

Learning about the Dreyfus Affair with NLI

Answer the following questions using [the Alfred Dreyfus biography and curated primary sources](#).

Complete the following paragraphs

Alfred Dreyfus was a French-Jewish officer born in _____. As a child he was forced to leave his home due to the _____ war when _____ was annexed by _____. His childhood experiences influenced his decision to pursue a _____ career. He advanced in the army and was promoted to a _____ in the artillery corps. Alfred Dreyfus married _____, and they had two children.

The French army became aware that military secrets were being passed on to the _____ army. Dreyfus became the major suspect and was court-martialled in _____. Dreyfus was found guilty of treason and was stripped of his military ranks in a public degradation ceremony that took place in _____.

Throughout his trial and the ceremony he claimed :

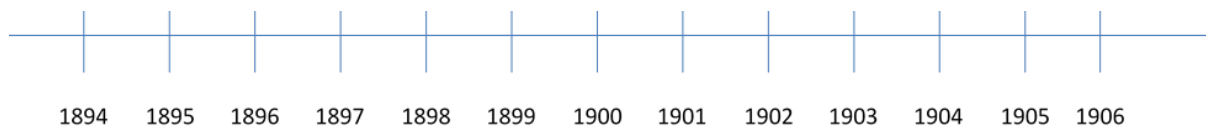
"_____." Following his conviction, Dreyfus was deported and sent to solitary confinement on _____. However, the French public had not forgotten Dreyfus and were split into two opposing sides: the Dreyfusards who _____ and the anti-Dreyfusards who _____. In the meantime, the real perpetrator, _____, was found and brought to trial but acquitted by the military court. Following this trial, the famous French writer _____ wrote an open letter "_____" in which he accused the army and the government of anti-Semitism and of the unlawful imprisonment of Dreyfus.

As a result of the public protest, Alfred Dreyfus was brought back to France for a retrial in _____. Dreyfus was, once again, found _____, but he was granted a presidential pardon and set free. Eventually in _____, Dreyfus was exonerated and reinstated as a major in the French army.

The Dreyfus Affair was a political scandal that caused waves throughout France and the world. Theodor _____ was among those shocked by the affair, and the shouts of "Death to the Jews" inspired him to establish the _____ movement.

1. Place the following events on the timeline (write the letter of the event above the relevant year on the timeline):

- Major Esterhazy offers to sell military secrets to Germany
- Dreyfus is accused of spying
- Dreyfus undergoes a degradation ceremony
- Dreyfus is deported to Devil's Island
- Major Esterhazy is court-martialled and acquitted
- Émile Zola publishes "J'accuse"
- Dreyfus is called to a retrial
- Dreyfus is convicted a second time
- Dreyfus is granted a pardon and released
- Dreyfus is officially exonerated



2. What were the reasons for Alfred Dreyfus' wrongful conviction?

3. The anti-Dreyfusards used anti-Semitic images to prove Alfred Dreyfus' guilt.

Give examples from the primary sources on the National Library's website.

4. What elements were used by the Dreyfusards in their campaign to free Dreyfus?

Give examples from the primary sources on the National Library's website.

5. Despite the evidence identifying Major Esterhazy as the real spy, why do you think the military still convicted the innocent Alfred Dreyfus?

6. Do you think that the Dreyfus Affair could happen today?
