

Twitter profile



 Quick sketch	Full name: Twitter name: Biography/views: Location:
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Tweets

Event	Date	Tweet about the event – 140 characters or fewer
Problems with ruling Russia in the 19 th century		
The rule of Tsar Nicholas II		
A year of violence and revolution		
The establishment of the Duma		
Russian entry to WWI		
Rumours of Rasputin!		

Event	Date	Tweet about the event – 140 characters or fewer
The February Revolution		
The abdication of Tsar Nicholas II		
The formation of the Provisional Government		
The rise of Lenin and the Bolsheviks		
The October Revolution		
The Bolsheviks in power		
Beginning of the Russian Civil War		
The price of peace with Germany (the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk)		
The execution of the Romanovs		

Student task sheet

Learning objectives

- To know some of the key factors that caused discontent in Russia (Level 4)
- To understand the aims of the Bolshevik party in 1917 (Level 5)
- To consider how the revolutions were interpreted from different perspectives (Level 6)

Task

In 2011 the Arab Spring saw several revolutions across the Middle East. People took to the streets to protest about the way they were governed and some leaders were overthrown. These events were widely reported and followed on Twitter.

The Russian Revolution had some similar features and was also a time of dramatic, rapid change. Your task is to imagine that Twitter was around in early 20th century Russia. Report the changing events in the form of tweets (140 characters or less) that explain and interpret what was happening.

Success criteria

All must:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include dates (estimated where necessary) • create at least one tweet per event
Most should:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • include plenty of historical detail • show a clear perspective e.g. from the point of view of a soldier, an urban worker, a peasant ...
Some could:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • choose a famous perspective and show their interpretation of events (e.g. Lenin, the Tsar)

Sample tweet



Vladimir Lenin

@Lenin4Bolshevism

Revolutionary thinker, Petrograd, Russia

Tweets (1917)

Russia is suffering terribly in the war! The Tsar must end it or abdicate NOW. #equalityinRussia

Image notes: Lenin **Credit:** Hulton Archive / Archive Photos / Getty Images / Universal Images Group **Copyright Notice:** Copyright Getty Images. This and millions of other educational images are available through Britannica Image Quest. For a free trial, please visit Britannica for Schools http://www.britannica.co.uk/education/britannica-education-school_ImageQuest.asp

Teaching notes

This activity was originally planned for KS3 students, but it might also work well as a fun homework/revision activity for groups further up the school. It aims to help students understand the complex chronology of revolutionary Russia, but also to engage with the causes of unrest and the way in which events were interpreted differently by individuals at the time.

There are a number of ways to deliver the task. If computers/laptops are available, students could research each of the listed events in order to formulate their tweets. Alternatively, textbooks could certainly be used as the main source of information. *Modern Minds* (Byrom, Counsell, Riley, Peale and Gorman) has a section which would work particularly well, but others would work too. Finally, of course, the task could be set as a research homework or revision task.

Some useful scene setting video clips are available at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/russia-and-the-first-world-war/5671.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/the-abdication-of-tsar-nicholas-ii-1917/5672.html>

There are also some excellent audio files on the topic here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/audio/history/>

If you're intending to set the task as a homework activity, you might direct students here for a concise overview that will help establish the chronology of events clearly:

<http://www.sparknotes.com/history/european/russianrev/>

(The links above were all accurate and working at time of publication, but do check before relying on them in class!)