



HISTORY

Year 9

WWI

Key Vocabulary

World War I	A global conflict involving the main European powers and their empires from August 1914 to November 1918.
Long term cause	Factors/causes which happen over a longer period of time before an event takes place.
Short term cause	Factors/causes which happen just before an event takes place. Usually a catalyst or trigger for the event to occur.
Militarism	A desire to build up your country's armed forces. Emphasising military strength and ideals.
Alliances	A group of countries who promise to support and protect each other (collective security). Rival groups have rival alliances.
Imperialism	The desire to increase the size of your country's empire. Conquering colonies, especially in Africa. This brought the powers into conflict - Germany wanted an empire, France and Britain already had empires.
Nationalism	The belief that your country is better than others, and you are willing to defend it aggressively.
The Triple Alliance	The alliance formed before WWI, including Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy.
The Triple Entente	The opposing alliance formed before WWI, including Britain, France and Russia.
BEF	The British Expeditionary Force. The name given to the British Army, who were sent over to aid Belgium and France.
Schlieffen Plan	The German war plan, put in place to avoid Germany having to fight a war on two-fronts (France and Britain).
Trench warfare	Both sides lived and fought in trenches during WWI.

Key Dates

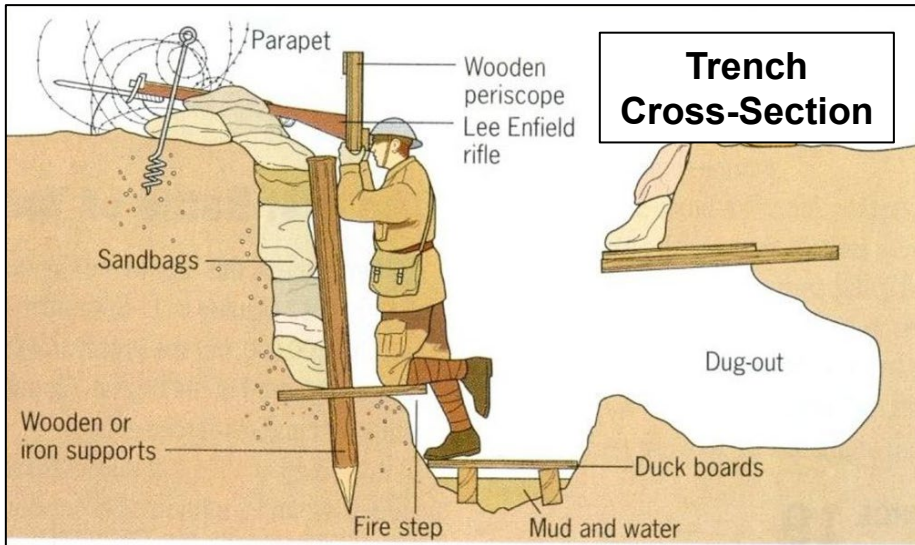
28th June 1914	Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austrian-Hungarian throne, is assassinated in Sarajevo by a Serbian called Gavrillo Princip.
23rd July 1914	Austria-Hungary demand Serbia pay for the assassination of Franz Ferdinand. Serbia does not meet these demands.
28th July 1914	Austria-Hungary declare war on Serbia. Russia begins to mobilise their troops as they support Serbia.
1st Aug. 1914	Germany declares war on Russia, as they support Austria.
3rd Aug. 1914	Germany declare war on France as part of the Schlieffen Plan.
4th Aug. 1914	Germany marches through Belgium on their way to France. Britain protects Belgium, and so Britain declares war on Germany.
5th-12th Sept. 1914	The advancing German army is stopped before Paris by the British and French at the First Battle of Marne. The Germans dig in and four years of trench warfare begins.
22nd April 1915	First ever major poison gas attack. Used by the Germans against the French.
Sept. 1916	The introduction of tanks (bulletproof vehicles that could travel over rough terrain, crush barbed wire and cross trenches).
11th Nov. 1918	The war ended with the signing of the armistice.

Long-term Causes of WWI

Militarism	Caused fear amongst the countries. Each building armies and navies to protect their country, symbolise power and 'balance' their might against others. During 1898 Germany's Admiral Von Tirpitz began expanding their Navy under the <i>Weltpolitik</i> policy and new naval laws. By 1900, 38 battleships, 20 armoured cruisers, 12 large and 38 light cruisers had been commissioned and expected to be completed in 1904. As a result of this, Britain commissioned the building of the Dreadnoughts, far superior ships to those Germany had made, and by the end of 1914 Britain commanded the largest naval fleet in the world.
Alliances	A web of alliances developed in Europe between 1870 and 1914, effectively creating two camps bound by commitments to maintain sovereignty or intervene militarily – the Triple Entente and the Triple Alliance. Countries were bound to these alliances and when war was declared.
Imperialism	Germany had a desire to conquer colonies and expand their Empire. In 1914, Britain was the largest Empire with approx. 14.7million square miles of land, almost ¼ of the entire world map. Russia was second and France was third. These powerful empires controlled most of the trade routes around the world and Germany wanted to expand their empire and economic strength.
Nationalism	This was the mentality of 'my country is better than yours' made countries assertive and aggressive and eager to 'show off'.

Short-term Cause of WWI

Assassination of Franz Ferdinand	Serbian nationalism created the trigger cause of the conflict – the assassination of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand. Ferdinand and his wife were murdered in Sarajevo by Gavrilo Princip, a member of the Bosnian Serbian nationalist terrorist organisation the 'Black Hand Gang.' Ferdinand's death, which was interpreted as a product of official Serbian policy, created the July Crisis – a month of diplomatic and governmental miscalculations that saw a domino effect of war declarations initiated.
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Trenches

Trenches were long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived and fought. Between the enemy trenches was **No Man's land**, so called because it belonged to neither side. Soldiers would have to cross No Man's land when they were attacking the enemy's trench. Soldiers would rotate in and out of the trenches, usually being on the front line for about 8/10 days, then a couple of days rest, before returning to a reserve or support trench. This could change though in battle situations.