



SCHOOL-SCOUT.DE

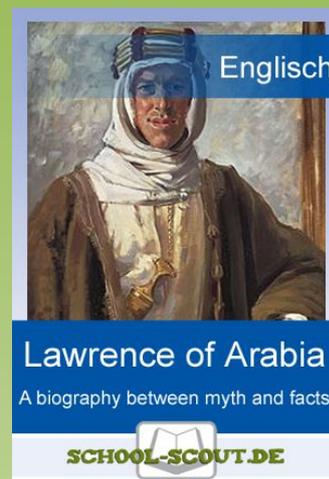
Unterrichtsmaterialien in digitaler und in gedruckter Form

Auszug aus:

Lawrence of Arabia - A biography between myth and facts

Das komplette Material finden Sie hier:

[School-Scout.de](https://www.school-scout.de)





Titel:	Lawrence of Arabia – A biography between myth and facts
Reihe:	Arbeitsblätter der Reihe “Englisch aktuell”
Bestellnummer:	57248
Kurzvorstellung:	<p>Diese fertig ausgearbeiteten Arbeitsblätter für den Englischunterricht beschäftigen sich mit Leben, Taten und dem Mythos des T.E. Lawrence – besser bekannt als Lawrence von Arabien.</p> <p>Dieses Unterrichtsmaterial behandelt neben den Taten Lawrence von Arabiens auch seinen Werdegang, seine gesellschaftliche Prägung und seine politischen Einstellungen.</p> <p>The text gives information on the political situation around the time of World War I, Lawrence’s family background, his roles as adventurer, revolt leader, secret agent, diplomat and author Background</p> <p>Arbeitsblätter komplett in Englisch!</p>
Inhaltsübersicht:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family• Studies• Lawrence in the Near East• World War I• Dazu Aufgaben inklusive Lösungen.

Thomas Edward Lawrence

A

1

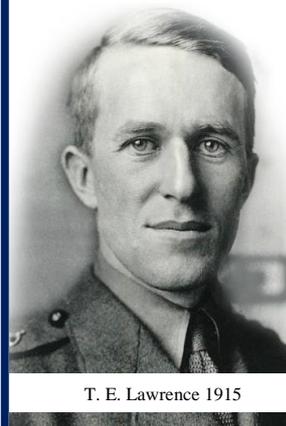
Background

British archeologist, adventurer, soldier, secret agent, author and hero, who lived from 1888 to 1935.

He became famous in his lifetime because of his activities during World War I as a secret agent and military leader in the Near East. He was honored with one of the highest medals of Great Britain, had contacts to ranking representatives of the British Empire both in politics and in the army, and used his influence to shape the future of the Near East. Still, he remains a very controversial figure, for most of his reputation he received from his own accounts of the incidents that took place at and behind the front line, many of which are very questionable. His biographer Desmond Stewart¹ says that in his reports and letters T. E. Lawrence used facts “elastically”.

But it was also the surroundings that made him a hero. During a war, a country needs heroes, and Lawrence was right in time to become a hero of the First World War. The media and the people in England wanted him to be a hero; they carried on the tales about him and added new details. Thus it is hard to tell the person from the myth. A closer look at his childhood sheds some light upon this topic.

¹ Desmond Stewart: “T. E. Lawrence - A New Biography”, Harper & Row Inc., New York 1977.



T. E. Lawrence 1915

STOP and THINK

1. Who was Thomas Edward Lawrence?
2. How old was Lawrence when the picture was taken?
3. Which political events took place during Lawrence’s lifetime?
4. What do people need heroes for?

Picture © Public Domain

Family

T. E. Lawrence was the second eldest of four sons in a family of Irish immigrants. He was born in **Tremadoc, Wales**, and when he was eight, his family settled in **Oxford**. He was raised with strict Puritan values, piety², morality and virtue. Thomas Edward, then mostly called Ned, was an excellent student at the Oxford High School for Boys. He was among the best of his class, sharing first places in English language and literature as well as religious knowledge. All of this, however, was just a good looking facade. When Ned found out what was behind, it shook his views profoundly.

His **parents** did leave Ireland for a good reason. Ned’s father, Thomas, wanted to get rid of his prudish wife, who hated all the joys of life. He fell in love with the family’s nanny³, and she gave birth to Ned’s eldest brother. In opposition to the upper class and the lower class, the middle class would not accept this forbidden relationship. The social gap between a laird and a nanny was too big. As a result, the newly established family had to move away, and after an odyssey over Scotland, Wales and France they moved to Oxford. Thomas Edward noticed that there was a huge discrepancy between what the parents and his teachers in Sunday school preached and the way they lived. His parents were not married which was very unusual at that time. This weakened his trust in the Victorian society.

² piety: Frömmigkeit
³ nanny: Hausmädchen



STOP and THINK

5. Describe the relationship between Lawrence’s parents briefly. Do you think that people would have the same problems nowadays?
6. Define the terms upper, middle and lower class. Why are they used and why are they important?
7. Take a closer look at the card and point out Ireland.

Map © Viola Maskey

B Fill in the gaps: movie / motorcycle accident / book / Arab (2x) / medal / life / writer / fame / England and France / England / Sherif Feisal / truth

The different faces of Thomas Edward Lawrence

Lawrence the Diplomat

His friends and family back in _____ circulated the stories they received from Lawrence in his letters, even newspaper printed articles about the adventures of Lawrence of Arabia. In some cases Lawrence wrote four letters with four different versions of the incidents in Arabia. Despite the fact that some of his stories, in which he walked long distances through the desert, fought with Turks, bombed trains, almost starved to death, got caught and tortured, freed himself and killed many more Turks are unbelievable, one has to admit that Lawrence was a very important person to the Arab Revolt. He was accepted among the Arabs, because he spoke _____, dressed like an _____, and did not command his subordinates like the typical English officer, he rather instructed them what to do. In his guerilla warfare he and his soldiers were very effective in bombing trains and making reconnaissance missions. His diplomatic skills brought him the job as Winston Churchill's advisor when he was Colonial Secretary.

The Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916 showed what many had feared: The western countries, _____, were not willing to leave the land to the Arabs and shared the Near East among themselves. Lawrence resigned and wanted to quit service many times, but was always convinced to go on. On the Paris Peace Conference he showed up in traditional Arab costume, and translated the speech of _____ on the independence of Arabia. Before, he met various important politicians in an attempt to overturn the Sykes-Picot Agreement. In England, where he was supposed to be handed over the medal that was awarded to him during the war, he was the reason for a scandal: At the ceremony with many people waiting King George V. took the coveted¹³ medal from the green velvet cushion¹⁴ to attach it to Lawrence's uniform. But Lawrence interrupted him and told him in a low voice "His majesty, I

cannot accept this award while Britain is on its way to break its word it has given to the brave-fighting Arabs." Lawrence bowed down¹⁵ and went away. Of course the scene caused a lot of trouble. Such an important man like T. E. Lawrence rejected such a desired _____. However, it did not change anything for the Arabs.

Lawrence the Author

Lawrence decided very early that he wanted to become a _____. From early days on he was involved in literary circles, and during the time in the Near East, he had a diary and took notes so that he would have enough material for a novel. The result, "The Seven Pillars of Wisdom", was not what he hoped he would produce: A _____ that could compete with Herman Melville's "Moby Dick", Dostoevsky's "The Brothers Karamasov" and Nietzsche's "Zarathustra". But it was a very impressive account of Lawrence's experiences in the Near East. He admitted that not all is truth. Some critics believe that the good parts of this novel he owed to his friend George Bernard Shaw, who was the lector of the book. When Lawrence asked Rudyard Kipling, the author of the "Jungle Books" to read the book he refused and said that their political views were too different.

There's an interesting anecdote about Lawrence's writing of the "Seven Pillars of Wisdom". Lawrence said that the manuscript for the book was stolen on a train, and that he rewrote the story in four weeks. It is hard to say if he invented the story to find an excuse for the weaker parts of the book, or if it is the _____. However, the book remains a fascinating report of the World War I in the Near East.

The "Normal" Life

Lawrence tried to escape his _____ and craved for a normal life that gave him so much to do so that he would not have to

think. He was disillusioned. The war was over, he lost two of his brothers within four months, one after half a week as a soldier and his personal aim of the war had not been achieved. In 1922 he wanted to enter the Royal Air Force under the pseudonym John Hume Ross, but since he failed the medical test, he had to use his influence as T. E. Lawrence to be allowed to enter as a simple airman. Soon the press found out about John Hume Ross. Lawrence left the RAF and joined with the Tank Corps¹⁶ under the pseudonym T. E. Shaw - the family name of G. B. Shaw. He disliked the army, and while spending almost all of his free time on the 'Seven Pillars of Wisdom', he is dissatisfied with his quality as a writer. Later he went back to the RAF, and is sent to India for two years. The rest of his _____ he spends with the Air Force and writing in his free time. He had to deal with depressions, and when the public found out about his homosexuality, his fame diminished a bit, for it was not easy for England to have a homosexual war hero in the early 20th century.

In 1935, he got killed in a _____. On his way to a meeting with a friend he lost control over his motorbike. As it is almost always the case with heroes, there were many speculations about T. E. Lawrence's death. Some people claimed to have seen a mysterious black car on the scene of the accident, but this was never proved. In 1962, his fame was finally firmed up by David Leans _____ "Lawrence of Arabia" which won seven Oscars. This movie was an idealizing obituary to Thomas Edward Lawrence life. 1,65-m-tall T. E. Lawrence has become one of the greatest British heroes.

Lösungshorizont:

1. Who was Thomas Edward Lawrence?

He was a British archeologist, adventurer, soldier, secret agent, author and hero, who lived from 1888 to 1935.

2. How old was Lawrence when the picture was taken?

27

3. Which political events took place during Lawrence's lifetime?

World War I (WWI) started in 1914 and lasted till 1918. It used to be called the 'Great War', the 'War to End all Wars' or just the 'World War' before World War II occurred. The war was fought between a large amount of countries, hence the name. The actual fighting took place at a variety of fronts (Western Front, Eastern Front, Middle Eastern Front, Italian Front, African Front, Asian Front, at sea and in the air)

4. What do people need heroes for?

In today's world heroes like Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King or T.E. Lawrence symbolize the limit of our own aspirations and ideals. Courage, honor and honesty are defined as key characteristics, which are desired by the majority of the people. Most of the time we start out from our own ideals. A whistleblower like Edward Snowden for example is considered to be a hero by some and a traitor by others. A hero is often enough a modern fairytale character, the manifestation of a person who will not sell himself for money or advantages, a person people can look up to.

5. Describe the relationship between Lawrence's parents briefly. Do you think that people would have the same problems nowadays?

Thomas' father fell in love with the family's nanny, and she gave birth to Thomas' eldest brother. In opposition to the upper class and the lower class, the middle class would not accept this forbidden relationship. The social gap between a laird and a nanny was too big. As a result, the newly established family had to move away. Nowadays the barriers between the classes are blurred even though still existent in some way or another. In the past religion played a much bigger role in the life of the people and the family's honor was not to be violated. People did not marry for love but for uniting two families. Nowadays most people have a much wider choice, depending on their social background.

6. Define the terms upper, middle and lower class. Why are they used and why are they important?

A social class is a constructed concept in which people are grouped in hierarchical social categories to define their status and their value.

7. Take a closer look at the card and point out Ireland.

Ireland is the island to the left of England.

8. What can be understood by 'Aestheticism'?

Aestheticism was an uproar, a revolution against the puritan Victorian society. Writers such as Walter Pater and Matthew Arnold advocated a new cult of beauty, which included that art should only exist for its own sake and should not serve any moral purpose ("l'art pour l'art"). Therefore its supporters laid more emphasize on the aesthetic values than social-political themes.

9. What was Thomas' passion and why did he travel to Syria and Palestine?

His interest in medieval castles led him become an archeologist. A lot of the excavations took place in the Middle and Near East. This is why he went to Syria and Palestine.



SCHOOL-SCOUT.DE

Unterrichtsmaterialien in digitaler und in gedruckter Form

Auszug aus:

Lawrence of Arabia - A biography between myth and facts

Das komplette Material finden Sie hier:

[School-Scout.de](https://www.school-scout.de)

