

Tampere 1918 – teacher’s version

Teacher, welcome to use the Tampere 1918 Civil War Museum website!

According to POPS (2014) in the history subject, the aim is to form the most reliable understanding of the past based on available evidence. Students are guided to comprehend the interpretative nature and multiperspectivity of historical knowledge, as well as to explain the change and continuity in historical development. It is important to practice researching primary and secondary sources and utilize open learning environments in historical research tasks. LOPS (2019) defines the Finnish Civil War as a key content area in the learning module “HI3 History of Independent Finland”.

These assignments involve practicing information acquisition and the interpretation of primary sources, as well as getting acquainted with a new learning platform.

1. Information acquisition

Place these important events of the early 20th century in chronological order by numbering them.

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| 10. The Civil War ends with the Whites’ victory | 5. The Reds occupy Helsinki |
| 8. The Whites’ main attack on Tampere | 2. Emperor Nicholas II is overthrown |
| 6. The events of Suinula in Kangasala | 7. The Battle of Kalevankangas |
| 4. Finland declares independence from Russia | 3. Bolsheviks seize power in Russia |
| 1. The general strike and Red Declaration | 9. The Battle of Tampere ends |

2. Use of original sources

The war broke out on January 27, 1918, when the Reds captured Helsinki, and the Whites began disarming Ostrobothnia. Compare the following day’s Aamulehti and Kansan Lehti. Which side did the newspapers support?

The newspapers are available in the digital collections of The National Library of Finland: Aamulehti [Serial publications - Digital collections - National Library](#) and Kansan Lehti [Serial publications - Digital collections - National Library](#) (Newspapers only in Finnish)

- Teacher’s guide: In this assignment you practice using original sources from the digital collections of the National Library. In old newspapers the fraktur typeface was still in use at times in the early 20th century, which can be hard to read. An OCR-tool (Optical Character Recognition) is provided in the digital collections website, that can be used to help with the old typefaces. Open the newspaper, and click on “Other actions”. Choose “Show text (OCR)”.

Aamulehti: white (Red Guard anarchy; distress of the Fatherland); Kansan lehti: Red (declaration to the Finnish people).

3. Information acquisition

What are the different names that have been used for the events of the year 1918?

freedom fight, freedom war, the revolution, red rebellion, the rebellion, class war, citizen war, brethren war, civil war.

Open [Tampere 1918 - Tampere 1918](#) and find the Tampere 1918 exhibition. Read the instructions on how to navigate the exhibition and answer the following questions.

4. Find the uniforms of a Red Guard member, a jaeger and a White Guard member. What differences are there?

The jaegers had German uniforms and clean-cut boots. The White's had good quality outfits. The Reds had civilian clothes with a wood working knife and ordinary boots.

5. Examine the post-battle photographs on the walls of the exhibition. What do the pictures reveal about the atmosphere in Tampere after the battle?

(Descriptive answer)

6. White Army's runner Onni Kokko and Red Army's messenger Arvo Koivisto died in the Civil War. How old were they? (Hint: The answer is close to the tipped over carriage)

Onni 14 ja Arvo 13.

7. The statue of liberty monument for the capture of Tampere was erected in Hämeenpuisto on April 3, 1921. What did it symbolize? (hint: last part of the exhibition)
 - a. for the political right: freedom from Russian rule
 - b. for the political left: oppression and lawlessness. An added insult was, that the sword of the statue was pointed towards the Workers' House of Tampere.

8. The Battle of Tampere is still the bloodiest urban battle in the Nordic countries. How many people died as a result of the war? (hint: the answer is close to the tipped over carriage)

At least 37 000.