



Religion, Peace and Conflict: Causes of War Teaching Ideas

Learning Objective: To be able to explain some of the motivations behind war.

Success Criteria:

- To describe what war is.
- To explain some of the causes of war.
- To use my knowledge to answer an exam question.

Context This is the second lesson of the topic. Students have previously studied forgiveness and reconciliation.

Starter

What Is War?

Students recap their learning from the last lesson by completing the [Causes of War Key Words Activity Sheet](#). This also answers the title question. This can lead to discussion of how these words relate to war, with the class coming to a general consensus on exactly what war is (there may be several definitions with differing examples given, as no two wars are the same).

Main Activities

Why Do Wars Happen?

Students look at the causes of war by completing the [Causes of War Card Sort](#). This helps students learn about four causes of war, although it is important to stress that there can be several other causes.

Students may then answer the extension question on further causes of war. Answers may include self-defence and retaliation, among other examples. It may be useful to allow time for elaboration on discussion here, as this will enable the pupils to determine their own views on war prior to attempting the [Causes of War Exam Question](#).

Exam Question

Distribute the [Causes of War Exam Question](#) sheet (if this is to be attempted in books, only one sheet between two is likely to be required). You may optionally share and highlight the mark scheme with pupils, drawing attention to the expected content. Equally, you could have students simply attempt the question and review against the criteria as a peer marking exercise.

Plenary

Depending on how you have chosen to run the previous activity, the plenary could take the form of pupils reading out their answers for class review, or a swapping of books with partners for formal peer assessment.