

Topic: The Great War, Russian Revolution and their aftermath (1900-1919)

Following a short introduction to the major events and personalities of the twentieth century, including an enquiry into the sinking of the Titanic, we focus on the causes and consequences of the Great War (1914-18). Students study propaganda and recruitment, life in the trenches and some of the famous battles and controversies of the period, e.g. responsibility for the disaster on the Somme. After the armistice we go on to study the Paris Peace Conference and the Treaty of Versailles, followed by a short unit on the Russian Revolution (23rd October 1917) – a day that shook the world!



Timeline:		Key Words:	
28 June 1914	Gavrilo Princip assassinates Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo	Abdicate	To give up the throne (see Kaiser Wilhelm II & Tsar Nicholas II)
4 Aug 1914	German troops enter Belgium - Britain declares war on Germany	Alliance	Group of countries who agree to support each other in wartime
Aug/Sept 1914	Battles of Mons, Marne, Arras & Ypres – the Schlieffen plan fails	Armistice	Agreement between warring parties to cease fighting (11/11/18)
24 Dec 1914	Christmas Truce along Western Front – fraternization and football	Arms Race	Competition for supremacy in weapons, e.g. Britain vs Germany
7 May 1915	SS Lusitania sunk off the coast of Ireland by a German U-Boat	Artillery	Heavy guns that fire explosive shells before a big attack (barrage)
31st May 1916	Royal Navy takes on German High Seas fleet at the Battle of Jutland	Assassination	To kill an important person for political reasons, e.g. Franz Ferdinand
1st July 1916	Battle of the Somme – 20,000 casualties in the first hour of fighting	Barrage	A concentrated artillery bombardment prior to a major attack
31 July 1917	Battle of Passchendaele, sometimes known as Third Battle of Ypres	Blighty	Soft wound, enough to be sent home, sometimes caused deliberately
15 Mar 1917	Tsar Nicholas II abdicates & Provisional Government take power	Conscientious objector	A man who refused to fight in WW1 on religious/moral grounds
February 1917	Zimmerman Telegram intercepted - USA declares war on Germany	Conscription	Compulsory enlistment of men into the British Army (from 1916)
23rd Oct 1917	Russian Revolution – Lenin & Bolsheviks storm the Winter Palace	Court Martial	A military court for trying soldiers / officers guilty of misconduct
3 Mar 1918	The Treaty of Brest Litovsk is signed between Russia and Germany	Dreadnought	Fast modern battleship first launched by the British before WW1
Mar/Apr 1918	Failure of the German spring offensive, US troops arrive in France	Empire / imperialism	Colonies ruled by a more powerful country / act of building an empire
3-9 Nov 1918	The Kiel Mutiny / Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates and flees Germany	Infantry	Foot soldiers, as opposed to cavalry (on horses), divided into regiments
11 Nov 1918	11 o'clock – the Armistice is signed – the end of the Great War	Lee Enfield .303 rifle	Standard issue British infantryman's weapon, alongside his bayonet
28 June 1919	The Treaty of Versailles is signed at the Paris Peace Conference	Mustard gas	Poisonous gas used in WW1 (see also chlorine and phosgene gas)
21 Jan 1924	Death of Lenin paves way for Stalin to take-over the Soviet Union	No-man's Land	Unoccupied strip of land between opposing front line trenches
Key People:	What they did?	(Go) Over the top!	To climb out of a trench and then attack across no-man's land
Georges Clemenceau	Prime Minister of France at the Paris Peace Conference	Pals Battalions	Haig's massive volunteer army recruited prior to the 'Somme'
Archduke Franz Ferdinand	Heir to Austro-Hungarian throne – assassinated 28/6/14	Parapet (parados)	Sand-bagged protected front (and back) top edge of a trench
King George V	King of England during WW1 (cousin to the Kaiser & Tsar)	Patriotic	Love, devotion and pride in one's country (see nationalism too)
Field Marshall Haig	Top British General who planned the Battle of the Somme	Propaganda	Information, often misleading, to promote a cause or action
Lord Kitchener	Secretary of State for War / responsible for recruitment	Revolution	A violent change in Government (see Russia in October 1917)
Lenin	Leader of the Bolshevik Party who overthrew the Tsar	Shell shock	Nervous condition caused by exposure to heavy shell-fire (PTSD)
David Lloyd-George	Prime Minister of Britain at the Paris Peace Conference	Stalemate	When neither side is able to advance and 'dig-in' to hold ground
Tsar Nicholas II	Tsar of Russia (cousin to King George & Kaiser Wilhelm)	Stand-to	Stand on the fire-step ready for attack, usually at dawn or dusk
Gavrilo Princip	Serbian assassin - murdered Archduke Franz Ferdinand	Trench system	A complex of front line, reserve, support and communication trenches
General Von Schlieffen	General - planned German attack on Belgium & France	Trench foot	Painful condition of the feet caused by constant immersion in water
Stalin	Cruel dictator of Russia - took over after Lenin's death	Triple Alliance	Alliance of central powers – Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy
Kaiser Wilhelm II	Kaiser of Germany (cousin to King George/Tsar Nicholas)	Triple Entente	Alliance of France, the Russian Empire and Great Britain (1907)
Woodrow Wilson	President of the USA at the Paris Peace Conference	Vickers machine gun	"Grand old lady of No-Man's Land" – British heavy machine gun

