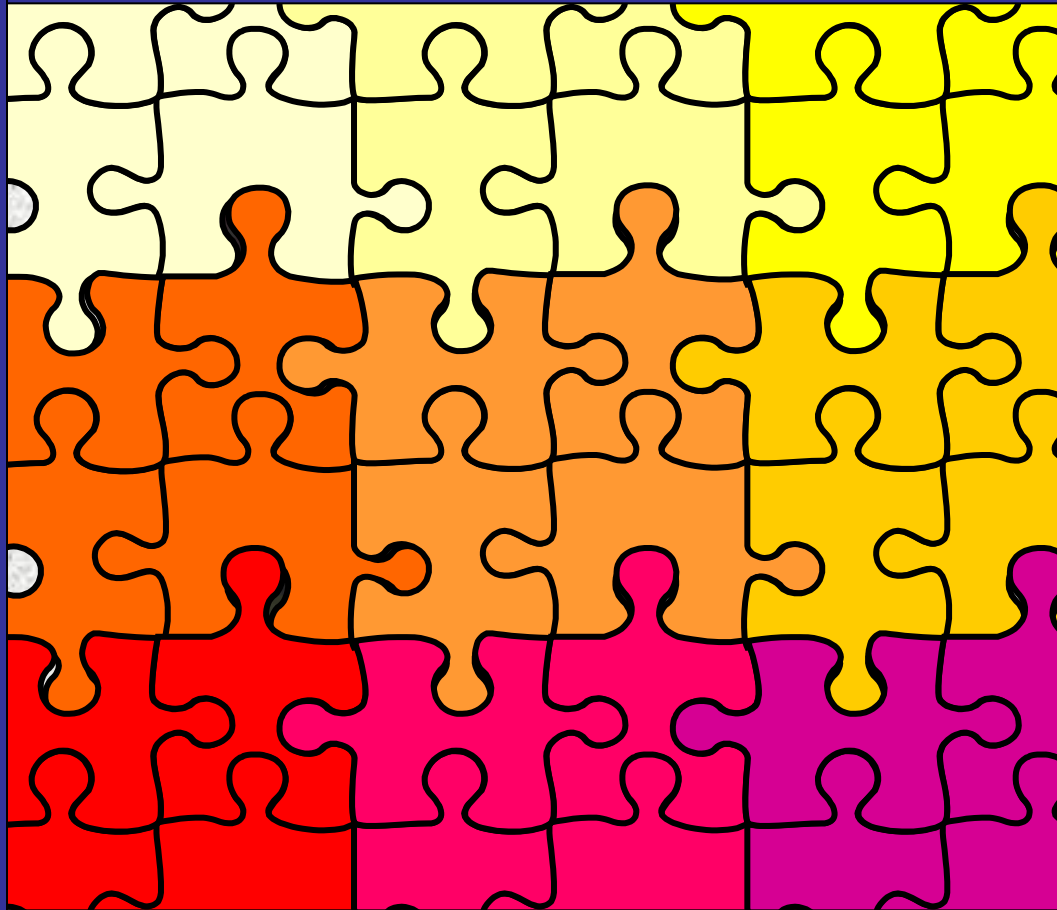
Can you recognise them?

Click on the jigsaw pieces to reveal their pictures and see how quickly you can see who they are.

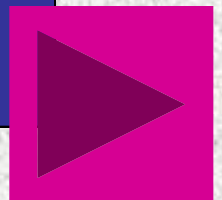
There are clues if you need them!



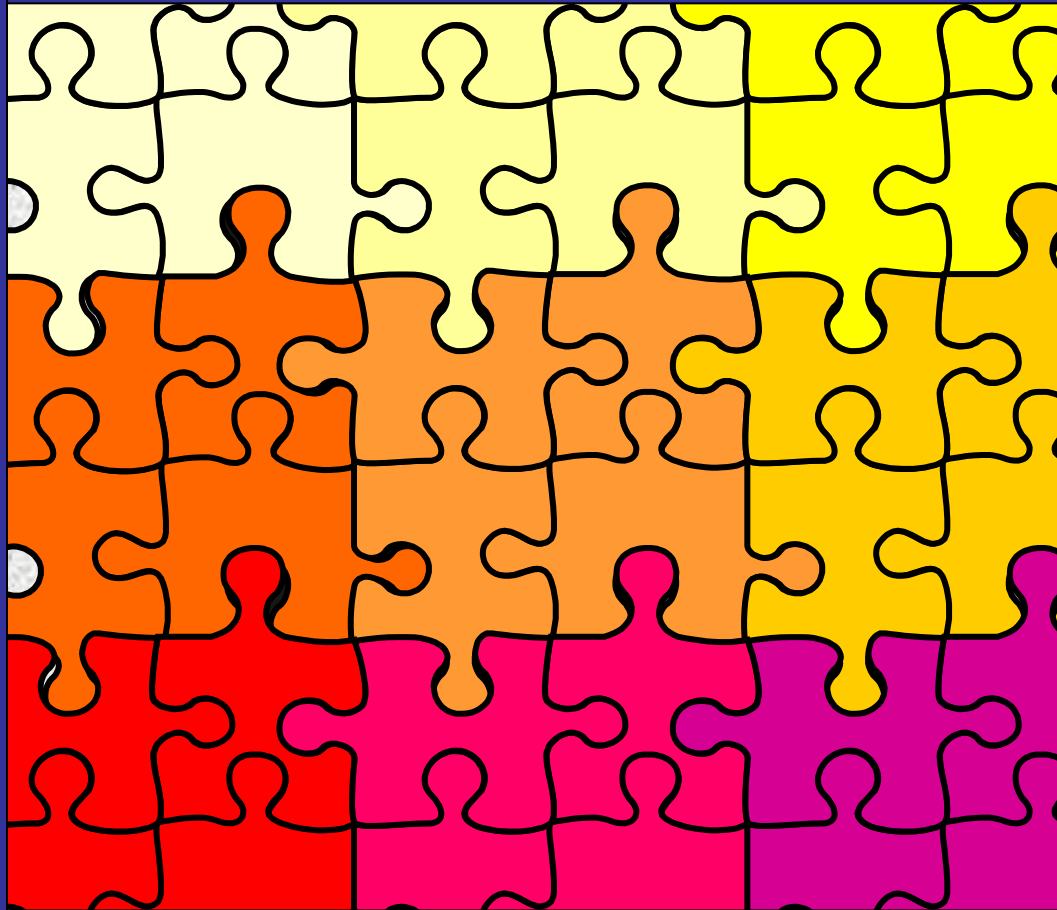
Click here for a clue



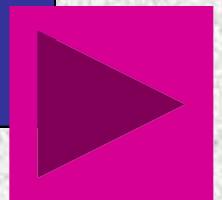
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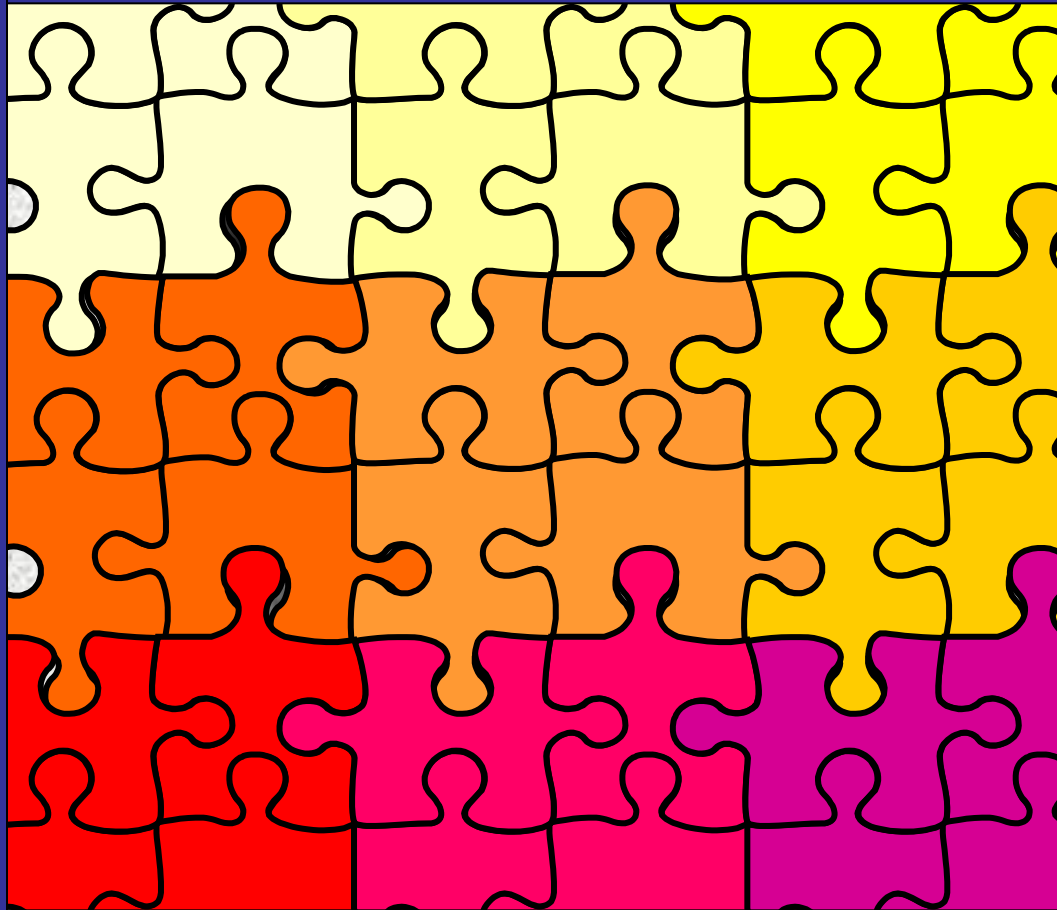
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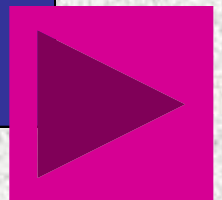
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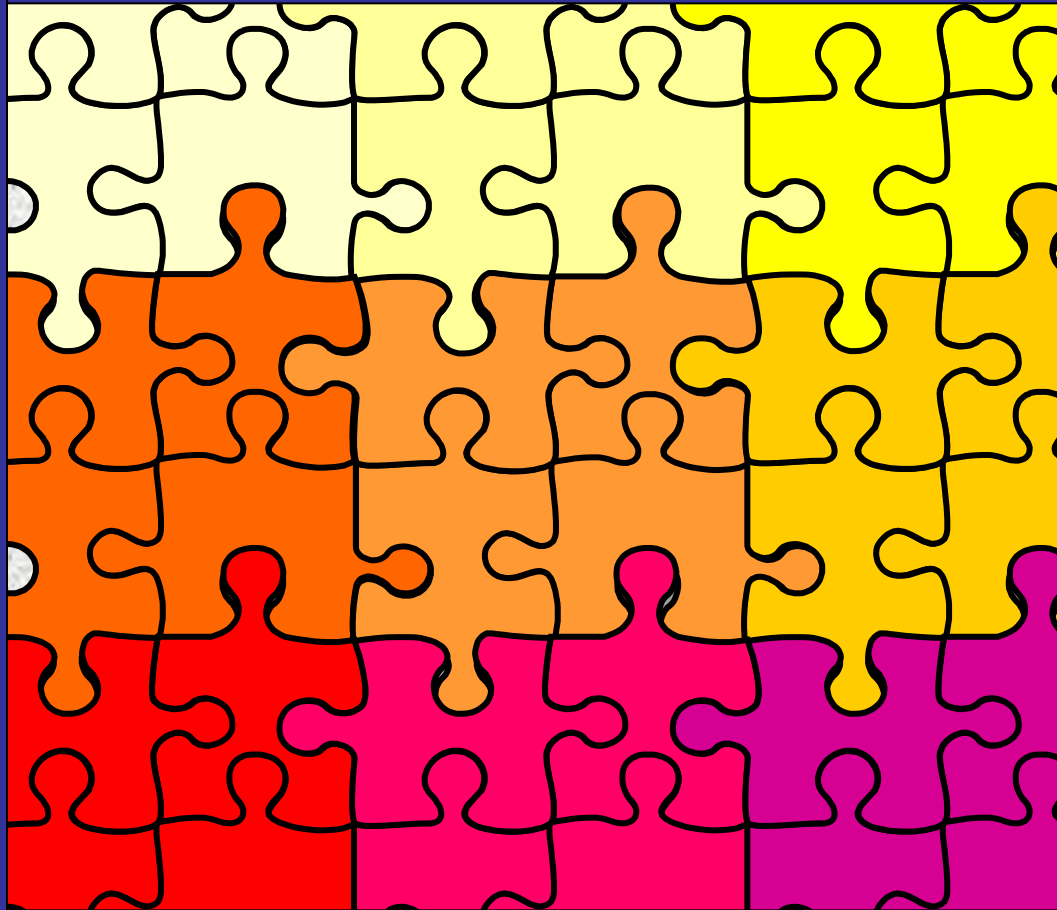
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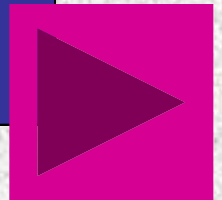
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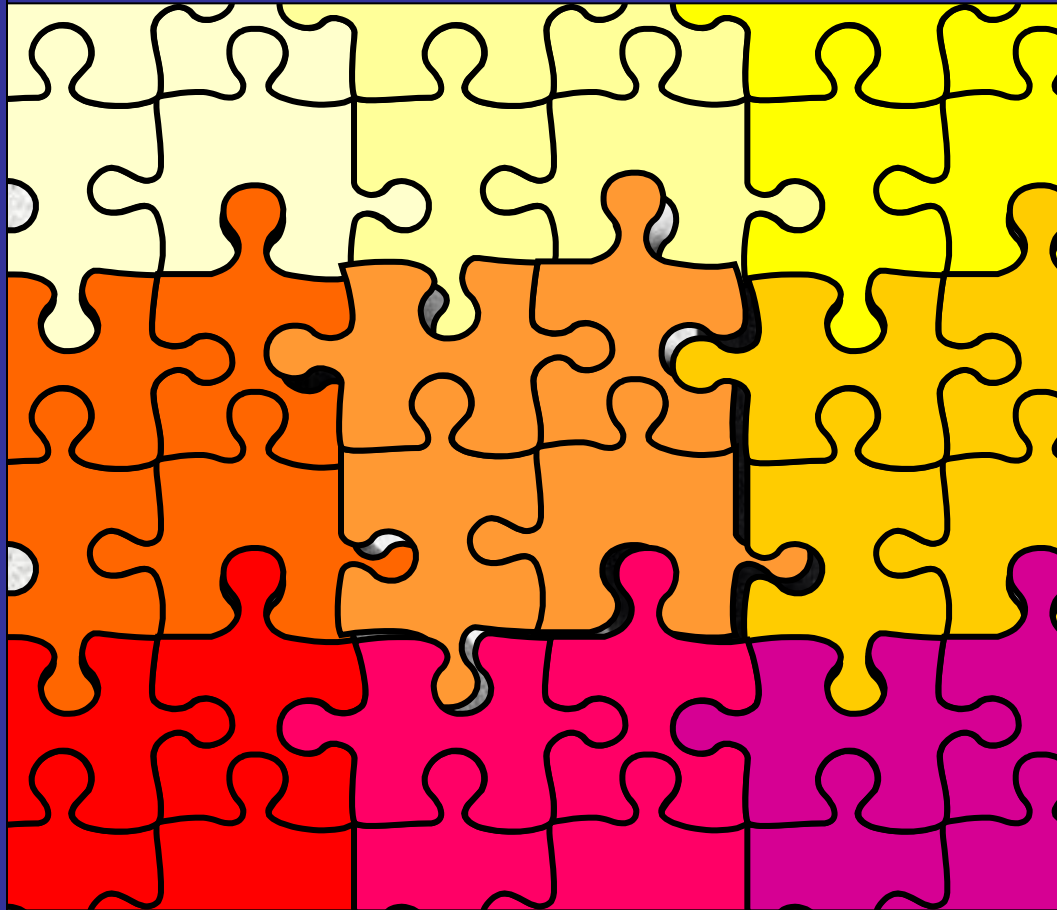
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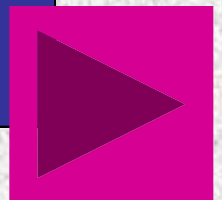
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Click here for a clue



Click here to reveal name



What is appeasement?

- Pick out the correct definition

To give someone what they want because you like them.

To give in to someone's demands to avoid a war at all cost.

A dish with garden peas, mint and feta cheese.

This policy was associated with Neville Chamberlain, Prime Minister of Britain at the time.



"Peace in our time"

What does appeasement mean?

to say or do something in order to make somebody less angry or aggressive, especially by giving in to demands that have been made

A policy followed by Britain in the 1930's to avoid war with dictators like Hitler at all costs

Why did GB follow the policy of appeasement in the 1930's?

World Depression
Countries were skint after the Wall St Crash. This encouraged **SELF INTEREST.** Other countries wouldn't act unless **GB** did.

British Army
This had shrunk in the 1930's when Chamberlain was **Chancellor of the Exchequer.** He spent money on improving housing and welfare.

War was unpopular
Many people still remembered the deaths of soldiers in WW1. another war would mean they had died in vain.

Communism
GB was more scared of communist USSR than it was of Hitler. Some people believed that GB secretly hoped Hitler and Stalin would fight & weaken each other.

The Treaty of Versailles

Many countries in Europe in the 1930's were sympathetic towards Hitler's Germany and felt that they had been punished enough. If he broke the TOV it was only to take back what was his.

The League of Nations was weak.

By 1938, the strength of the League relied on France and GB. France would not act without the support of GB. No countries were in a position to send an army to help the League so it was weak.

The USA

America had chosen to stay out of European politics. GB could not rely on their help if they imposed sanctions or went to war against Germany.

Public Opinion

Many of British public did not want another war & supported appeasement

- The Sudetenland Crisis

Background

The Sudetenland had been part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1919 when the peace treaty of St Germain became part of the newly created democratic state of Czechoslovakia. The Sudetenland contained many of Czechoslovakia's important raw materials, armaments factories and border defences. However, some 3,200,000 ethnic Germans lived in the area.

- The Sudetenland Crisis

- By May 1938, Hitler appeared to be prepared to go war with Czechoslovakia in order to break up the country and take the Sudetenland over. Hitler claimed the Sudeten Germans were being mistreated and demanded that self determination, an issue so important when creating the Treaty of Versailles, be applied to them.
- However, the Czech leader, Eduard Benes, was prepared to fight. Czechoslovakia had a modern, well trained army and a mutual defence treaty with both France and the USSR; it was also unlikely that Britain would be able to stay neutral in any war over Czechoslovakia. Tension rose in the summer of 1938 and a war over the Sudetenland looked the most likely outcome.

- **The Munich Agreement**

By September 1938 the Sudeten problem had reached crisis point and events unfolded as follows:

12-13th September

- Hitler encouraged Konrad Henlein, leader of the Sudeten Nazis, to rebel, and demanded a union with Germany.
- When the Czech government declared martial law, Hitler threatens war.

15 September

- British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, desperate to avoid war, flew to meet Hitler at Berchtesgaden. It appeared that Hitler was willing to negotiate and claimed only parts of the Sudetenland – and even then only if the Sudeten Germans agreed to join Germany in a plebiscite. Chamberlain thought this was reasonable and seemed convinced that if Hitler got what he wanted, he would at last be satisfied.

- At Berchtesgaden, Chamberlain, without consulting Czechoslovakia, promised to give Hitler all the areas where more than 50 % of the population is German. The rest would all be required to take part in the plebiscite. Chamberlain then persuaded France to agree.
- On 19 September the French and the British put to the Czechs their plans to give Hitler the parts of the Sudetenland that he wanted. With no alternative, the Czech's reluctantly agreed.

- **22-23 September**

- Chamberlain flew back to meet Hitler at Bad Godesberg to inform him of the decision, but Hitler now increased his demand, insisting that ALL of the Sudetenland be handed over to Germany by 1st October.
- Chamberlain could not accept these demands and war now seemed to be the most likely outcome.

- At first Chamberlain refused to accept Hitler's demands, but then he decided that Czechoslovakia was not one of the 'great issues' which justified war, but just 'a quarrel in a far-away country between people of whom we know nothing'.
- Not wanting Italy to be dragged into war, Mussolini organised a conference at Munich. On 29th September Chamberlain flew out to Munich to meet once more with Hitler, Mussolini and the French Prime Minister Daladier, to try to come to some sort of compromise over the Sudetenland. Czechoslovakia, and her powerful ally, the USSR were not even invited to the talks. This time Chamberlain gave way and agreed to Hitler's demand for the whole of the Sudetenland.

- **30 September**
- Chamberlain returned to England with his famous piece of paper to be greeted at the airport by a huge cheering crowd, believing he had sealed 'peace for our time'.

- Hitler had risked war to gain the Sudetenland but was right in thinking that the British would not fight. France would not act without British support. The Czechs were free to fight alone, but having no support they chose not to. So peace was preserved once again, but at the cost of losing an important central European ally.
- On 1 October 1938 Hitler moved his troops, unopposed into the Sudetenland. In doing so he gained 3 million people, a powerful armaments industry, raw materials and considerable military equipment, all without even firing a shot. However, this was to be the last occasion on which Britain sought to appease Hitler.

_____ + _____ = **Anschluss**

**Raw materials + armaments + 3.2m German
Speaking People = _____**

_____ + _____ = **Czech allies**

Konrad Henlein + Sudeten Nazis + _____

Plebiscite + parts of Sudetenland = _____

Bad Godesberg = no plebiscite + _____

**Mussolini + _____ + _____ + _____
= Munich agreement**

'Peace in our time' + German Sudetenland = _____

Was appeasement a good idea?

- Now it's time to assess the policy of appeasement.
 1. British people did not want to go to war as they still remembered the horrors of World War One.
 2. European countries were not happy by the policy of appeasement as they feared their country could be conquered next I.e. Russia.
 3. Appeasement did not stop World War Two.
 4. This was a sensible policy as Britain did not have powerful allies such as America.
 5. Appeasement gave Britain time to re-arm after becoming outdate.

1. Appeasement allowed Germany to re-arm and expand its empire equaling an increase in power
2. Appeasement led to Hitler's growing confidence and increasing aggressiveness
3. Hitler's demands were reasonable. He was simply correcting the mistakes made in the Treaty of Versailles.
4. A strong Germany was not so bad as it would stop communism in Russia from spreading towards Britain and France. They were more scared of communism than Germany!
5. This policy made Chamberlain look weak unable to stand up to Hitler!
6. Appeasement by GB undermined the power of the LON

For appeasement



- British people did not want to go to war as they still remembered the horrors of World War One.
- This was a sensible policy as Britain did not have powerful allies such as America.
- Appeasement gave Britain time to re-arm after becoming outdate.
- A strong Germany was not so bad as it would stop communism in Russia from spreading towards Britain and France. They were more scared of communism than Germany!
- Hitler's demands were reasonable. He was simply correcting the mistakes made in the Treaty of Versailles.

Correct answers

Against appeasement



- European countries were not happy by the policy of appeasement as they feared their country could be conquered next I.e. Russia.
- Appeasement did not stop World War Two.
- Appeasement allowed Germany to re-arm and expand its empire equaling an increase in power
- Appeasement led to Hitler's growing confidence and increasing aggressiveness
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