

20 *teaching ideas for plenaries*

1

Hot seat. Get a student (or you!) to take on the role of a historical figure from the period you are studying and face questioning from the class about the events of the lesson.

2

Image recall. Show a picture (a cartoon works really well) for two minutes. Then hide it and ask students to describe the details.

3

Summarise a summary. Ask students to summarise the lesson topic in five bullet points, then three, then one and then finally in one word!

4

Sorting information. Give students some information on a set of cards and ask them to sort the information in a particular way, e.g. in chronological order, in categories, order of importance.

5

Statement of learning. Put five statements about the area that you've been studying up on the board and the students need to choose which three best reflect what they've learned and explain their reasons why.

6

Play consequences. Put students into pairs or fours and get them to explain the events of the lesson's topic. It could be played in a 'consequence' style, with each student saying one sentence or statement at a time.

7

Student as teacher. Invite a student to come up to the front and summarise the day's lesson for the rest of the class.

8

Play Pictionary! Get students into pairs. One draws something that's been studied (e.g. an individual or an event) and the other one guesses what it is. They then swap.

9

Encourage questions. Ask students to write down any questions they have on the topic/area you're studying. You can then use these to help you plan your next lesson and, as a starter, to see if other students can answer them.

10

Focus on key words. Set a time limit (say three minutes – you could use the Teachit Timer!) and ask students to write as many key words relating to what they've studied as possible.

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11

Pyramid plenary. Create a sticky note pyramid plenary. Students write down three things they have learnt on separate sticky notes. They also think of two questions they would like answered and one thing they already knew. You could then use this to plan your next lesson.

12

Play Taboo! Put students into pairs and they describe a concept or event to their partner without saying the 'taboo' word.

13

Play Hangman. Either play directly on your whiteboard with a good old marker pen or use Teachit History's interactive 'Hangman' to revise key terms and words that have been studied in the lesson.

14

What's the question? Give students a selection of answers and they have to write the questions.

15

Explain via email. Ask students to write an 'email' to a student who's absent explaining what they've learned in the lesson.

16

Create mnemonics. Get your students to create their own mnemonic which reflects the meaning of the content that's been learned in the lesson.

17

Play Snap! A game of Snap is a great way to revise key terms or ideas. You could either cut up paper cards or use Teachit History's interactive version to get the whole class involved.

18

Jigsaw puzzle. Give students pieces of a jigsaw puzzle completed with information about the topic/area you're studying and get them to put it together. There is a template on Teachit History for this.

19

Quick-fire quiz. Set students a quick-fire quiz to review what they've learned. Alternatively get them to write their own quiz questions and test each other.

20

Play Just a Minute! Put students into pairs and ask them to talk about what they've learned during the lesson. Give them a one minute time limit (use the Teachit Timer!) and tell them they're not allowed to repeat, hesitate or deviate! If they do, the other student then takes over and tries to talk for a minute.