

Activity Booklet

Life in Stalin's Russia

Theme: Terror and propaganda

1. Working with evidence

Source A is an extract from an online article, 'How Photos Became a Weapon in Stalin's Great Purge'. Source B is an original photograph of Stalin with members of the Communist Party. Source C is the same photograph, but it has been altered. Examine the sources and answer the questions.

Source A:

Stalin used a large group of photo retouchers to cut his enemies out of supposedly documentary photographs. One such erasure was Nikola Yezhov, a secret police official who oversaw Stalin's purges. For a while Yezhov worked at Stalin's right hand, interrogating, falsely accusing and ordering the execution of thousands of Communist Party officials. But in 1938, Yezhov fell from Stalin's favor after being usurped (removed from his position) by one of his own deputies. He was denounced, secretly arrested, tried in a secret court, and executed.

Stalin's censors then removed Yezhov from the photographic record, including cutting him from a photograph in which he smiled next to his former boss, Stalin, next to a waterway. The photo retouchers removed Yezhov from the photo and inserted new water to cover up the space where Yezhov would have been.

Source: <https://www.history.com/news/josef-stalin-great-purge-photo-retouching>

Source B:



Original photograph

Source C:



Altered photograph

(a) According to Source A, for what purpose did Stalin use photo retouchers?

(b) What was Yezhov's role in Stalin's regime?

(c) What happened to Yezhov after he fell out with Stalin?

(d) Source A describes how Yezhov was cut from a photograph with Stalin. Give evidence from Source B and Source C to show that the description is accurate.

(e) Apart from censorship, mention two ways a cult of personality was created around Stalin.

Theme: Women

2. Find and fix!

The table contains three incorrect statements relating to women in Stalin's Russia. Find the incorrect statements and fix them using the spaces provided.

Highlight the three incorrect statements.

Women had equal access to education.	Married and unmarried couples received child allowance.	Stalin wanted to increase the birth rate to have more workers for the fields and the factories.
Women who had 6 children were given 2,000 roubles.	Mothers were unable to work in factories and on collective farms because no crèches were provided.	Divorce was easy to obtain.

Fix the three incorrect statements.

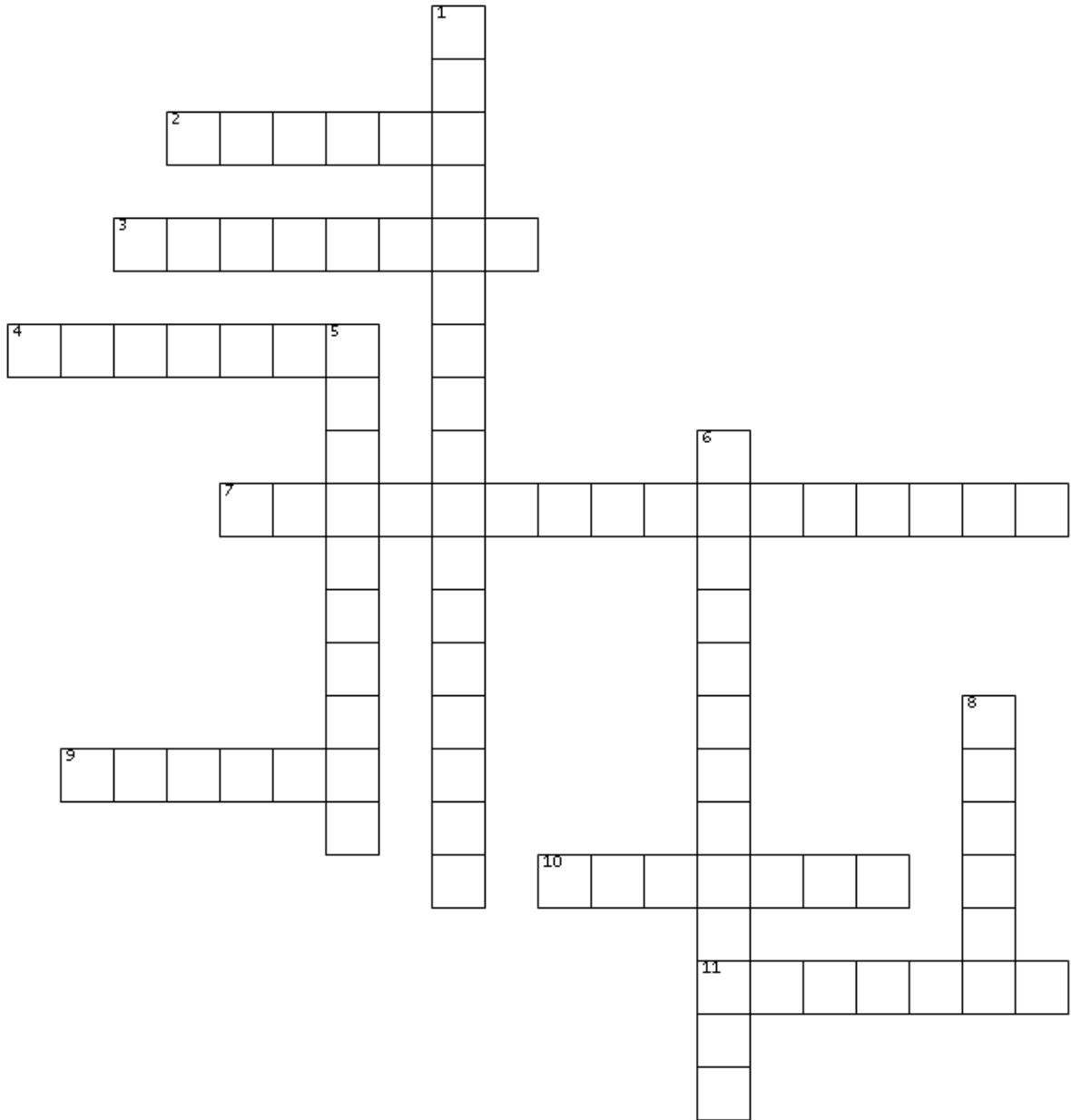
Theme: Economic policies**4. Develop the sentence**

The key words relate to Stalin's economic policies. Place each of them in a developed sentence.

Key words	Used in a sentence
Gosplan	
First Five Year Plan	
Second Five Year Plan	
Third Five Year Plan	
Collectivisation	
Grain was requisitioned	
Kulaks	

Revision

6. Crossword



ACROSS	DOWN
2. concentration camps	1. built during the second five year plan
3. youth group for children aged over 14	5. city named after stalin
4. childcare provided in factories	6. plans for industrial growth
7. policy of forming collective farms	8. middle class farmers
9. a propaganda newspaper	
10. the central planning committee	
11. a person who does not believe in god	