DRONE FRONT

EVIDENCE SEMINAR

The Climb to Shusha

Shusha/Shushi: declarations, chronology and continuing consequences

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

Distinguish a participant announcement from independently verified chronology.
Explain why a ceasefire date does not end all civilian consequences.
Handle place-name variants consistently and respectfully.

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

S1 BOUNDED SOURCE PARAPHRASE

A declared ceasefire

The Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian leaders declared a ceasefire effective at 00:00 Moscow time on 10 November 2020. The trilateral statement is primary evidence of declared terms. This card contains no observation of compliance; deployment and route provisions are not assigned.

Source references: statement

S2 BOUNDED SOURCE PARAPHRASE

Later continuing consequences

An ICRC account published 27 January 2022 reports that families were still seeking information about people missing from the 2020 escalation. The card supplies no 2020 population census and reproduces no personal stories or remains-related details.

> Equivalent metadata reading
> Publication: 27 January 2022. Subject: continuing missing-persons consequences of the 2020 escalation. This later-date and ongoing-consequence record supplies no 2020 population census. No personal narrative or image is required.

Source references: icrc

S3 LESSON TERMINOLOGY

Place-name variants

Use Shusha/Shushi together on first mention. Preserve a source's own spelling when identifying it. A place-name label is not evidence deciding sovereignty.

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.

What does S1 directly establish about the leaders' declaration, and what does it leave unverified?

Facilitator key
It records stated ceasefire terms and their effective time; it does not itself verify events on the ground.

1 mark: Identify the declaration and effective time.
1 mark: Separate declaration from observed compliance.

Can S1 alone establish that every term was implemented? Identify the missing kind of evidence.

Facilitator key
No; implementation requires independently assessed records of conduct after the declaration, matched to the term and period.

1 mark: Distinguish agreement from implementation.
1 mark: Identify relevant compliance evidence.

Apply S3 to a teaching note that uses Shusha while its source uses Shushi. What should the note do, and what should it avoid inferring?

Facilitator key
Explain and preserve the naming convention and identify the source's spelling; a label alone does not decide sovereignty.

1 mark: Handle both variants clearly and respectfully.
1 mark: State the sovereignty-inference limit.

Can S2's 2022 account establish a 2020 population count? Explain using the card's scope.

Facilitator key
It concerns later missing-persons consequences and supplies no earlier population census. A matching measurement and method would be needed.

1 mark: Distinguish the scope and time.
1 mark: Identify the missing population evidence.

How does S2 add to a chronology ending at S1's ceasefire declaration? State one limit.

Facilitator key
It documents later continuing consequences; retain its own date and subject rather than treating it as a measurement of conditions on the ceasefire date.

1 mark: Identify the aftermath contribution.
1 mark: Keep the later date and scope explicit.

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

Retain Shusha/Shushi variants and source spellings. Distinguish primary declarations from compliance and later aftermath. No personal stories, images or operational provisions are assigned.

Facilitator source notes

Passage review recorded: 11 October 2026

statement · 10 November 2020 trilateral statement

(https://www.primeminister.am/en/press-release/item/2020/11/10/Announcement/)

Passage locator: Date, introductory signatories and clause 1 first sentence only.
Source limit: Evidence of declared terms, not observed implementation. Do not assign deployment or route provisions.

icrc · ICRC: aftermath of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

(https://www.icrc.org/en/document/nagorno-karabakh-conflict-aftermath-winter-deepens-agony-families-missing-people)

Passage locator: Published 27 January 2022; opening overview after the introductory bullet points.
Source limit: Later missing-persons consequences, not a 2020 population census. Exclude personal stories and remains-related details.

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