

Technology - Activity 1

Save Duxford!

Aims

- Understand the value of historical artefacts in explaining aspects of the Cold War
- Investigate and explain in depth one piece of Cold War technology
- Communicate the value of historical artefacts with a supported and persuasive argument

Resources

coldwarTEA1.lgfl.net is your one-stop link to curriculum resources for this activity; you will find videos, photographs and links to the relevant main Cold War sections.

Your task

The Director of the Imperial War Museum Duxford (aviation museum and home to key Cold War aeroplane exhibits) is having a bad day. The government wants to run a motorway through the airfield as part of a compulsory purchase scheme, but does not want to pay anything, instead insisting on the creation of a digital museum and the closure of the museum. The Director has asked you for help. He wants you to put together a presentation to explain to the Transport Secretary that Duxford is too important to scrap.



Step 1 – Get to know the museum

Study the videos “Introduction to Duxford” and “Why film on location at Duxford?” at coldwarTEA1.lgfl.net.

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Step 2 – The exhibits

Select two prime exhibits from the museum from the following list and make yourself familiar with them:

- The U2
- The B-52
- Blackbird
- Vulcan
- Polaris

Now create a digital exhibition to showcase the aircraft you have chosen. Use the resources at coldwarTEA1.lgfl.net to make your exhibition with j2e5 (j2launch.lgfl.net).

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Step 3 – Create your presentation for the Transport Minister

This will not be easy; you will have to explain a lot of important points about Cold War history, and about the museum. Your presentation needs to be packed with evidence, but the government minister will not give you a huge amount of time. You will need to explain:

- What is in Duxford and what Duxford does
- Why the work of Duxford matters
- How the exhibits in Duxford help us to understand the Cold War
- Why visiting the museum is better than replacing it with a digital version.

You could go one step further and show the minister your digital exhibit and try to persuade the government to keep Duxford and have a digital museum AS WELL!

Your teacher will tell you how the format of your presentation. There may be time to present it to the class, or you may need to submit a video to your teacher for marking (once you have made it, upload it to VideoCentralHD.lgfl.net for safe and easy sharing).

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