



Peace Education Scotland's educational resource 'Nuclear Weapons: Yes or No' is designed to introduce pupils to ideas and themes surrounding the topic of nuclear weapons. It has 4 units: The Nuclear Weapons Debate, Nuclear Explosions, Trident, and Pressure Groups.

This course is as objective and balanced as possible, with opportunities for you to develop your creative and critical thinking skills. It has been designed around the underlying principle that young people should be encouraged to have knowledgeable debates and opinions about nuclear weapons.

CHECK

On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you already know about Trident?

0 – 3: I don't know what Trident is, and I don't know much about nuclear weapons

4 – 6: I know a bit about Trident and the ways countries use nuclear weapons

7 – 10: I know a lot about Trident and Britain's policies on nuclear weapons

Write your answer here:

WATCH

You will now watch a short film about Trident.

The film will introduce you to a lot of the information in this module. It might contain information that surprises you. Pay attention to how you feel watching the film, and keep this in mind when completing the exercises.

LEARN

TRIDENT: THE WEAPON

Trident is the name of the UK's nuclear weapons system. Trident has 4 submarines that are nuclear powered and carry missiles armed with 100kiloton thermonuclear warheads which would be launched using rocket fuel. Each warhead is 100 kilotons and is approximately 8 times more destructive than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. In the past, Trident's first target was Moscow. This meant 5 million people could have been killed in 30 minutes by one submarine.

The submarines are based on the Clyde at Faslane, 25 miles (40.23 km) from Glasgow. This is the only nuclear base for all of Britain's nuclear weapons. For over fifty years, one submarine has always been on patrol at sea and ready to launch nuclear weapons. When they aren't on the submarines, the nuclear warheads are maintained at AWE Burghfield in the South of England, and then transported North to be housed at RNAD Coulport, a storage facility and depot located in a mountain across the bay from Faslane.

THINK

TRIDENT: THE WEAPON

Nuclear Weapons are 'Weapons of Mass Destruction'.

1. What do you think 'mass destruction' means?

Write your answer here:

2. What do you know about other kinds of 'weapons of mass destruction'?

Write your answer here:

LEARN

TRIDENT: THE DETERRENT

Trident is called a 'deterrent'. A deterrent is something that deters (stops something from happening). An example might be having a 'dangerous dog' sign outside your home to prevent people from breaking in. Some governments think that having nuclear weapons will keep their country safe, because it will stop other countries from using theirs.

Most governments don't have nuclear weapons. Many people around the world question the logic behind the 'deterrent'. Having nuclear weapons has not stopped nuclear-armed countries from going to war, and the competition between them has led to the creation of more and more dangerous weapons.

THINK

TRIDENT: THE DETERRENT

1. Imagine you learn that someone you know carries a knife with them everywhere for protection. What advice would you give them?

Write your answer here:

Now think about what might happen if everybody carried knives with them. Would you feel safe and want to live in a place like that?

Write your answer here:

2. Now imagine a new country wants to develop its own nuclear weapons to deter against a nuclear attack. What do you think Britain would do in that situation?

Write your answer here:

Think about what would happen if every country in the world began to create their own nuclear weapons as deterrents. Would you feel safe in a world like that?

Write your answer here:

THINK

TRIDENT: THE DETERRENT

Discuss as a class:

1. Do you think Trident is a deterrent?
2. Do you think deterrents work?

Use this space to take notes:

THINK

TRIDENT: THE DETERRENT

Which of these quotes do you agree with, and why?

1. *"I am in favour of a full replacement for Trident, for continuous at-sea deterrent, and to make sure we keep our guard up"* - David Cameron, former UK Prime Minister
2. *"Nuclear weapons are morally, strategically, and economically wrong"* - Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland
3. *"I think it is all nonsense"* - Michael Portillo, former UK defence secretary

Write your answer here:

LEARN

TRIDENT CONVOYS

Britain has a stockpile of over 200 thermonuclear warheads that need to be regularly checked and maintained. The warheads are maintained at AWE Burghfield in Berkshire, West of London. They are housed at RNAD Coulport and they are deployed from HMNB Clyde (Faslane), on the West coast of Scotland. This means that 'convoys' (consignments of warheads for maintenance) have to travel back and forth several times a year.

The Ministry of Defence transports the warheads in trucks with a large police and security escort. Britain doesn't have the infrastructure of private military roads, so these convoys of trucks drive on the same roads as the public. Convoys usually take 1 to 2 days to make a one-way trip. Some people argue that it's too dangerous to transport nuclear weapons on public roads near major cities containing hospitals and schools.

There are many dangers the government needs to think about. Just like other vehicles, nuclear convoys are at risk of accidents from traffic collisions or extreme weather. If there is an accident with a convoy, there is a risk of radioactive material leaking and contaminating the area. Convoys are also at risk of being targeted in warfare or terrorist attacks. The Ministry of Defence runs 'exercises' where they act out different scenarios to make sure they are ready to respond in an emergency.

THINK

TRIDENT CONVOYS

Imagine you are the British government. You are taking part in an 'exercise' to test the safety of convoys. You have been given three hypothetical emergency situations. You must prepare a plan for how you think the government should respond to these emergencies.

For each of these situations, you must decide:

1. What are the safety risks if you continue with the convoy as planned?
2. What can you do to improve the safety of the convoy?
3. How else could you safely transport the warheads?

EMERGENCY 1

Over the summer, temperatures in the South of England have risen to record breaking temperatures, and the tarmac surface on some of the major roads is melting and leaving vehicles stuck or damaged. The convoy trucks that carry the nuclear warheads are designed to protect from rain and wind, but not heat. The engineers can't tell whether the trucks will be able to reach Scotland safely.

What are the safety risks if you continue with the convoy as planned?

Write your answer here:

What can you do to improve the safety of the convoy?

Write your answer here:

How else could you safely transport the warheads?

Write your answer here:

EMERGENCY 2

The police have raided the headquarters of a local group suspected of planning an attack somewhere in the UK. They find documents containing maps of the convoy routes, and photos of the convoys and their security, taken from the internet. It is unclear whether the group has used this information as part of a plan, but the next convoy is due to leave Burghfield in 24 hours.

What are the safety risks if you continue with the convoy as planned?

Write your answer here:

What can you do to improve the safety of the convoy?

Write your answer here:

How else could you safely transport the warheads?

Write your answer here:

EMERGENCY 3

The convoy is leaving a base in Carlisle where it stopped overnight. While re-joining the public roads, a small truck carrying fresh food gets caught in the convoy. The driver of the truck panics and accidentally accelerates, bumping into the back of the van carrying the warheads. No-one is hurt, but the food truck is badly damaged, and the back doors of the van are broken. The whole convoy needs to stop.

What are the safety risks if you continue with the convoy as planned?

Write your answer here:

What can you do to improve the safety of the convoy?

Write your answer here:

How else could you safely transport the warheads?

Write your answer here:

CHALLENGE

TRIDENT SURVIVAL ISLAND

Nuclear bombs have exploded and the radiation cloud is quickly drifting in your direction. You have access to a small aeroplane which can take 10 people, plus a pilot and co-pilot. There is also space for ten items.

The plane will take you to a remote island away from the radiation. The island is unpopulated, with no buildings however it has fresh water and plenty of fruit, vegetables, some wildlife and trees. Your challenge is to work in pairs (you and your co-pilot!) and decide which 10 items and 10 people to carry to safety on your plane!

TRIDENT SURVIVAL ISLAND – TASK 1

What do we need?

Choose 10 items that you think would be the most useful for your time on the island. All 10 of your items must be able to fit into a small plane, and they must weigh less than 70kg each. Consider, what will you need to stay alive? What will you need to stay safe? Will you try to communicate with other survivors around the world? Will you try to leave the island? How will you know when it's safe?

Add your items into the checklist below in Task 3

TRIDENT SURVIVAL ISLAND – TASK 2

Who do we need?

Choose 10 people that you would want to join you on your time on the island. You can make your own list, or choose 10 people from the list below! Consider, what skills will you need to stay safe and alive? Who can help to get you off the island safely? How important is it to maintain harmony among the people on the island?

My favourite author	My favourite teacher	A farmer	A survival expert
A nurse who works at the local hospital	A doctor	A web designer who is good with computers	A chef who has worked in many different countries

A retired soldier and expert in communication devices	A university professor and expert at peace-keeping	A scientist who once worked in a lab testing radiation	My favourite footballer
My favourite pop singer	The current UK Prime minister	The local community police officer	A family friend who is good at fixing things and DIY
My pet (this counts as a person!)	A member of my family	The head of the army	My best friend

Add your chosen people into the checklist below in Task 3

TRIDENT SURVIVAL ISLAND – TASK 3

Create your checklists of 10 items and 10 people to carry to safety. Share your checklist with the other pairs in the class and explain why you made the decisions you made. Compare your checklist with the other groups - what did they do differently from you? How do your chances of survival compare to theirs?

WHAT DO WE NEED?	WHO DO WE NEED?
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.
8.	8.
9.	9.
10.	10.

CHALLENGE

TRIDENT RENEWAL DEBATE

In 2016, the UK government held a vote on whether or not to 'renew' Trident. This means to keep maintaining and operating Trident, as well as developing new materials and technologies and even adding to our overall number of warheads. The politicians who support nuclear weapons voted for renewing Trident. The politicians who oppose nuclear weapons voted against the renewal.

Your challenge is to imagine that you are the UK government, and that this vote is happening 1 month from now! You have the chance for a final debate to try and convince the politicians on the other team to change their minds about nuclear weapons!

TRIDENT RENEWAL DEBATE – TASK 1

Read through the following list of statements, and sort them into 2 lists: FOR renewal, and AGAINST renewal!

1. Trident creates more jobs!
2. The Trident submarines are coming to the end of their useful lives.
3. Nuclear weapons make Britain an important country!
4. Scottish people vote for an anti-nuclear government.
5. Having nuclear weapons means there could be an accident or terrorist attack.
6. If we got rid of our nuclear weapons it would encourage other countries to do the same!
7. So much money has been spent, it would be stupid to stop now!
8. Why waste more money on something we don't want?
9. The money saved could be used to create jobs, e.g., nurses, doctors, builders and engineers.
10. Other countries are spending money to upgrade their weapons.
11. The money could be spent on more worthwhile things like soldier's equipment.
12. You can't be sure what will happen in the future, so we need nuclear weapons!

Sort these statements into the two columns

FOR RENEWAL	AGAINST RENEWAL

TRIDENT RENEWAL DEBATE – TASK 2

Divide into an equal number of teams to argue FOR and AGAINST, and prepare your 3 minute speeches to open the debate!

Working in groups of 3 - 4 people, you must prepare a speech (or series of speeches) that should last no more than three minutes in total. You might want to allocate jobs within your group (e.g., researchers, writers). Everyone must participate in creating the speech! Use the resources in your classroom, the school library, and the arguments from Task 1 to help you!

Use this space to take your notes:

TRIDENT RENEWAL DEBATE – TASK 3

Bring together your FOR and AGAINST teams, and spend a lesson having the debate, using the arguments and speeches you have come up with!

Begin with an opening speech for each team, then begin to debate your arguments back and forth between teams. Pay special attention to the kinds of arguments you're making. What has this taught you about the way people and politicians talk about nuclear weapons? At the end of the class, take a vote to see which side is more popular. Why do you think people chose that side?

Use this space to take your notes:

CHALLENGE

TRIDENT CAPTAIN'S LETTER

The Trident submarine carries a sealed letter from the Prime Minister. If Britain is attacked and the British Government is destroyed then the captain will open the letter. The letter has instructions about what the captain should do. Your challenge is to write and follow one of these letters!

Possible instructions might be:

- Put yourself under the command of the United States, if it is still there
- Make your way to Australia, if it is still there
- Destroy the capital of the country which attacked
- Use your own judgement

TRIDENT CAPTAIN'S LETTER – TASK 1

Write your letter!

Imagine you are the Prime Minister of Britain. Write a letter to the captain leaving your instructions of what you think the captain should do if Britain is destroyed.

Use this space to write your letter:

TRIDENT CAPTAIN'S LETTER – TASK 2

What happens next?

Swap your letter with someone else. Take it in turns to open and read your letters. Imagine you are the captain of a nuclear submarine.

Take it in turns to tell the class what you think would happen if you followed those instructions!

CHALLENGE

TRIDENT ESTATE AGENT

Faslane Naval Base and Coulport Depot are located in a beautiful part of Argyll and surrounded by towns and villages including Shandon, Cove, Garelochhead, Rhu, Helensburgh and Roseneath. Some of the people living in these places choose to live close to Faslane because they (or someone they live with) work there. Some others live there despite being opposed to Trident. Some have lived there since before the nuclear weapons arrived in the 1960s. Your challenge is to think about how to buy and sell property in the Faslane area!

TRIDENT ESTATE AGENT – TASK 1

You are an estate agent trying to sell a house near Faslane Naval Base. The house has 4 bedrooms, a large garden, a swimming pool, views across the loch, and is 200m from Faslane Naval Base. The base is visible from some parts of the house and garden.

Research the area and think about who might want to live there, and how to present the house to them. Then you need to make up a leaflet to advertise the house. Once you've made your leaflet, swap it with a partner for Task 2!

Use this space to plan out your leaflet:

TRIDENT ESTATE AGENT – TASK 2

You have just won the lottery and are thinking about moving house. One house that looks very good is near Faslane. Think about the area and what you already know about Faslane. Consider what might be good or bad about living there. Read a leaflet about a house from the Faslane Estate Agent (given to you in Task 1!). Make a decision – do you buy this house? Tell the rest of the class your decision and why you made it.

Use this space to take notes:

CHALLENGE

TRIDENT THE DOCUMENTARY

You have been commissioned by a major television channel to produce a television documentary about Trident and Faslane. The documentary should include information on Faslane's location, the relationship to Trident and views for and against having a nuclear base in Scotland. The documentary should last around 10 minutes and be appropriate for all age groups. It might be seen all over the world, so you should assume the people watching don't know anything about Trident!

TRIDENT THE DOCUMENTARY – TASK 1

Plan out your documentary!

Working in groups of 4 - 5 people, you must create a plan of how your documentary will go, scene by scene. You might want to assign roles in your group (e.g., researcher, writer, director). Make sure everyone participates in making the plan!

Your plan should answer all of these 'Director's Questions':

- What scenes will you include?
- What information will you include and how will you present it?
- Do you want to include actors, voice-overs or music?
- What will you name your documentary?
- How do you want to make the viewer feel?

Use this space to plan your work:

TRIDENT THE DOCUMENTARY – TASK 2

Create a 2 minute trailer!

In your groups, you must create a short video trailer for your documentary, showing the information and scenes you want to show. What are the most important parts to include? You might want to assign roles in your group (e.g., writer, director, producer, editor). The groups should then share their trailers with the rest of the class. Have a group discussion about their strengths and weaknesses!

Use this space to plan your work:

CHECK

On a scale of 1 to 10, how much do you know about Trident now?

0 – 2: I don't know anything about Trident, Faslane, or nuclear weapons

3 – 4: I know a little bit about Trident and how countries use nuclear weapons

5 – 6: I feel confident thinking and talking about Trident and nuclear weapons

7 – 8: I know a lot about Trident and Britain's policies on nuclear weapons

9 – 10: I feel I can make informed opinions about Trident, Faslane and nuclear weapons

Write your answer here: