

An Inspector Calls Context Cards / 1

Directions for the teacher: Before the lesson begins, print out and cut up the context cards to hand out to the students. Students should either have a context card or a context image.



The *Titanic* Sinks

The *Titanic*, which was referred to as the 'unsinkable ship', struck an iceberg in the Atlantic Ocean on its journey from Southampton to New York. The ship sank and approximately 1,500 of the estimated 2,225 people on board died.

King George V's Coronation

King George V was made King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, and Emperor of India after his father King Edward VII died.

The Great Depression

Before the United Kingdom had been able to recover fully from the effects of the First World War, the Great Depression occurred; it brought financial instability and high levels of unemployment. It first began in America and then spread across the world. The industrial areas of the UK were the worst hit. In some areas, unemployment was at 70%.

First World War Ends

The First World War ended when Germany signed an armistice (a peace agreement) that was prepared by Britain and France. It is estimated that 15–19 million people died in the four years of conflict.

(Some) Women Gain the Vote

The Representation of the People Act (1918) was passed; it allowed women over the age of 30, who met a property qualification, to vote. However, women still had fewer voting rights than men. The same Act extended the vote to virtually all men over the age of 21.

The National Coal Strike

In their first ever strike, coal miners refused to work until they were granted a minimum wage. Almost one million miners participated in a strike that lasted for 37 days until the government intervened, passing the Coal Mines Act, which gave workers a right to a minimum wage.

An Inspector Calls Context Cards / 2

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The Birth of J. B. Priestley

Priestley was born in the industrial town of Manningham in Bradford, Yorkshire in 1894. Though he lived beside industrial communities, he was not working class as his father was a schoolmaster.

Second World War Begins

France and Britain (and their empires) declared war on Germany after Hitler failed to withdraw from Poland, which he invaded two days earlier. The year was 1939.

All Women Gain the Vote

The Representation of the People Act (1928) was passed and women gained equal voting rights to men. All women over the age of 21 were subsequently allowed to vote.

First World War Begins

Britain joined the First World War, declaring war on Germany after the country invaded France through Belgium.

An Inspector Calls Premiere

An Inspector Calls was first performed in Leningrad in the Soviet Union. The Second World War meant that the London theatre scene was much diminished and the theatres which were in operation had their schedules fully programmed when Priestley finished writing his play.

Second World War Ends

The Second World War ended when Japan signed the surrender documents in 1945. Nazi Germany was defeated several months earlier, at the end of April.