

History – "The Hammer and Sickle"

Topic: Communism in Russia (1900–1940) **CAPS Reference:** Term 1 – *Communism and Capitalism (The Russian Revolution)* **Duration:** 40 Minutes **Materials:** Paper, Red pen/pencil (symbolic of Communism).

Learning Objective

- Students will visualize the class structure of Czarist Russia.
- Students will understand the symbolism of the "Hammer and Sickle" (Workers and Peasants).

Instructions

1. Context (5 Mins):

- Teacher: "*In 1917, Russia had a revolution that changed the world. It started because the gap between the rich (The Czar) and the poor (The Peasants) was too wide.*"

2. The Procedure (30 Mins):

- **Stop 1: The Pyramid of Power (Czarist Russia)**
 - *Teacher Script:* "Imagine a pyramid. At the very top sits the Czar (King) in gold and jewels. At the very bottom, holding the whole pyramid up, are millions of poor farmers and factory workers."
 -  **STOP AND DRAW:** Draw a triangle. At the top, draw a crown. At the bottom, draw many stick figures lifting it up.
- **Stop 2: The Symbols (Hammer & Sickle)**
 - *Teacher Script:* "The Revolution was about uniting the two groups of poor people. The **Hammer** represented the factory workers. The **Sickle** (a curved blade for cutting wheat) represented the farmers. Together, they were the power."
 -  **STOP AND DRAW:** Draw a Hammer. Draw a Sickle crossing over it.
- **Stop 3: Stalin's Industry (Five-Year Plans)**
 - *Teacher Script:* "After the revolution, Stalin wanted to modernize Russia fast. He replaced farms with massive factories and steel mills. He wanted Russia to be a 'Man of Steel'."
 -  **STOP AND DRAW:** Draw a tractor driving over a field. Draw a steel mill in the background.

3. Review (5 Mins):

- **Discussion:** Why did the revolutionaries choose a Hammer and a Sickle as their symbol instead of a crown or a sword?

