**BERLIN: PRE-TRIP LEARNING TASK**

In preparation for the trip, read the information in the blue cells carefully. Next, watch the video clips and make additional notes in the space provided.

**IMPORTANT**: Set these notes out as **questions**, followed by **answers**. The completed table should fill **no less** than two pages in this current format.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Video / Length** | | **Question(s) / Answer(s)** | **Relevant image of a key EVENT, with caption** |
| **Introduction/Background (10m)**  • Berlin was established in the Middle Ages on the river Spree. Much of the city is built on reclaimed marshland.  • Berlin was the capital of Prussia, whose most famous King was Frederick the Great. Known as “Fritz”, he was a complex man, obsessed equally but uneasily with culture and violence, with liberalism and militarism. The two sides of his personality are captured perfectly by his habit of playing the flute for his troops on the evenings when they were on campaign. He passed these twin obsessions down to his descendants and, some would say, to the German people. | | | ??? |
| [Frederick the Great](https://vimeo.com/266466141) | 7m | ??? |
| [Schinkel](https://vimeo.com/266345361) | 3m | ??? |
| **Weimar and Nazi Berlin, 1918-45 (4m)**  • At the end of WW1, Kaiser Wilhelm II was forced to abdicate and Germany adopted a new, democratic constitution.  • The history of Germany therefore veered from authoritarianism to the radical democracy of the Weimar Republic (1918-33). The Great Depression of 1929-33 caused another swing of the political pendelum, with Hitler becoming Chancellor in 1933. Following the mysterious burning down of the Reichstag (Parliament) Hitler was able to declare a state of emergency and create the Nazi dictatorship of the Third Reich (1934-45). | | | ??? |
| [Book Burning at BebelPlatz](https://vimeo.com/266345409) | 1m | ??? |
| [Nazi Air Ministry](https://vimeo.com/266345384) | 3m | ??? |
| **Cold War Berlin, 1945-1990 (20m)**  • The political schizophrenia of Berlin ended with the total destruction of Germany at the end of World War Two in 1945: the country was then divided between a communist East German dictatorship and a liberal West German democracy. Berlin was situated deep within communist East Germany, but its importance meant that the Western half of the city remained under control of the USA and its allies (France and Britain). So West Berlin was a democratic island deep inside the Soviet Empire. Thousands of Europeans behind the “Iron Curtain” headed into West Berlin and escaped to freedom.  • Stalin tried (and failed) to force the allies out of the city during the Berlin Blockade (1948-49). The “brain drain” was finally ended when the East German government built a wall around West Berlin in 1961. In the following years, the Berlin Wall became the ultimate symbol of the “Iron Curtain” separating the communist and capitalist worlds. Many people mounted daring escapes over (and under) the wall; many others were shot dead by border guards.  • The wall eventually collapsed along with the USSR in 1989-90, with Berlin and Germany subsequently being re-unified. | | | ??? |
| [After 1945: The Schloss](https://vimeo.com/266466151) | 7m | ??? |
| [The Wall / The Fernsehturm](https://vimeo.com/266466156) | 3m | ??? |
| [Debate: the Schloss](https://vimeo.com/266345347) | 3m | ??? |
| [10 Berlin Wall Escapes](https://youtu.be/77TGxjcQAUQ) | 7m | ??? |
| **Conclusion (9m)**  • It can be seen that Berlin is a city of many layers of history and political opinion. The best way to start appreciating it is to see how its art and architecture can be read in many ways and used to represent different things. Examples of this are the Frederick the Great statue, the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag. | | | ??? |
| [Frederick the Great statue](https://vimeo.com/266466134) | 4m | ??? |
| [Brandenburg Gate](https://vimeo.com/266466123) | 3m | ??? |
| [Reichstag](https://youtu.be/wu1j3DFgWIE) | 2m | ??? |