

## After the Wall Teaching Materials

### The built environment

#### The *Gesamtkonzept* and the Berlin Wall Memorial Site

#### Resources

The following exercise draws on information provided in the document, 'Gesamtkonzept zur Erinnerung an die Berliner Mauer: Dokumentation, Information und Gedenken', available at:  
[http://www.berlin.de/imperia/md/content/senwfk/pdf-dateien/mauerdialog/asv2006616\\_1.pdf?start&ts=1171978112&file=asv2006616\\_1.pdf](http://www.berlin.de/imperia/md/content/senwfk/pdf-dateien/mauerdialog/asv2006616_1.pdf?start&ts=1171978112&file=asv2006616_1.pdf)

#### *Mauerkonzept* – General Questions

*Einleitung* (p. 3):

1. To whom are sites of remembrance relating to the Berlin Wall dedicated?
2. How are such sites intended to benefit future generations?
3. Which two sites were particularly highlighted in 2005 for Wall remembrance? Why are these sites important? Do you think they are the most appropriate locations for the memorial? Why (not)?
4. Which period was this *Gesamtkonzept* designed to cover? Why was the year 2011 so significant?
5. To what extent has the design of the memorial sites been politically influenced? Do you agree that politicians should influence such projects? Why (not)?

*Defizite der Erinnerungspolitik* (p. 12):

1. What happened to the Berlin Wall in 1990? Why is this now seen as a problem?

2. What do you understand by the term 'authentic place of remembrance' (authentischen Erinnerungsort)? Do you think this idea of 'authenticity' is important? Why (not)?
3. How has the attitude of the Berlin population towards the history of the Berlin Wall changed over time? Why do you think this is the case?
4. Why is Berlin so popular among tourists? What do they hope to experience when visiting Berlin? How will remembrance sites contribute to this experience?
5. Do some research on the internet to find out what the 'kontrovers diskutierte Aktion' at the Haus am Checkpoint Charlie was. What problems does the *Gesamtkonzept* highlight regarding this installation? Do you agree with the report?

*Ausgangspunkte der Konzeptarbeit (pp. 13-15):*

1. Read paragraphs 3-6 of p. 13. What were the main aims of the concept? (try to name six)
2. What were the main concerns of Alliance '90/The Greens (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen) in discussions about the memorials?
3. How do they compare to the issues set out by the CDU? What do these differences tell you about the political agendas of the two parties?
4. In May 2005, the Berlin Parliament passed a motion in favour of a 'Gesamtkonzept'. What did they want to be included in this document? Which aspect do you think is most important? Why?
5. Which sites of remembrance are mentioned at the top of p. 15 that are not included in this *Gesamtkonzept*? In what ways do you think these might complement Wall remembrance sites?

## The Berlin Wall Memorial Site – Activities

### Resources

<http://www.berliner-mauer-gedenkstaette.de/en/index.html>

1. The Story behind the Pictures.  
Click on the link 'The Historical Site' and choose one of the photos on the webpage. Imagine that you lived on Bernauer Strasse at the time that the Berlin Wall was built and write an eyewitness account for the photo that you have chosen. Think about what you saw and how you felt at the time.

2. According to the website, the Berlin Wall Memorial Site is made up of five elements:
  - the monument
  - the documentation centre
  - the chapel of reconciliation
  - the ghost stations
  - the visitor centre.

Use the information on the website to find out about each of the sites.

Which one would you most like to visit if you were:

- a) a tourist?
- b) someone who grew up in West Germany?
- c) a student studying the GDR?
- d) a victim of the Berlin Wall?

Give reasons for your answers.

3. Which of the sites would you like to visit? Write a paragraph to explain your choice, outlining why you chose it and what you would hope to learn from it.