



Year 4
World War I

Builds on Knowledge and Skills

World War I, also known as the Great War, started in 1914 after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. His murder catapulted into a war across Europe that lasted until 1918. During the four-year conflict, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire (the Central Powers) fought against Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Romania, Canada, Japan and the United States (the Allied Powers). Thanks to new military technologies and the horrors of trench warfare, World War I saw unprecedented levels of carnage and destruction. By the time the war was over and the Allied Powers had won, more than 16 million people— soldiers and civilians alike— were dead.

Books, texts, primary and secondary sources you may use:

- War Horse by Michael Morpurgo
- Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo
- Armistice Runner by Tom Palmer
- Stubby: A True Story of Friendship by Micael Foreman
- Wings: Flyboy by Tom Palmer
- Walter Tull's Scrapbook by Michael Morgan
- Archie's War by Marcia Williams
- Suggested family experience**
Jersey Museum - "Being Jersey - stories of our Island" exhibit.



Local History Links

Although the island escaped any direct fighting or occupation, the impact of the First World War on this small community was traumatic nonetheless. By March 1915, there were 230 volunteers – enough to form an infantry company. Later joined by a further 96 men, the Jersey Company, as it was called, became part of the 7th Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles.

National

The United Kingdom was a leading Allied Power during the First World War of 1914–1918. They fought against the Central Powers, mainly Germany. The armed forces were greatly expanded and reorganised— the war marked the founding of the Royal Air Force. The highly controversial introduction, in January 1916, of conscription for the first time in British history followed the raising of one of the largest all-volunteer armies in history, known as Kitchener's Army, of more than 2,000,000 men.

International

Before the outbreak of war, tensions were high in Europe. Many countries had formed alliances, the main ones being The Triple Entente and The Triple Alliance. The USA joined the war effort in June 1917 and provided a much-needed boost to the Triple Entente countries

Vocabulary you will use:

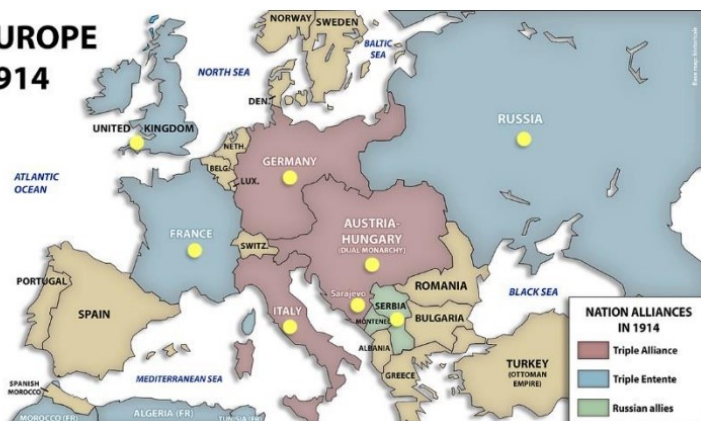
Word	Definition
Kaiser	German word for Emperor
Great powers	Countries with international influence and
Colony	Land settled by and under the control of
Balkans	An area in south-east Europe including
Alliance	An agreement between countries that benefits
Annex	An area of land seized and made part of
Arms race	A competition between countries for the
Conscription	The legal requirement to join the armed
Battalion	A fighting unit of up to 1000 men.
Bombardment	A continuous attack with artillery shells
Mutiny	When soldiers or sailors rebel and refuse to
Western Front	The zone of fighting that stretched from

Key Dates

- 28th June 1914 : Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated
- 28th July 1914 : War began between Austria-Hungary and Serbia
- August 1914 : Other nations began to join the war
- September 1914 : Trench warfare began
- April 1917 : America joins the Allied forces
- December 1917 : Russia leaves the war
- 11th November 1918 : War ended at 11am



EUROPE 1914



Propaganda

Propaganda is information that is spread for the purpose of promoting a cause or belief.

In World War One propaganda posters were used to:

- Recruit men to join the army
- Recruit women to work in the factories and in the Women's Land Army
- Encourage people not to waste food
- Keep morale high and encourage people to buy government bonds.



Recruitment

In the first weekend of the war, 100 men an hour (3,000 a day) signed up to join the armed forces. In 1916 Conscription was introduced.

- Men were encouraged to join up with their friends, these were known as 'Pals Battalions'.
- Some men— called conscientious objectors— refused to fight for moral or religious reasons. They said their consciences would not allow them to kill.
- A white feather was used as a symbol to mean a man was a coward. The idea was to shame the man and make him join the army



Key Facts

Allied forces – France, United Kingdom, Italy, Russia and America

In total, 30 countries were involved in the war.

By the end of WWI, over 9 million soldiers had been killed, and another 21 million wounded.

On Christmas day 1914, an unofficial truce was called and both sides sang carols and played football in no-mans-land.

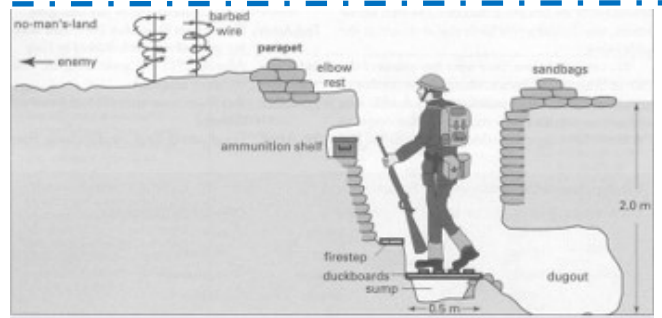
Central powers – Germany, Austria-Hungary, Ottoman Empire (now called Turkey) and Bulgaria

World War I lasted over 4 years

Dogs and Pigeons were used to carry messages back from the front line.

Trenches

Trenches were long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived all day and night. Trenches were long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived all day and night. In the middle, was **No Man's Land**, so-called because it did not belong to either army. Soldiers crossed No Man's Land when they wanted to attack the other side.



Life in the trenches:

Soldiers in the trenches did not get much sleep. When they did, it was in the afternoon during daylight and at night only for an hour at a time. They were woken up at different times, either to complete one of their daily chores or to fight. During rest time, they wrote letters and sometimes played card games. The trenches could be very muddy and smelly. There were many dead bodies buried nearby and the latrines (toilets) sometimes overflowed into the trenches. Millions of rats infested the trenches and some grew as big as cats. There was also a big problem with lice that tormented the soldiers on a daily basis.

Problems in the trenches:

Trench foot: The wet and muddy conditions in the trenches caused feet to swell up and go black. The flesh would go rotten and the soldiers would be in terrible pain.

Lice: The trenches did not have running water or showers, so soldiers found it very hard to keep clean. They soon became infested with lice that lived on all parts of their bodies.

Rats: The dirty conditions and the lack of storage attracted rats to the trenches. The rats ate the soldiers' rations and crawled all over them when they slept. They carried diseases.

Toilets: There was no running water or sewage pipes in the trenches. This meant that proper toilets could not be fitted.

Remembrance Day



Every year on 11th November, people in the UK stop for a short moment of reflection. Poppies, which grew on the barren fields of World War One, are used to remember soldiers who died.

The USA joined the war effort in June 1917 and provided a much-needed boost to the Triple Entente countries. At the same time, Britain had set up a naval blockade which stopped any supplies of food or resources from reaching Germany. The Allies began the 100 days offensive in August 1918 which pushed the Germans back. In 1918, many of Germany's allies were leaving the war due to problems in their own countries. After the 100-day offensive, Germany agreed to sign the Armistice, signalling the end of the war.

Treaty of Versailles

The leaders of the USA, Great Britain and France met in Versailles and an agreement was made called the Treaty of Versailles. Terms of the treaty included:

- Germany had to accept total blame for starting the war and some places Germany used to own were taken from them.
- Germany was banned from having an army of more than 100,000 men and from having any submarines or an air force.
- The country had to pay 132 billion gold marks to repair the damages of war. They

