

1

Play dough Great for livening up any potentially dry topic! Ask students to model their 'most important reason for ...', to make a visual timeline, or explain the significance of an event, all using brightly coloured dough.

2

Hot seating Nominate your most dramatic student to play the part of a key character from the period you're studying. The rest of the class ask them questions and they answer in role. Alternatively, place yourself in the hot seat! See an example of this approach on *Teachit History* by searching '19853'.

3

Role plays Always a hit! These range from fully scripted epics, with a part for each class member, to smaller group work activities in which students are given more creative license! There are many examples on *Teachit History* - try searching '19857', '22304' or '20466'.

4

Simulations These tend to stay closer to events 'as they happened', asking students to imagine how they might have reacted to unfolding circumstances. In '22109' students negotiate as countries in the build up to the First World War. In '24631' they act as Tsar Nicholas II and respond to ongoing crises.

5

Debate There are so many forms this can take in History lessons. Make a lesson of it by dividing your class into two, and offering each side evidence with which to build a case ('24184' is a good example of this). Alternatively, host a 'balloon debate' in which students must decide which individual to save in a rapidly descending balloon (works well for Harvey, Paré and Vesalius).

6

Biscuit building Ask students to build representations of key events/objects using a selection of baked goods! A good example is to represent the stages in which the Berlin Wall was constructed. Or, groups of students could demonstrate the comparative strengths and weaknesses of various forms of castle.

7

Speed dating Great for disseminating large volumes of information without excessive teacher input. Each student becomes an 'expert' on one section of information, and this is then shared via quick 'dates' with the rest of the group. For examples on *Teachit History* search '19605' or '22638'.

8

IWB activities These are great for facilitating quick games or more lengthy sorting activities. We have lots on *Teachit History*. Try 'Snap' to make quick-fire matching games, 'Sequencing' for chronology or prioritising activities, or 'Yes No' for a quick interactive assessment of your students' understanding.

9

Pencil case challenge Ask students to represent their answer to a question using only the contents of their pencil case/bag! If this seems too limiting, ask them to work in small groups and permit the use of objects from around the classroom (within reason!). They could then stage a freeze frame/tableau.

10

Living timeline Print key events from your time period on large pieces of paper. Issue one to each student and ask them to arrange themselves into chronological order. This could be extended by asking each student to explain the significance of their event to the rest of the class.