



Peace Education Scotland's educational resource [Nuclear Weapons: Yes or No](#) is aimed at late primary to secondary school pupils. It has 4 units: The Nuclear Weapons Debate, Nuclear Explosions, Trident and Pressure Groups. A full list of our educational resources can be found at peaceeducationscotland.org

This resource is as objective and balanced as possible; with opportunities for pupils to develop their thinking skills and with the underlying principle that young people should be encouraged to have knowledgeable debates and opinions about nuclear weapons.

Trident

Suggested Curriculum Links

Scotland - Curriculum for Excellence:

People in society, economy and business (Modern Studies): SOC 3-15a, SOC 4-15a, SOC 3-18a

People, past events and societies (History): SOC 4-01a, SOC 3-06a, SOC 4-06a, SOC 3-06b, SOC 4-06b

Topical Science (Science): SCN 4-20b

England - Key Stages:

KS3 Citizenship - Challenge of creating peace, KS3 Citizenship - Dealing with conflict, KS3 English - Speaking & Listening, KS3 Religious Education - Global issues, KS4 History, KS4 Religious Education, KS4 Citizenship - Global citizenship, KS4 English - Language & Skills, KS4 English - Speaking & Listening - Discuss, argue, persuade, KS4 History - The Cold War, KS4 Media studies - Film, KS4 Other subjects - Modern studies



Teacher's notes: Trident

This unit focuses on the UK's only nuclear weapon which is carried on submarines based at Faslane on the Clyde, 25 miles (40.23 km) from Glasgow. It is designed to cause devastation on an unprecedented scale. The financial, military and moral justification for the retention of this weapon of mass destruction for a further 50 years is being widely debated. Some of these issues are considered in this unit.

Video (available on DVD or via <http://www.vimeo.com/scottishcnd>)

- A video about the current UK nuclear weapons system - Trident - and the plans to replace it.

Booklet

- **Information and activities about the Trident System**
The booklet outlines what Trident is, the history and current debate about its future.

Challenges

- **Replacement debate** - activities to encourage discussion about whether or not Trident should be replaced. The Government intended that a final decision be made in 2016.
- **Aeroplane to a remote island** - a dramatic scenario where decisions have to be made as to who and what should be taken to a place of safety after a nuclear attack.

Further challenges

- **Captain's letter** - letter writing exercise making a critical instruction as if by the Prime minister
(see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Letters_of_last_resort).
- **Estate Agent** - group activities to sell/buy a house near Faslane.
- **Convoys** - use of distance table to highlight the convoy route.
- **TV documentary** - group collaboration to produce a short informative film.

Other recommended resources

- Royal Navy - HM Naval Base Clyde (Faslane)
<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/The-Fleet/Naval-Bases/Clyde>
- Greenpeace 'Why Britain Should Stop Deploying Trident'
<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/MultimediaFiles/Live/FullReport/7611.pdf>

Trident



Name _____ Class _____

What do I know about Trident before I start this booklet?

My knowledge of Trident is:

Weak				OK					Strong
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

What do I know about Trident after I finished this booklet?

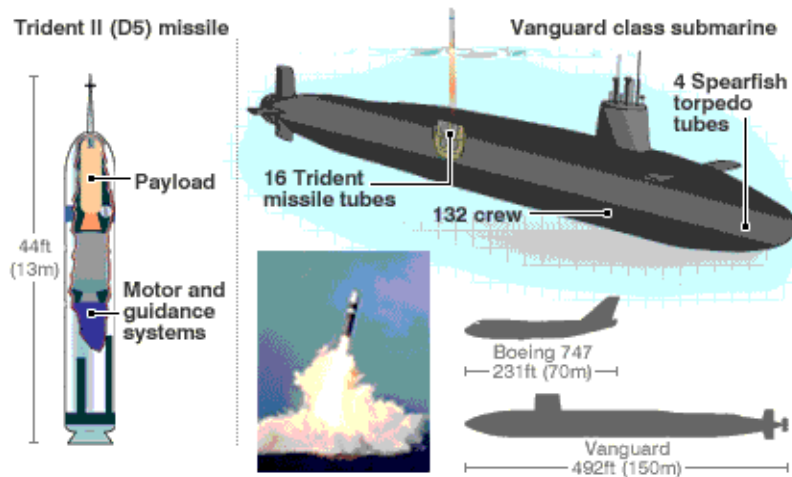
My knowledge of Trident is now:

Weak				OK					Strong
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Trident

Trident is the name of the UK's nuclear weapon. The Trident System has 4 submarines that are nuclear powered and have missiles armed with nuclear bombs. The submarines are based on the Clyde at Faslane, 25 miles (40.23 km) from Glasgow.

One submarine is always on patrol and ready to launch nuclear weapons. The missiles would be fired using rocket fuel.



Each submarine carries missiles with warheads. Each warhead is 100 kilotons and is approximately 8 times more destructive than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Think!

The Trident System is a WMD (Weapon of Mass Destruction). What do you think “mass destruction” means?

Do you know about other types of WMD?

Trident

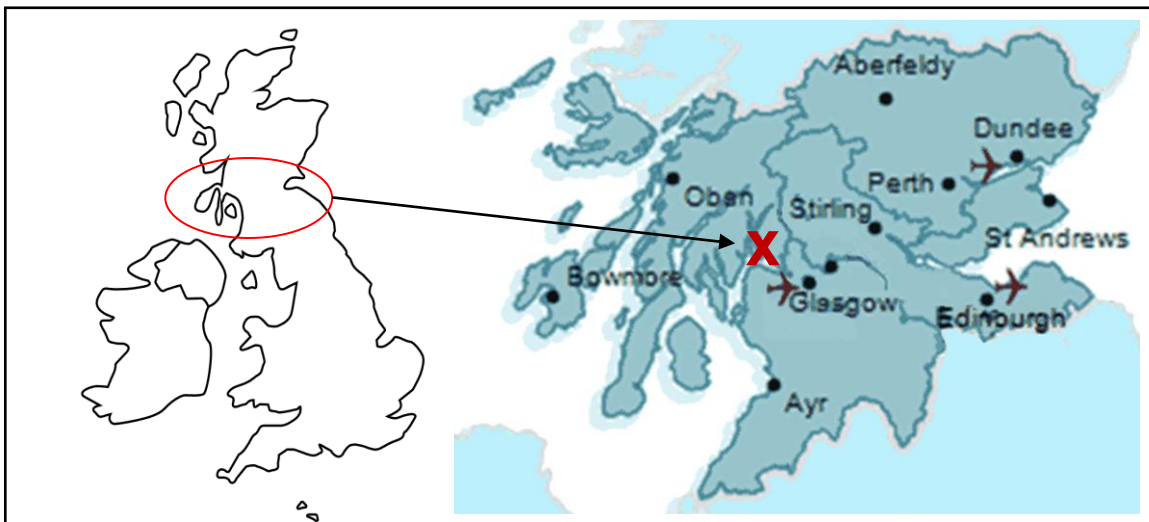
In the past, Trident's first target was Moscow. This meant 5 million people could have been killed in 30 minutes by one submarine.

A deterrent?

Trident is called a deterrent. A deterrent is something that deters (stops something from happening). Some governments think that by having nuclear weapons it stops others from using theirs. Many governments don't have nuclear weapons. Do you think Trident is a deterrent?

On the map below, Faslane is marked with an **X**

Please mark where you live.



UK's Nuclear Base at Faslane

This is the only nuclear base for all of Britain's nuclear weapons.

Trident

Look at the pictures then make up three possible responses

A person has a knife



Think

What would happen if everyone carried knives?

Would you like to live in a place where everyone carried knives?

What would you do?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Another country has nuclear weapons



What would your government do?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Think!

What would happen if every country had nuclear weapons?

Would you like to live in a world where every country had nuclear weapons?

Read these quotes.

“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*

“Far better it was curtains for Trident, I would say.” - *Alex Salmond, Former First Minister of Scotland*

“I think it is all nonsense.” - *Michael Portillo, Former Defence Secretary*

Who do you agree with?

Trident

Challenge - Trident Replacement Debate

Should Trident be replaced?

Task 1 - Read the sheet with points of view on Trident replacement.

Task 2 - Once you have read and discussed the views, place them under the correct heading '**For Replacement**' OR '**Against Replacement**'.

This grid will help you when it comes to the debate at the end of this challenge.

For Replacement	Against Replacement

Trident

Challenge - Trident Replacement Debate

Task 1 - Points of view

1. More jobs created.

2. In 2011 Scottish people voted for an SNP government which does not support nuclear weapons.

3. So much money has been spent it would be stupid to stop now.

4. Other countries are spending money to upgrade their weapons.

5. The Trident submarines are coming to the end of their useful lives and need

6. Having nuclear weapons means there could be an accident or a terrorist attack.

7. Why waste more money on something we don't want?

8. The money could be spent on more worthwhile things like soldiers' equipment.

9. Makes Britain an important country.

10. If we got rid of our nuclear weapons it would encourage other countries to do the same.

11. The money saved could be used to create jobs for example more nurses, doctors, builders and engineers.

12. You can't be sure what will happen in the future so we need nuclear weapons

Trident

Challenge - Trident Replacement Debate

Team 1 - For Replacement

Your challenge:

You have been challenged to write a speech for an upcoming debate on replacing Trident. Use the arguments from task 2 to help you

Work in groups of 3 or 4

- Produce a speech (or series of speeches) that should last no more than three minutes in total.
- Allocate jobs (researchers, script writers and speech readers.)
- Make use of the following resources:
 - The school library.
 - Resources given out in class.
 - The internet (be careful you do not spend too much time on the web as most information can be found in the above).

Rules:

- Everyone participates in the production and presentation of your group's work.
- Work within the timescales provided.
- Meet the product criteria - have you done what you were asked to do?

Timescale:

- Grouping and planning = remains of this period.
- Production and research = 2 periods.
- Production = 1 period.

Good luck!

Trident

Challenge - Trident Replacement Debate

Team 2 - **Against** Replacement

Your challenge:

You have been challenged to write a speech for an upcoming debate on replacing Trident. Use the arguments from task 2 to help you

Work in groups of 3 or 4

- Produce a speech (or series of speeches) that should last no more than three minutes in total.
- Allocate jobs (researchers, script writers and speech readers.)
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Trident

Challenge - Aeroplane to a remote 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.

- Work in pairs - each of you has access to a plane.
- Either:

Use the sheet 'People Cards'

or

Make your own list of ten people who should be allowed on the plane. Remember, this is an emergency and there is chaos in the streets with very little information about who can escape or how to escape.

- Write the list and give a brief reason why you chose each person.
- Now make a list of 10 items and give a reason for each selection.
- Complete the checklist form.

Trident

Challenge - Aeroplane to a remote island (contd.)

Escape Flight Checklist

Name and description

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



Items to be taken on flight (max weight per item 70 kg)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Trident

Challenge - Aeroplane to a remote island (contd.)

People Cards

You have to decide who to allow onto the plane that will go to the safe remote island.
Use these cards to help you to make the decision:

Myself	My pet (counts as a person)	The current prime minister	A scientist who once worked in a laboratory testing radiation Female, 28
A chef who has worked in many different countries Male, 43	A nurse who works at the local hospital Male, 33	My favourite teacher	A member of my family
A retired soldier and expert in communication devices Male, 67	My favourite footballer	The local community police officer Female, 36	A doctor Female, 40
A farmer Male, 30	The head of the army Male, 56	A family friend who is good at fixing things and DIY Male, 70	My favourite pop singer
A university professor and expert at peace keeping Male, 59	A web designer who is good with computers Female, 19	A survival expert Male, 26	My best friend

Trident

Further Challenge - Captain's Letter

The Trident submarine carries a sealed letter from the Prime Minister. If Britain is attacked and the British Government destroyed then the Captain will open the letter.

The letter has instructions about what he should do. Some of the suggestions for these instructions include:

1. Put yourself under the command of the United States, if it is still there
2. Make your way to Australia, if it is still there
3. Destroy the capital of the country which attacked
4. Use your own judgment

Imagine you are the Prime Minister and write a letter to the commander leaving your instructions.

Swap your letters.

Now, imagine you are the commander of a Trident Submarine, Britain has been destroyed and you open the letter. What does it say?

What do you do?

Trident

Further Challenge - Estate Agent

Estate Agent

You are an estate agent trying to sell houses near Faslane Naval Base. Below are the details of a house you want to sell:

- 4 bedrooms
- Large garden
- Swimming pool
- 200 m from Faslane Naval Base (visible from some parts of the house and garden)
- Views across the loch

Research the area then make up a leaflet to advertise the house. This leaflet will be used later.

Now, change roles! You are a house buyer

House Buyer

You have won the lottery and are thinking of moving house. One house that looks very good is near Faslane.

- Find out about Faslane Naval Base
- Find out about the surrounding area
- Get a leaflet from the local Estate Agent and discuss the house.

Do you buy it?

Make your decision, with at least 3 reasons for your choice.

Trident

Further Challenge - Nuclear Convoys

The nuclear warheads for Trident are made at Aldermaston, which is west of London.

Think!

How would you transport the nuclear warheads to Scotland? What problems might there be? The warheads are transported by road.

Table: Approximate distances in miles between Aldermaston and Coulport:

Coulport				
5	Faslane			
10	5	Helensburgh		
31	26	21	Glasgow	
125	120	115	94	Carlisle
425	420	415	394	300
Aldermaston				

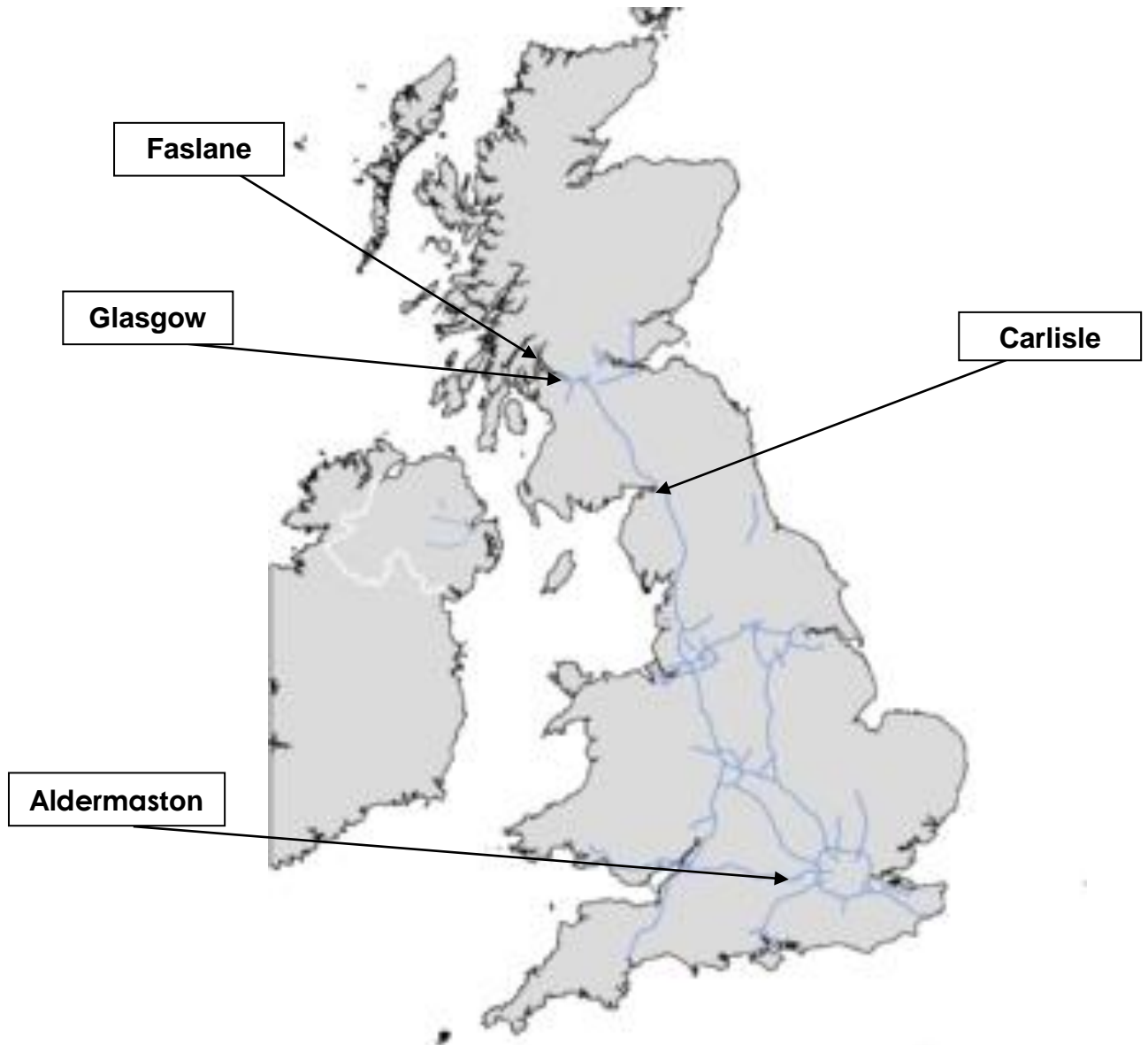
1. Use the table to find the distance between:

- Aldermaston and Glasgow
- Carlisle and Coulport
- Faslane and Glasgow

Trident

Further Challenge - Nuclear Convoys (contd.)

2. The following map shows some of the distances. Use the previous table to complete the others.



Trident

Further Challenge - Television Documentary

Your challenge:

You have been commissioned by a major television channel to produce a ten minute documentary about Faslane. The documentary should include information on location, Trident and views for and against having a nuclear base in Scotland.

- ❑ Work in groups of 4 or 5.
- ❑ Produce a documentary (you may wish to use presentation software as a background)
- ❑ Allocate jobs (researchers, reporters, interviewees, producers, script writers.)
- ❑ Make use of the following resources:
 - Your notes
 - Trident Booklet
 - The internet (be careful you do not spend too much time on the web).

Rules:

- Everyone participates in the production and presentation of your group's work.
- Work within the timescales provided.
- Check - have you done what you were asked to do?

Timescale:

- ❑ Grouping and planning = remains of this period.
- ❑ Production and research = 2 periods (some research can be done in your own time)
- ❑ Presentation = 1 period.

Submit your work to Peace Education Scotland (email: info@peaceeducationscotland.org) – they will put the best ones on their website.