

Hitler's Rise to Power: Joint History Lesson (Year 6 / Year 11) Year 6 Student Worksheet

Overview

- Hitler was **dictator** (all-powerful ruler) of Germany between 1933-45.
- Year 11 students have made "Mr. Men" books about Hitler's rise to power.
- Your job is to decide which ones are the best.

The Activity

- You will be arranged into groups.
- Each group will listen to a different story.
- Your team will then try to guess the events and characters described.
 - Your team will **gain** one point for each correct guess.
 - You will **lose** one point for each incorrect guess.

The Essential Story

To help you do well in the activity, read through this information and complete the tasks that follow.

Hitler becomes Chancellor

- In 1932 the **President** (most important man) in Germany was called Hindenburg. He was an old, tired soldier.
- Hindenburg's '**Chancellor**' (main assistant) was his friend Franz Papen.
- Papen wasn't very popular and in the next election millions of people voted for Hitler, the leader of the Nazi party.
- So in January 1933, Hindenburg made Hitler 'Chancellor' of Germany instead of Papen.
- However, Hindenburg didn't trust Hitler. So
 - a. Hitler's new government only contained 3 Nazis and 8 members of other parties.
 - b. von Papen was made vice-Chancellor to keep an eye on Hitler.
- Hitler didn't like any of this and wanted to get even more power.



Parliament Problems: The Reichstag Fire

- In March 1933 the German Reichstag (the main German parliament building where the government met and held their meetings) mysteriously burned down.
- Some people thought Hitler started the fire himself.
- However, he blamed a young man called Marius van der Lubbe.
- Hitler said that van der Lubbe was part of a terrorist group.
- Hitler used this to pass a new law increasing his power to 'protect' Germany from groups like this.
- This 'Enabling Act' banned political parties and gave Hitler control of all newspapers.

Party Problems: The Night of the Long Knives – June 1934

- Ernst Rohm was the leader of the Nazi Party's private army (the 'SA').
- Rohm wanted control of the German national army as well, but Hitler said no.
- Rohm was angry with Hitler. So Hitler told his bodyguards (the 'SS', led by Heinrich Himmler) to deal with Rohm.
- In the 'Night of the Long Knives' Himmler's SS murdered Ernst Rohm and his supporters in the SA.

President: Hitler becomes President

- In August 1934 President Hindenburg died.
- Hitler joined the jobs of President and Chancellor together.
- This new job would be called 'Führer' (all-powerful 'dictator') of Germany.
- Hitler gave himself this job. 90% of the German people agreed to this in a national vote.

Hitler takes control of the Army

- Hitler asked the German army to promise to serve him faithfully.
- The German army was happy that Hitler had got rid of Ernst Rohm.
- So they agreed to swear an 'oath of loyalty' to Hitler.
- Hitler was now dictator of Germany!

Questions and Tasks

1. Underline the names of any people in the story.
2. Discuss with a partner, then as a class, which Mr. Men character might represent each of these men best.
3. Underline any key events in the story.
4. Discuss with a partner, then as a class, how these events could be described in a 'Mr. Men' format that young children could understand.