

Module 4: The Novel – *Animal Farm*
Topic 1 Content: The Russian Revolution Notes



The Russian Revolution

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Drag the slider from left to right to learn more about the events of the Russia Revolution.

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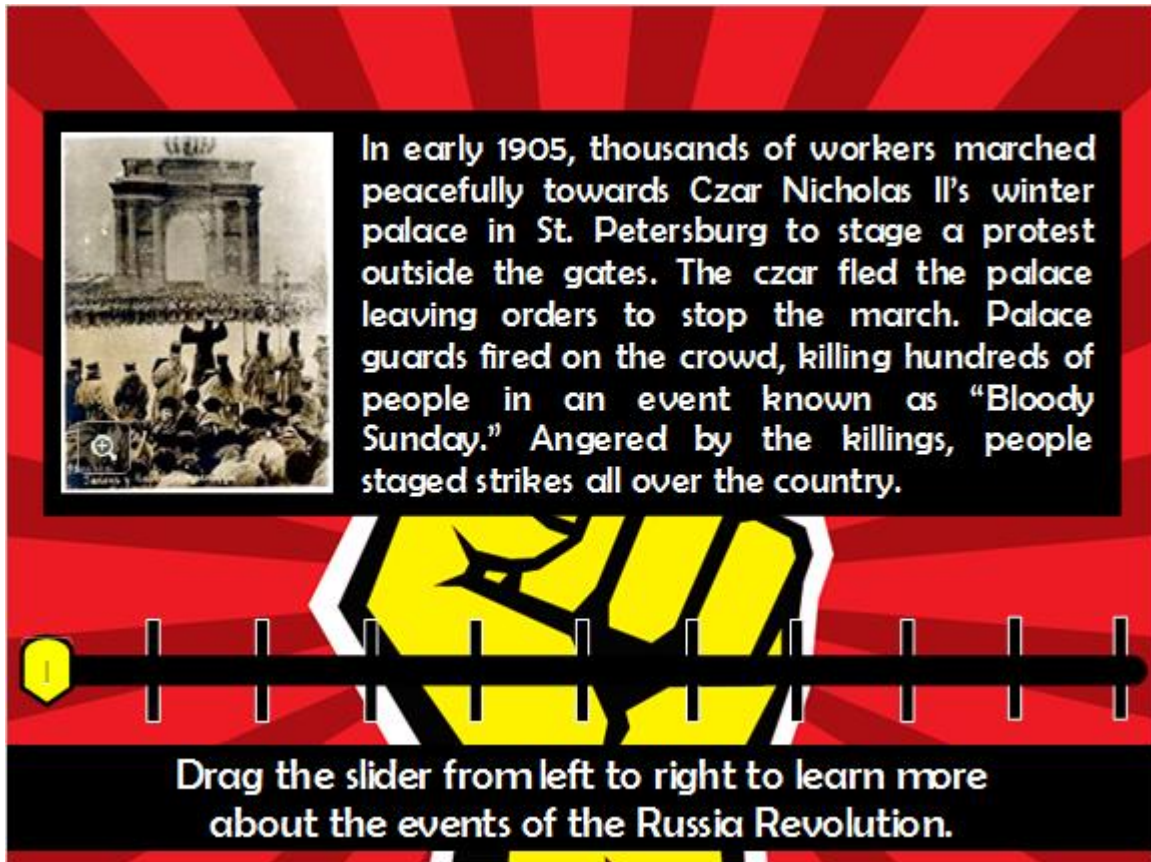


In the early part of the 1900s, Russia was an autocracy, which meant that one person in the country had absolute power of rule. During this time period, Russia was led by Czar Nicholas II, whose decisions left most of his people, the peasants, very poor. Meanwhile, the upper class and nobility had vast wealth. The czar himself had many palaces, and his family lived in each one for a few weeks of each year.

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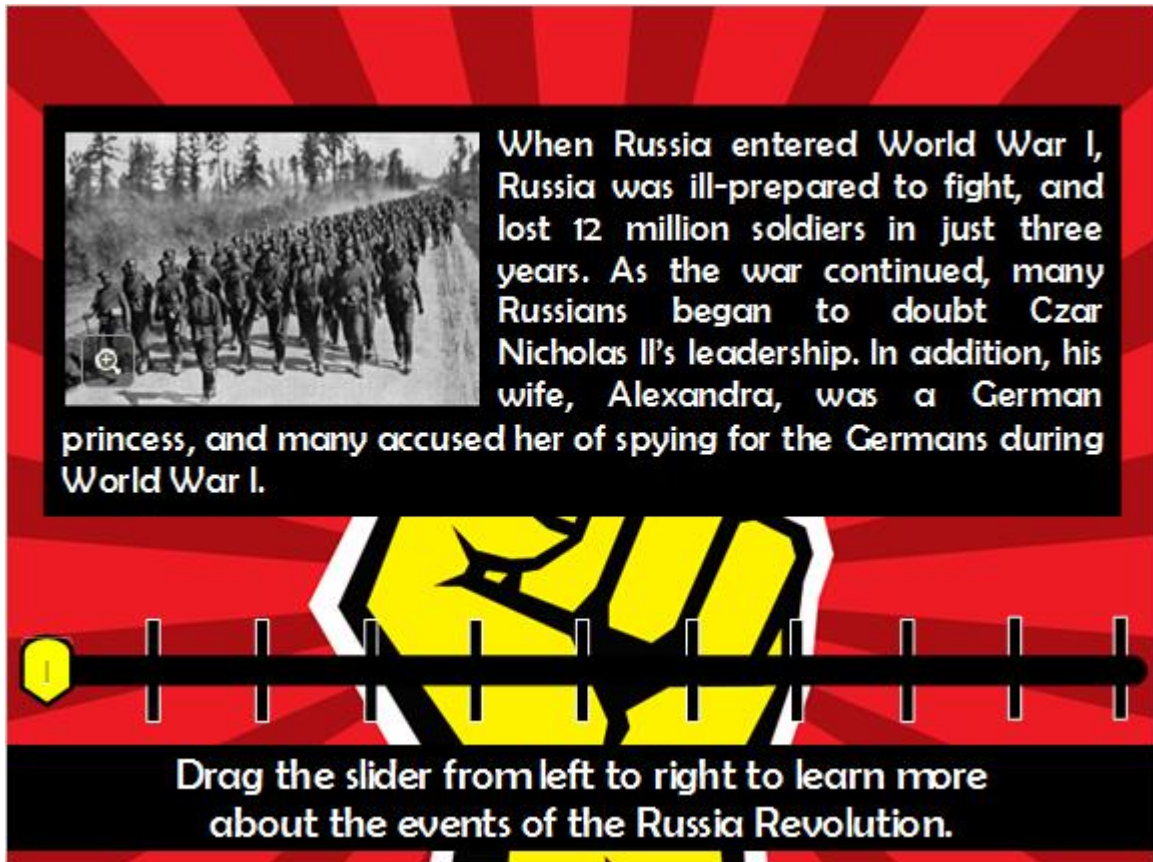
An interactive graphic with a red background and a yellow hammer and sickle symbol. It features a historical photograph of a protest, a text box with a description of the event, and a slider control.

In early 1905, thousands of workers marched peacefully towards Czar Nicholas II's winter palace in St. Petersburg to stage a protest outside the gates. The czar fled the palace leaving orders to stop the march. Palace guards fired on the crowd, killing hundreds of people in an event known as "Bloody Sunday." Angered by the killings, people staged strikes all over the country.

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When Russia entered World War I, Russia was ill-prepared to fight, and lost 12 million soldiers in just three years. As the war continued, many Russians began to doubt Czar Nicholas II's leadership. In addition, his wife, Alexandra, was a German princess, and many accused her of spying for the Germans during World War I.


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In October 1917, a group called the Bolsheviks took control during a bloody revolt, later assassinating the czar and his family. The Bolsheviks followed the teachings of Karl Marx. Vladimir Lenin, took charge of the new government, and Russia became the Soviet Union. At first the government was made up of a type of council, the People's Commissar's, and Lenin ruled jointly with Leon Trotsky. Trotsky worked to reconcile all of the political parties, and to create the ideal Marxist or communist government.



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БУТОВСКИЙ ПОЛИГОН

Very soon, Lenin took complete control of the government. He outlawed political parties, created a secret police to enforce his policies, and censored the press. After an unsuccessful assassination attempt on his life, the government conducted what was known as the *Red Terror*, in which thousands of people were arrested and executed or put in labor camps because it was thought that they were against the government.

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The graphic features a red background with a yellow hammer and sickle symbol in the center. A black horizontal bar with a yellow slider knob is positioned below the symbol. To the left of the slider is a small black and white photograph of Joseph Stalin. To the right of the slider is a text box containing the following text:

Lenin's health failed only four years into the new Soviet government, and after his death there was a struggle for power between Leon Trotsky and another Lenin aide, Joseph Stalin. Stalin had been an enforcer for Lenin, often executing those who opposed Lenin. The end result of the power struggle was Trotsky's expulsion from the country. Stalin took control.

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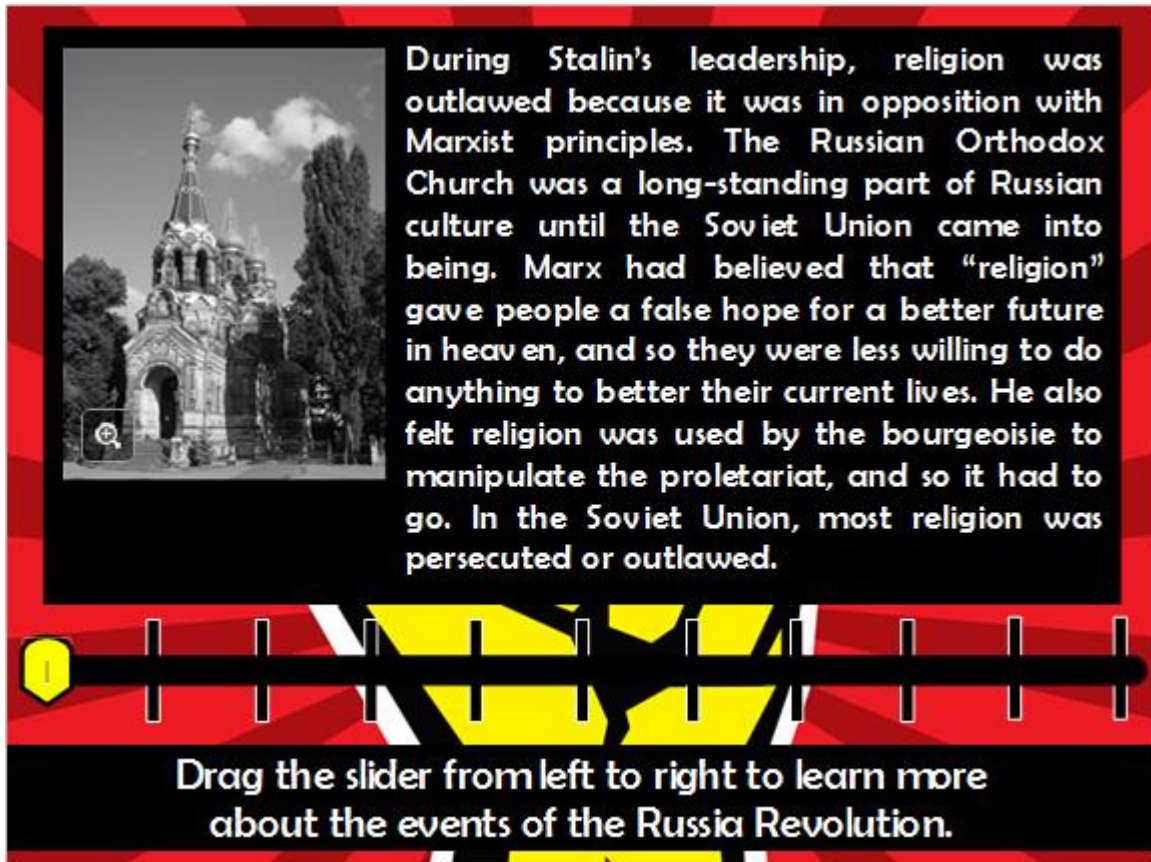
Stalin's rule was similar to Lenin's in that he used the secret police and force to keep power. He introduced a plan for industrialization. He told the people that the country needed to work harder and sacrifice more in order to build the economy. Pay rates went down, but workloads increased, a practice which continued through most of the 20th century.

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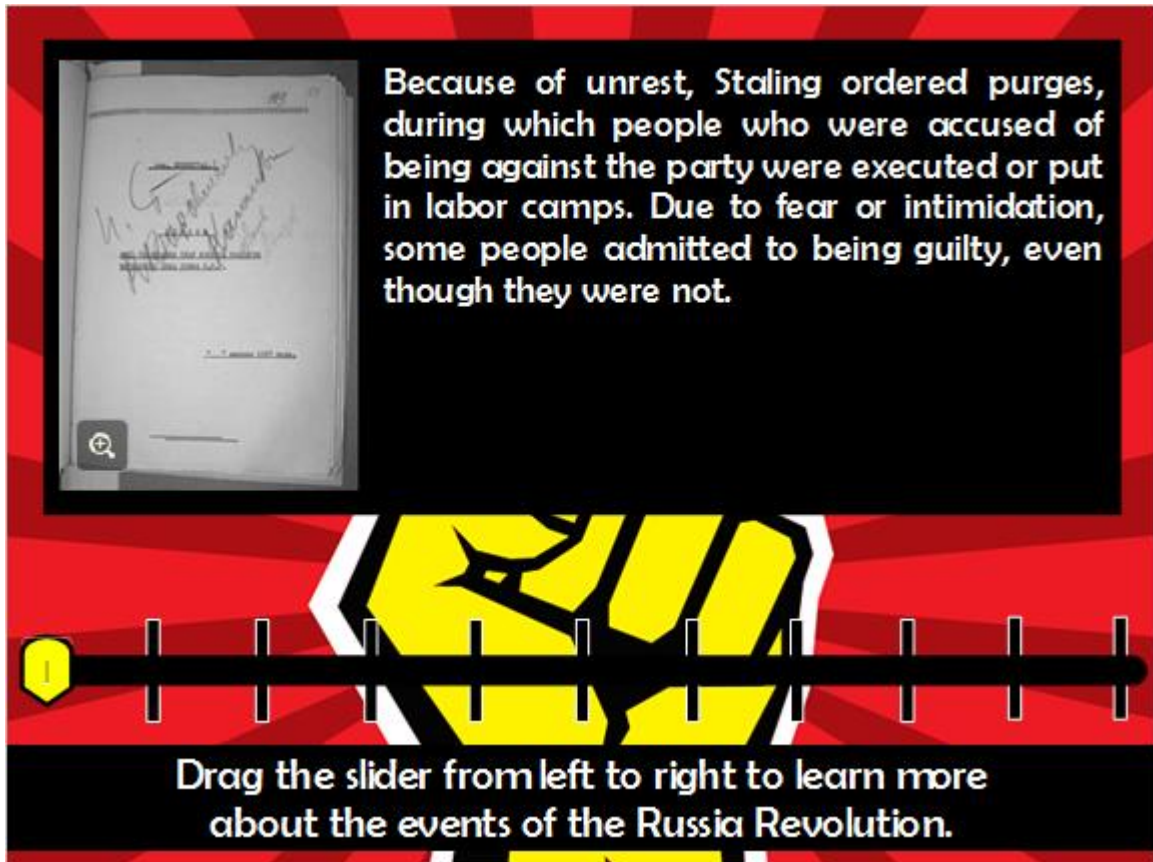


During Stalin's leadership, religion was outlawed because it was in opposition with Marxist principles. The Russian Orthodox Church was a long-standing part of Russian culture until the Soviet Union came into being. Marx had believed that "religion" gave people a false hope for a better future in heaven, and so they were less willing to do anything to better their current lives. He also felt religion was used by the bourgeoisie to manipulate the proletariat, and so it had to go. In the Soviet Union, most religion was persecuted or outlawed.

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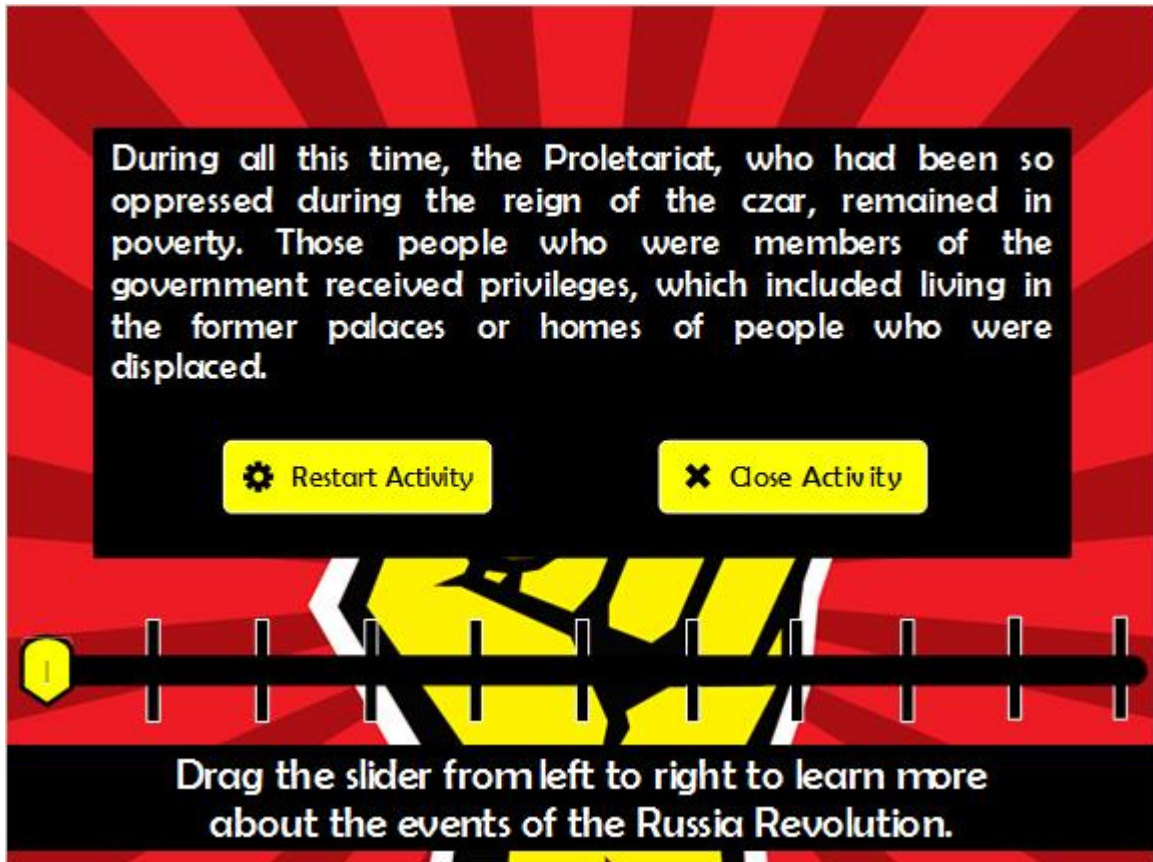


Because of unrest, Staling ordered purges, during which people who were accused of being against the party were executed or put in labor camps. Due to fear or intimidation, some people admitted to being guilty, even though they were not.

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During all this time, the Proletariat, who had been so oppressed during the reign of the czar, remained in poverty. Those people who were members of the government received privileges, which included living in the former palaces or homes of people who were displaced.

Restart Activity Close Activity

Drag the slider from left to right to learn more about the events of the Russia Revolution.

The image shows an interactive activity interface. It features a red background with a black and yellow geometric pattern. A black box contains the text about the Proletariat. Below the text are two yellow buttons: 'Restart Activity' with a gear icon and 'Close Activity' with an 'X' icon. At the bottom, there is a slider control with a yellow tab on the left and a black bar with vertical tick marks. Below the slider is a black box with white text: 'Drag the slider from left to right to learn more about the events of the Russia Revolution.'

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