DRONE FRONT

EVIDENCE SEMINAR

Hunting the Air Defences

Reading visual evidence from the 2020 Karabakh war

Content and participation

For adults and university beginners. No prior historical, source-analysis or technical knowledge is required.

These lessons discuss historical conflict, displacement, missing people, surrender and civilian-harm documentation without graphic descriptions or images. No personal disclosure is required. Linked articles may contain graphic material and are not assigned readings.

Use the equivalent text and metadata cards at any time. They retain the evidence needed for the same questions and marks while omitting images, personal narratives and numerical casualty values. Choosing this route carries no penalty.

Learning objectives

Trace an image's credited source while identifying what remains unverified.
Distinguish a documented minimum from a complete total.
Explain selection bias and the difference between observation and attribution.

Before you begin

Claim

A statement that can be examined using evidence; it is not automatically an established fact.

Source

A record, person or publication from which information comes. Repeated publication may share one origin.

Evidence

Information relevant to assessing a particular claim, with its origin and limits made explicit.

Attribution

Identifying who made a statement or supplied a record, without treating that identification as verification.

Corroboration

Relevant additional evidence that supports a claim. Repetition of one account does not supply an independent observation.

Uncertainty

What the available evidence leaves unresolved; preserve it rather than replacing it with a definite claim.

Scope

The people, places, dates and measurement categories that a record covers.

Model assumption

A setting or rule used by a simulation; it does not by itself establish what happened historically.

Suggested session plans

The 45-, 60- and 90-minute plans are untested classroom estimates, not measured play times. Educator testing and observed timing are needed before claiming classroom validation. Activities need not be timed.

45 minutes · Core evidence lesson

- 5 minutes · Orientation and glossary
- 10 minutes · Guided reading
- 10 minutes · Evidence comparison
- 15 minutes · Written assessment
- 5 minutes · Debrief

60 minutes · Core lesson with discussion

- 5 minutes · Orientation and glossary
- 10 minutes · Guided reading
- 10 minutes · Evidence comparison
- 15 minutes · Written assessment
- 15 minutes · Discussion
- 5 minutes · Debrief

90 minutes · Intermediate source-chain audit

- 5 minutes · Orientation and glossary
- 10 minutes · Guided reading
- 10 minutes · Evidence comparison
- 15 minutes · Written assessment
- 15 minutes · Discussion
- 30 minutes · Audit the source chain
- 5 minutes · Debrief

Assigned evidence cards

N1 METADATA

A parade image record

The Commons record describes a TB2 at the Baku victory parade. It records 10 December 2020 as the image date, credits the Azerbaijani presidential press service and President.az, and records an upload on 11 December 2020 by DarthVaderBaku. A credited institution, uploader and individual photographer have different roles. The individual photographer and original publication chain have not been independently authenticated here.

Source references: commons

N2 SYNTHETIC TEACHING FIXTURE

Synthetic teaching fixture: repeated metadata

A, B and C each repeat the same N1 file identifier and metadata, unchanged. These are teaching comparison cards, not three real publications. A = N1 file; B = N1 file; C = N1 file. This establishes repeated use of one distinct image, not an independently verified producer or three witnesses. No image interpretation is required.

Source references: commons

N3 SYNTHETIC TEACHING FIXTURE

Synthetic teaching fixture: a selective catalogue

A teaching catalogue includes only images its compiler has found publicly and accepted. It supplies no claim of complete coverage, verification of every image or independently observed totals. Apply this sampling limitation. N1 is a parade photograph, not a combat-loss photograph.

Five short-answer questions

Two marks per question · 10 marks total

Write your answers on paper or in your own document. Use the assigned cards; no timed task or external reading is required.

Using N2's identical A/B/C records, what does repetition alone establish?

Facilitator key

One distinct image is shown repeatedly. Repetition alone establishes neither its original producer nor independent corroboration.

- **1 mark:** Identify one distinct image.
- **1 mark:** State both the provenance and corroboration limits.

Does N3 establish all historical losses? Explain using its inclusion rule.

Facilitator key
No: inclusion depends on publicly found, accepted images; unrecorded or unfound cases may be absent, and acceptance is not automatic verification.

1 mark: Identify the stated selection rule.
1 mark: Explain a resulting coverage or verification limit.

In N1, distinguish the image-date field from the upload date. What do those fields establish?

Facilitator key
The record assigns 10 December 2020 to the image and 11 December 2020 to its upload; metadata alone does not independently authenticate when the pictured event occurred.

1 mark: Separate the two dates and their roles.
1 mark: Identify the authentication limit.

Does N1 establish who caused a battlefield outcome? Give one reason.

Facilitator key
No; it is metadata for a parade photograph and contains no evidence linking an actor to a battlefield outcome.

1 mark: Identify the parade context.
1 mark: Identify the missing causal or attribution evidence.

Write a two-sentence catalogue caption using N1, distinguishing its credited source from an unknown.

Facilitator key
Attribute the file description and recorded date to the Commons record and its credited institution; explain that the uploader is not thereby the photographer and the original producer remains unauthenticated here.

1 mark: Give accurate attribution and description.
1 mark: State an explicit provenance limit.

Marking guidance

Each question has two independent one-mark points: award 0, 1 or 2 according to the points met. A bare yes/no earns no marks when reasons or evidence are requested. Accept defensible alternatives grounded in the cards; do not reward agreement with a preferred interpretation. Five questions give 10 marks per lesson

and 40 questions give 80 overall. The proposed 8/10 exit threshold is an untested pilot hypothesis. The alternative cards use identical marking points.

Facilitator notes

Use only the metadata and labelled fixtures. No external image or loss-imagery search is assigned. The cards do not authenticate the original producer or establish battlefield attribution.

Facilitator source notes

Passage review recorded: 11 October 2026

commons · Commons file record: Bayraktar TB2 at the 2020 victory parade in Baku (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bayraktar_TB2_at_2020_Victory_Parade_in_Baku.jpg)

Passage locator: Summary fields and File history.

Source limit: Credited institution, uploader and photographer are different roles. The individual photographer and original publication chain are not independently authenticated here; no external image is required.

Atrocity notice

Human Rights Watch documented unlawful attacks on populated areas by Armenian forces and apparently indiscriminate attacks by Azerbaijani forces during the 2020 war. These reports concern civilian protection across the conflict, not proof from this simulation of any particular crime.

These reports describe the wider conflict. They do not establish that every crime occurred in this modeled battle.

Studying or commanding a side does not endorse its conduct. Drone Front never lets players target civilians, hospitals, schools or places of worship. Civilian harm from simulated strikes is counted and shown in the debrief, including nonzero harm. Civilian massacres are never playable operations. Designated terrorist forces and Wagner remain computer controlled; Gaza war events remain excluded from play.

- 2020-12-11 · Human Rights Watch: Azerbaijan, unlawful strikes in Nagorno-Karabakh
- 2020-12-11 · Human Rights Watch: Armenia, unlawful rocket and missile strikes on Azerbaijan