

Year 6 World War 1 Knowledge Organiser

Key Countries Involved					
Allied Powers			Central Powers		
Country	Joined	Flag	Country	Joined	Flag
Great Britain	4 August 1914		Germany	1 August 1914	
France	3 August 1914		Austria-Hungary	28 July 1914	
USA	19 January 1917		Ottoman Empire	28 October 1914	
Soviet Union	1 August 1914		Bulgaria	14 October 1915	

Timeline of Key Events	
28 June 1914	Assassination of Archduke Ferdinand
23 July 1914	Austria-Hungary demands arrest of leaders of Black Hand
28 July 1914	Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia
1 August 1914	Germany declares war on Russia
3 August 1914	Germany declares war on France
4 August 1914	Great Britain declares war on Germany
5 October 1914	1st German aircraft shot down by Allied plane
25 December 1914	Christmas truce on the Western front
2 February 1916	Britain introduces conscription
21 February 1916	German attack on Verdun
1 July 1916	Battle of the Somme begins
18 November 1916	Battle of the Somme ends
19 January 1917	USA declares war on Germany
9 November 1918	Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany abdicates
11 November 1918	Armistice—war is over!
12 January 1919	Paris Peace Conference
28 June 1919	Treaty of Versailles signed

Map of Alliances



Causes of the First World War: There were many factors that led up to the start of World War 1 in Europe. A lot of these factors were rooted in the deep history of the old powers of Europe including Russia, Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Hungary, and Britain. The real causes of World War I included politics, secret alliances, imperialism, and nationalistic pride. However, there was one single event, the **assassination of Archduke Ferdinand of Austria**, which started a chain of events leading to war.

The Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

On the 28th June 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife Sophie were shot to death by a Bosnian nationalist during an official visit to the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo. The archduke and his wife were travelling to Bosnia to inspect the imperial armed forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The visit angered many Serbian nationalists. A group called 'The Black Hand' was formed to carry out the assassination when the archduke visited the capital. 19 year-old Gavrilo Princip was charged with the murder of the archduke and his wife, shooting them at point-blank range. The assassination immediately set off a chain of events, as Austria-Hungary blamed the Serbian government for the attack. On 28 July 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, marking the beginning of WW1.



Tanks were first used by the British in WW1 at the battle of Flers-Courcelette on 15 September 1916.

Glossary and Key Terms

Allied Powers - An alliance between a number of countries including Britain, France, Russia, Italy, and Japan. The Allied Powers fought against the Central Powers in World War I. The U.S. fought on the same side of the Allies, but called itself an "associated" power.

Armistice - An agreement by both sides to stop fighting while a peace treaty is negotiated.

Artillery - Large, heavy guns used on land warfare

Central Powers - The Central Powers included Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria. They fought against the Allied Powers in World War I.

Christmas Truce - the Christmas Truce was an unofficial cease fire between the two sides of World War I on Christmas. In some cases the soldiers from each side met, talked, played soccer, and exchanged gifts.

Eastern Front - The Eastern Front during World War I was fought in Eastern Europe between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Bulgaria on one side and Russia and Romania on the other side.

Front line - The front line was the point at which the armies of each side met. This is where most of the fighting took place.

League of Nations - The League of Nations was formed after World War I. It was a group of governments that strived to prevent wars and protect independent nations. It was replaced by the United Nations after World War II.

No Man's Land - The area between the front lines of two enemy armies was called No Man's Land.

Propaganda - Information used and distributed to present one side of an issue.

Treaty of Versailles - The Treaty between the Allies and Germany that ended World War I.

Trench warfare - A type of land warfare where each side digs long lines of trenches for protection. Much of the western front during World War I was fought for years using trench warfare.

Western front - The region of fighting that took place in Western Europe between Germany and Austria-Hungary on one side and France, Britain, and (later) the United States on the other.

Key Questions—Big Ideas

- ◆ Why is there war?
- ◆ Why is it important to know about WWI?
- ◆ What does war achieve?
- ◆ Is war ever necessary?
- ◆ How did WWI change the 'landscape' of future wars (military tactics and technology, weapons)?
- ◆ What impact did the First World War have on Europe? The rest of the world?

Skills covered:

Place current study on a time line in relation to other studies, Use words and phrases for movements or times of change (pre war / post war), Identify and explain change and continuity within and across periods (migration of people pre and post war), Be aware that different evidence will lead to different conclusions, Regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions (within class discussions), Use a range of sources (reference books / internet) independently to find out about an aspect of life in a period of history studied (evidence in homework), Present information in the most appropriate way, including extended writing (English lessons: Letters from Trenches / Narrative), Make accurate use of specific dates and terms Analyse/explain reasons for, and results of, historical events, situations, changes (linked to British Empire and MAIN causes of WWI.) Lots of skills covered in Geography lessons, which link to WWI.