

Yalta and Potsdam: What was actually decided?

Starter Activity: Complete the blank cells in the "Yalta" column using the worksheet which you used to play the Yalta Computer Simulation at www.activehistory.co.uk.

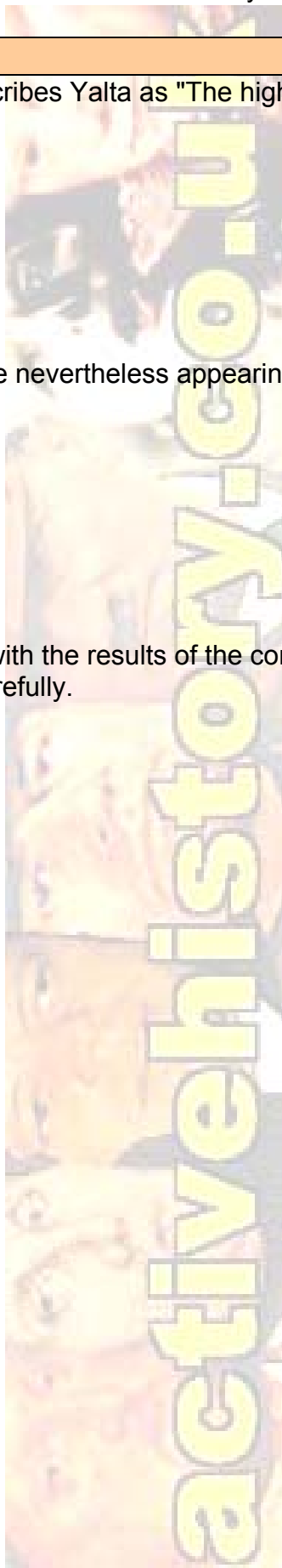
	Yalta	Potsdam
Background	USA = led by Roosevelt (likes Stalin) Germany = not yet defeated USSR = has the military advantage (occupying Eastern Europe)	USA = led by Truman (hates Stalin) Germany = defeated (no common enemy) USSR = no longer has military advantage (USA has developed an atomic bomb)
Germany		
Repararations		
Poland		
Eastern Europe		
Japan		
United Nations		

The Yalta Conference:

1. The historian Jeremy Isaacs describes Yalta as "The high point of wartime unity". What evidence is there that this is true?

2. Isaacs also said that "cracks were nevertheless appearing under the surface". What do you think he means?

3. Who would have been happiest with the results of the conference: Stalin, Churchill or Roosevelt? Explain your answer carefully.



The Potsdam Conference: Spot the Difference!



Yalta, February 1945

Britain represented by:

USA represented by:

USSR represented by:



Potsdam, July 1945

Britain represented by:

USA represented by:

USSR represented by:



Potsdam, August 1945

Britain represented by:

USA represented by:

USSR represented by:

Questions:

1. Why do you think that the leaders of the USA and the UK may have changed?
2. Are these changes likely to put the USSR in a stronger, or a weaker position? Explain.

The Potsdam Conference:

1. Complete the second column of the table on the earlier page using any sources you have available to you (alternatively, you teacher may choose to dictate notes)
2. President Truman was less willing to compromise with Stalin at Potsdam than President Roosevelt had been at Yalta. What were the reasons for this?
3. What were the main agreements reached at Potsdam? List three, with the most important at the top of the list:
4. What were the main disagreements at Potsdam? List three, with the most important at the top of the list:

Extension Task

- Using MovieMaker, produce a positive commentary about the Yalta Conference over the top of the silent video clip from the Learning Curve (Google Search = Learning Curve Potsdam Yalta). There is a newsreel clip from the Potsdam Conference which you can use as a model.
- Half the class could alternatively produce a very negative interpretation of the same conference using the same clip.