

#10553 CZAR NICHOLAS II & THE ROMANOVS

NEW DIMENSION MEDIA, 2003

Grade Level: 5-12

10 Minutes

CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM RELATED RESOURCES

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TEACHER'S GUIDE

Czar Nicholas II & the Romanovs (History Happened Here Series)

Grades 5 to 12

Subject Areas: Social Studies, World History

Synopsis: Documentary footage and dramatic recreations tell the story of the assassination of the Romanov family in 1917. Describes the Romanov family's luxurious lifestyle and reveals the Czar's lack of concern over the social and economic problems in Russia. Covers the arrest and assassination of the ruling family, as well as the DNA evidence that solved the mystery of their disappearance.

Learning Objectives:

Objective 1) Students will be able to discuss the social and economic problems in Russia during the reign of Czar Nicholas II

Objective 2) Students will be able to describe the Romanovs' lives in Alexander Palace and discuss the Czar's detachment from the problems of ordinary Russians

Objective 3) Students will be able to identify the causes of the Russian Revolution

Objective 4) Students will be able to recall the arrest and assassination of the Romanov family

Pre-Viewing Questions and Activities:

Locate St. Petersburg and Moscow on a map.

Explore students' previous knowledge of the Romanov Dynasty and the Russian Revolution. How long did the Romanov Dynasty last? When did the dynasty end? Who were the Bolsheviks? What caused the Russian Revolution?

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

Describe the economic and social conditions in Russia during the reign of Nicholas II. How did the Czar respond to these problems? How were the Romanovs' lives different from those of ordinary Russians? How did Russians feel about the ruling family?

Describe Russian soldiers' experiences in World War I. Why did many soldiers leave the war and join the Bolshevik uprising? Why was the Bolshevik Party appealing to these soldiers?

Who arrested the Romanovs? Why? Where were they confined under guard? Describe the Romanovs' lives during this period. What work did they do at this time?

Where was the Romanov family taken after being forced out of their palace? Where did they want to go? Why did the Revolutionaries take the Romanovs to Siberia? Why do you think the entire family was executed? Where were they buried?

How did the public react to the disappearance of the Romanov family? Why do you think the family sparked the public's imagination? Can you think of any other figures that spark this type of speculation today?

When was the Romanov family grave found? How do we know that the bodies found there belong to the Romanovs?

Additional Activities:

Tour the Alexander Palace at <http://www.alexanderpalace.org/palace/>. This website features photographs of the rooms of the palace, along with additional information about the Romanovs.

Investigate the life and political career of Vladimir Lenin. Describe the changes that took place in Russia during the Revolution.

Have students write letters as members of the Romanov family. They should write to friends describing their lives before and after being placed under arrest by the Bolsheviks.

Vocabulary:

Empire, monarchy, ordained, absolute rulers, czar, tsarina, poverty, famine, dynasty, secluded, nobility, revolt, idyllic, appalling, Bolsheviks, revolutionaries, exhumed, DNA, tranquility

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