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World War I: Overview

World War I involved more countries and caused greater destruction than any other war up to its time. The war, sometimes called the Great War, took the lives of about 9 million soldiers and more than 6 million civilians. Let's learn about World War I and see why the war was so devastating.

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Find It!

Find the answers to the questions below by using the "Search" tool to search key words.

Since this activity is about World War I, you can start by searching the key words "World War I."

Write the answers on the lines provided or below the question.

1. The assassination of _____ on June 28, 1914, sparked the outbreak of World War I.
2. What 3 countries fought for the Central Powers in 1914? (Hint: see the "World War I: the warring nations" table for help.)
3. Which battle, beginning on September 6, 1914, ended Germany's hopes to defeat France quickly?
4. In which 1915 battle did the Germans release poison gas against Allied troops?
5. In 1915, Germany began bombing London and other British cities from airships called _____.



6. In 1917, who led a Communist uprising that gained control of Russia's government?
7. On which date did the U.S. Congress declare war on Germany?
8. On which date did World War I end?
9. The Treaty of _____ officially ended military action against Germany.

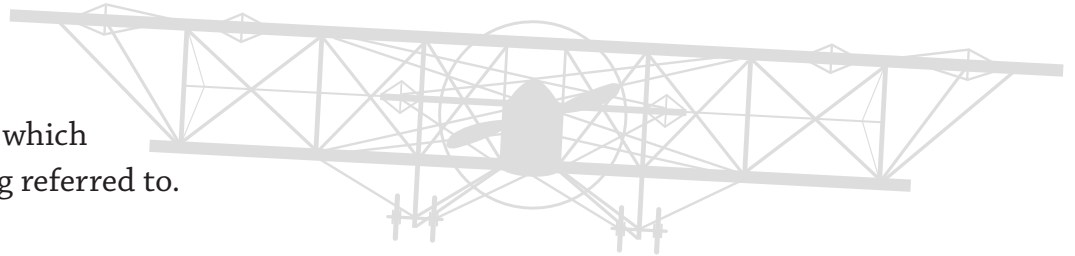
True or False

Write "True" if the statement about World War I is correct. If the statement is not correct, write "False" and correct the statement in the space below.

- _____ 10. Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Italy formed the Triple Entente.
- _____ 11. In August 1914, Germany attacked France from the north, through neutral Belgium.
- _____ 12. Tanks were first used in the Battle of the Somme by the Germans.
- _____ 13. British Prime Minister David Lloyd George outlined his peace goals in the "Fourteen Points."
- _____ 14. As a result of World War I, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland all became independent countries.
15. What was the *Lusitania*?
16. How did Anthony Fokker's creation of the *Eindecker* change the war?
17. Name three reasons why life in the trenches was miserable.
18. What four long-standing monarchies toppled as a result of World War I?
19. Who were the "Big Four" heads of government who made the key decisions at the Paris Peace Conference?

Name the Person

In the line provided, write which person (or persons) is being referred to.



20. Two commanders who became the German heroes of the Eastern Front.

_____ and _____

21. French general who organized the defense of Verdun. _____

22. Admiral who commanded the British fleet at the Battle of Jutland. _____

23. Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces. _____

24. Russian czar who was forced from the throne in 1917. _____

25. Anzac Day, a patriotic holiday in Australia and New Zealand, was first observed in 1916 to commemorate the anniversary of what event? (Hint: For this question see the “Anzac Day” article.)

26. Who was T. E. Lawrence, and what made him world famous? (Hint: For this question see the “T. E. Lawrence” article.)

27. Who was Baron Manfred von Richthofen, and what happened to him on April 21, 1918? (Hint: For this question see the “Baron Manfred von Richthofen” article.)

28. What activities occurred during the Christmas Truce, and how did the commanders feel about these activities? (Hint: For this question see the “Christmas Truce” article.)

29. What was the Zimmermann telegram, and how did it impact the United States? (Hint: For this question see the “Zimmermann telegram” article.)

30. What was the Armenian Genocide, and why did the Ottoman government deport the Armenians? (Hint: For this question see the “Armenian Genocide” article.)

31. What was the Spanish flu, and how did it impact World War 1? (Hint: For this question see the “Spanish flu” article.)

Map It!

Within the “World War I” article, you will find the map “Gallipoli campaign.” Study the map and answer the following questions.

32. On what date did ANZAC forces invade the Gallipoli Peninsula?

33. On August 6, 1915, a British landing took place at which bay?

34. The Gallipoli campaign took place in which country?

See It!

35. Examine one of many photographs in the “Images, Video, and Audio” tab of the World War 1 article. Study the picture, including the actions and mood conveyed in the image. Explain what is happening in the photo and at least three details that convey information about this moment in World War 1.



Timeline

Imagine that you are a war correspondent who wrote about all of the following events. Put the events in the order in which you wrote about them.

_____ Allied troops invaded the Gallipoli Peninsula

_____ Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated

_____ Battle of Jutland was fought

_____ Battle of the Somme began

_____ Battle of Verdun began

_____ First Battle of the Marne was fought

_____ German submarine sank the liner *Lusitania*

_____ Germany invaded Belgium

_____ Germany signed an armistice ending the war

_____ Russia signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

_____ United States declared war on Germany



Teacher Page

Answers:

1. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand on June 28, 1914, sparked the outbreak of World War I.
2. Austria-Hungary, Germany, and the Ottoman Empire fought for the Central Powers in 1914.
3. The First Battle of the Marne ended Germany's hopes to defeat France quickly.
4. The Germans released poison gas against Allied troops during the Second Battle of Ypres.
5. In 1915, Germany began bombing London and other British cities from airships called zeppelins.
6. In 1917, V. I. Lenin led a Communist uprising that gained control of Russia's government.
7. The U.S. Congress declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917.
8. World War I ended on November 11, 1918.
9. The Treaty of Versailles officially ended military actions against Germany.
10. False. Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Italy formed the Triple Alliance. –or– France, Russia, and the United Kingdom formed the Triple Entente.
11. True.
12. False. Tanks were first used in the Battle of the Somme by the British.
13. False. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson outlined his peace goals in the “Fourteen Points.”
14. True.
15. The *Lusitania* was a British passenger liner that was torpedoed by a German U-boat on May 7, 1915. The attack killed 1,201 passengers.
16. Anthony Fokker developed a machine gun that was timed to fire between an airplane's revolving propeller blades.
17. The smell of dead bodies lingered in the air.
Rats, lice, and filth were constant problems.
Soldiers had trouble keeping dry, especially in water-logged areas of Belgium.
18. The four long-standing monarchies that toppled as a result of World War I were Czar Nicholas of Russia (1917), Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany (1918), Emperor Charles I of Austria Hungary (1918), and Ottoman sultan Muhammad VI (1922).
19. The “Big Four” heads of government who made the key decisions at the Paris Peace Conference were U.S. President Woodrow Wilson, British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, French Premier Georges Clemenceau, and Italian Prime Minister Vittorio Orlando.
20. Paul von Hindenburg
Erich Ludendorff
21. Henri Philippe Pétain

22. Sir John Jellicoe
23. John J. Pershing
24. Nicholas II
25. Anzac Day was first observed in 1916 to commemorate the anniversary of the Gallipoli landing.
26. T. E. Lawrence was a British soldier and writer who became world famous as *Lawrence of Arabia*.
27. Baron Manfred von Richthofen, also known as the *Red Baron*, was the leading German fighter pilot of World War I. On April 21, 1918, Richthofen was killed as he pursued an enemy plane far into hostile territory.
28. The Christmas Truce was a number of brief, informal cease-fires between groups of British and German soldiers that began on Christmas Eve in Belgian Flanders and northern France.
29. The Zimmermann telegram was an intercepted message that helped draw the U.S. into the war. The message was an attempt by Germany to persuade Mexico to go to war against the U.S.
30. The Armenian Genocide refers to the mass deaths of about 1.5 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire during World War I.
31. The Spanish flu was the deadliest outbreak of influenza, or flu, in history. Medical historians estimate that from 1918 through 1919, the Spanish flu killed 20 million to 50 million people worldwide.
32. ANZAC forces invaded the Gallipoli Peninsula on April 25, 1915.
33. On August 6, 1915, a British landing took place at Suvla Bay.
34. The Gallipoli campaign took place in Turkey.
35. Answers will vary.

Timeline:

The correct order of the events is:

Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated
Germany invaded Belgium
First Battle of the Marne was fought
Allied troops invaded the Gallipoli Peninsula
German submarine sank the liner *Lusitania*
Battle of Verdun began
Battle of Jutland was fought
Battle of the Somme began
United States declared war on Germany
Russia signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
Germany signed an armistice ending the war