



For Those in Peril on the Sea: Gott Strafe England

Lesson Plan: Gott Strafe England	
Teacher/s	Date
Subject History	Year
Learning Objectives Understand connections between local, regional, national and international history. Understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims.	Success Criteria The children will be aware of the role of propaganda and morale on both sides during the First World War.
Key Questions Why would many German people enjoy or sympathise with the <i>Gott Strafe</i> propaganda campaign? Why would using Odin be a popular theme for a propaganda campaign? Both sides called upon God to support them during the war. Why do this in both prayers and propaganda?	
Starter Activity/Introduction Discuss the Norse gods with the children. Have they studied them before, perhaps in Anglo-Saxons or Vikings? These gods were part of German culture too, notably in Wagner operas. The <i>Gott Strafe</i> campaign was very popular and approved by the Kaiser. It reflected strong German views that Britain should have stayed neutral during the conflict. Stamps like the resource in this activity weren't official but were placed on letters next to postage stamps.	Resources This website is a useful starting point for online research: https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Norse_gods_and_goddesses
Main Activity Design a stamp with a different Norse god smiting England in some way, perhaps Hoor freezing English trenches or Thor sinking a Royal Navy dreadnought with his hammer.	Resources Gott Strafe England activity sheets.
Plenary Compare and contrast the children's chosen gods and captions. Which work best and why?	Resources



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Many Germans had expected Britain to stay out of the war in 1914 and felt betrayed when the British fought alongside the French. *Gott Strafe England* was a popular propaganda campaign in Germany during the First World War. The slogan meant *God Punish England*. It was used on posters, postcards and stamps, like this image. Here the Norse God Odin is attacking England with his spear. *Kriegsjahr* means *Year of War*.

What other Norse Gods do you know? Loki, Thor or the wolf Fenrir perhaps? Research one or two Norse Gods and design a stamp showing them helping Germany fight England. Could a flying god attack a British airship or a sea god sink a British dreadnought? Work your ideas up in rough and use the blank stamp on the next page for your finished design.



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