

Learning Resource Objectives

The House of European History online learning resources:

Explore key messages of the House of European History (HEH)

While the House of European History is situated in Brussels, its remit is to reach a wider European and world audience. The online learning resources play a key role in enabling teachers and students across Europe to discover and engage with the content of the HEH without necessarily visiting the museum. Topics addressed in the museum are explored further in the learning resources through a questioning and transnational approach that utilises European and global examples.

Have a cross-disciplinary approach

The learning resources are designed and produced in such a way as to appeal to a wide variety of teachers working across history, cultural studies, citizenship, sociology, media and geography subject areas. The elements within individual sections are flexible, allowing teachers to pick and choose according to their preferences.

Start with the contemporary situation or problem

The student premise of 'why is this relevant to me?', 'why should I learn this?' is the starting point for HEH educator work. This is strongly connected to the educational concept of 'scaffolding', according to which a link needs to be made with the learners' existing body of daily knowledge and experience before introducing them to more complex concepts.

Utilise historical contexts to support contemporary questions/problems

As the focus is on the contemporary world and future concerns, historical sources are used to support the learner in seeing how events or phenomena can sometimes have deeper roots in the past. The historical is used as a 'compare and contrast' exercise with present scenarios, to give wider context via the use of different resources. Historical examples will also provide a sense of 'distance' in the exploration of sensitive subject-matter.

Provide overarching discussion across themes

The theme-based approach to learning at HEH means that our approach works widely across a theme, rather than scrutinising a specific area of study within history that might be examined in the classroom or in a school textbook. Our questioning and cross-national use of examples and resources seek to influence individual teachers in terms of diversifying how they might teach a specific area of study beyond purely national concerns.

Facilitate an approach where learners make meaning for themselves

HEH learning aims to contribute to the development of skills and competences for the 21st century, i.e. to produce confident learners who can question and think independently. This means our resources must assist learners to reflect, converse, compare and contrast, and apply what they discover to other contexts.