

20 *teaching ideas for starter activities*

1

Catchphrase (sort of). Display an image on the board (relating to the topic of study) but cover it up. Every time a student answers a question then show a little bit more of the image. The first person to identify the image wins!

2

Guess who? Put students into pairs and hand out a wad of sticky notes to each pair. They write a word or statement relating to the lesson and put it on their partner's head. Their partner then has to guess what or who they are!

3

Explain statements. Put students into groups of three and number them one to three. Put three numbered statements up on to the whiteboard and ask students to explain the corresponding statement to their group.

4

Nine box squares. Write nine key words, used the previous lesson, in boxes on the board. Challenge students to make a (historically accurate) sentence of at least three words, or a short paragraph using them all.

5

Play key word bingo! Ask students to select six words from a list of key words on the board to create a bingo grid. Read out the definitions to students. As they identify them, they tick off their bingo cards. The first student to get a full house wins.

6

Analyse objects. Bring in an object relating to what you're studying and ask the students to discuss what they think the object represents. E.g. a turnip for agricultural revolution!

7

Question time. Ask students a series of questions. They have to answer without saying 'yes' or 'no'.

8

Use images. Show students a selection of images and get them to explain which relates to last lesson's learning and how the others might tie in later? E.g. an example of an event currently being studied.

9

Match the individual to the quote. Give students the names of key individuals along with sources which quote them. Get them to match them up correctly. Teachit History's interactive 'Matching' is great if you'd prefer an interactive version.

10

Write a dictionary. Ask students to create their own 'dictionary' of key words and ask them to complete definitions of words learned from the previous lesson.

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11

Historical washing. String up a 'washing line' across your classroom and get students to peg up event cards from your topic in chronological order.

12

Make a human continuum! Give students a statement relating to the topic you're studying and ask them to line up in order of how strongly they agree/disagree with the statement. You could also get them to do this 'in role' as historical figures.

13

Sit students back to back. One gives instructions or describes a picture or process and the other student draws what their partner has described and identifies it correctly.

14

Sequence statements. Get students to cut up statements and put them into the correct order. Teachit History's interactive 'Sequencing' is perfect if you'd rather take it down an interactive route.

15

Word tennis. Divide the class into two groups and get them to take it in turns to say a word related to the current topic. No words can be repeated. The idea is that this is a game of word tennis and so should be scored as such.

16

Key letters. Select a letter and challenge students to think of a word from the topic you are studying beginning with the same letter.

17

Pick a question, any question! Ask students to write down any questions they have on the topic/area you're studying. Put these into a hat and pick some out. See if the students can answer them first, and then you answer if they can't!

18

Play dominoes. Use the Teachit History template to write down questions and answers relating to the subject being studied.

19

Crack the code. Give students a code, a=b, b=c and ask them to crack the code in order to work out the objective of the lesson and any key words that are relevant.

20

Dicey questions. Make a dice with questions or statements on each of the sides (Teachit History has a cube template you may find handy for this!). Put students into groups and ask them to take turns to roll the dice and answer the questions / discuss the statement.