



# WORLD WAR I KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



## Main Participating Countries

ALLIED POWERS			CENTRAL POWERS		
Country	Date Joined	Death Toll	Country	Date Joined	Death Toll
FRANCE 	3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug, 1914	approx. 1,700,000 4.3% of population in 1914	GERMAN EMPIRE 	1 <sup>st</sup> Aug, 1914	approx. 2,500,000 4% of population in 1914
BRITISH EMPIRE 	4 <sup>th</sup> Aug, 1914	approx. 900,000 2% of population in 1914	AUSTRIA-HUNGARY 	28 <sup>th</sup> Jul, 1914	approx. 1,900,000 3.7% of population in 1914
RUSSIA 	1 <sup>st</sup> Aug, 1914	approx. 3,100,000 13.7% of population in 1914	OTTOMAN EMPIRE 	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct, 1914	approx. 3,000,000 14% of population in 1914
USA 	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr, 1917	117,466 0.13% of population in 1914	BULGARIA 	12 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 1915	187,500 3.4% of population in 1914

## Major Events

Event	Image	Description	Date/s	Fact
Entangling Alliances		In the early 20 <sup>th</sup> Century, there was no one dominating European country. Consequently, each of the most powerful countries moved to make alliances with one another. Military defensive pacts were held between the allied powers of France, Great Britain, Russia and others, whilst an opposing central alliance was formed including Germany and Austria-Hungary.	1879-1914	Defensive pacts stated that participating countries must aid an ally under attack.
Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand		Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and his wife Sophie, were assassinated by Gavrilo Princip, a member of the Serbian Black Hand Society. The aim of the assassination was to make the South Slav provinces a part of Yugoslavia.	28 <sup>th</sup> June 1914	Earlier, another assassination attempt against the Archduke had failed.
July Crisis		After Serbia's failure to make amends for the assassination, Austria-Hungary declared war on them. Russia (in pact with Serbia) declares war on Austria-Hungary, before Germany consequently declares war on Russia. By the 4 <sup>th</sup> August, all of the European powers from the Allied and Central Powers are at war.	July-August 1914	Britain were the last of the powers to declare war, on 4 <sup>th</sup> August 1914.
Trench Warfare		To prevent enemy advances, both sides built large trenches, which stretched from the North Sea, through Belgium and France. As a result, neither side made much ground from late 1914 until early 1918. Attacks involved going across No Man's Land (in the middle) where attackers were open to machine gun fire, mines, and shells. Casualties were huge. Life in the trenches were awful, with diseases like trench foot rife. Mustard gas was a war agent used, causing blisters on skin and lungs. It caused excruciating pain and often death.	From September 1914 until November 1918 (the end of the war).	The enemy trenches were generally 50 to 250 metres apart. In between, No Man's Land was littered with barbed wire, mines, and bodies.
Gallipoli Campaign		The Gallipoli campaign was an unsuccessful attempt by the Allies to control the sea route from Europe to Russia. It included a failed naval attack in February 1915, and a major land invasion on 25 <sup>th</sup> April, which resulted in major losses to the Ottoman Empire.	19 <sup>th</sup> February 1915 – 9 <sup>th</sup> January 1916	The Allies eventually evacuated in Dec 1915/ Jan 1916.
Battle of the Somme		The Battle of the Somme was the largest battle of World War I on the Western Front. More than 3 million fought in the battle, with more than 1 million killed or injured. At the end of the battle, the Allies had advanced 6km.	1 <sup>st</sup> July 1916 – 18 <sup>th</sup> November 1916	The battle is known for being the first use of the tank.
America Declares War		President Woodrow Wilson declared war on Germany, citing Germany's violation of its pledge to suspend unrestricted German warfare in the Northern Atlantic and Mediterranean. This had caused sinking of US ships.	6 <sup>th</sup> April 1917	The arrival of fresh US troops helped to turn the war.
Second Battle of Marne		The Second Battle of Marne was the last major German offensive in the war. They were defeated as the Allies counter-attacked. This triggered the start of the Allied advance which led to the Armistice 100 days later.	15 <sup>th</sup> July – 6 <sup>th</sup> August 1918	There were 168,000 German casualties.
Armistice of 11 <sup>th</sup> November		The Armistice of the 11 <sup>th</sup> November 1918 signalled the end of the fighting between the Allies and Germany. Previous armistices had already been agreed with the other central powers. It came into force at 11am. It marked a victory for the Allies and defeat for Germany although was not officially a German surrender.	11 <sup>th</sup> November 1918	The fighting ended on the 11 <sup>th</sup> hour of the 11 <sup>th</sup> day of the 11 <sup>th</sup> month in 1918.
The Treaty of Versailles		The Treaty of Versailles was the most important of the peace treaties bringing to an end World War I, ending conflict between Germany and the Allied Powers. It was signed in Versailles, but mostly negotiated in Paris. The most contentious of the requirements in the peace treaty was that Germany had to accept responsibility for all of the loss and damage in the war. They had to make massive repayments to other countries.	28 <sup>th</sup> June 1919	Many suggest that the treaty was too harsh on Germany, and created tensions which partially escalated World War II.

## Key People

**Archduke Franz Ferdinand** – (1863-1914) was a high-ranking member of the Habsburg Dynasty, who was the presumed heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne. As was customary of Habsburg men, he had begun his military career young (aged just 12). He rose through the ranks quickly, becoming inspector general of the armed forces in 1913. This role brought him to Sarajevo in 1914, where he was assassinated alongside his wife, Sophie. The perpetrator was Gavrilo Princip, a member of the Serbian Black Hand secret society. Austria-Hungary's subsequent declaration of war on Serbia prompted a chain of events that led to World War I.



**Kaiser Wilhelm II** – (1859-1941) was the last German Emperor (Kaiser), reigning between 15<sup>th</sup> June 1888 until 9<sup>th</sup> November 1918. Wilhelm was a grandchild of Queen Victoria, and was related to many of the monarchs of Europe, including George V of the UK and Nicholas II of Russia. His support for Austria-Hungary in the crisis of July 1914 was a leading factor in the outbreak of World War I. Many sources suggest that he was not respected as a leader, and as a result, his two leading generals Paul von Hindenburg and Erich Ludendorff dictated most of German policy and strategy during the war. He abdicated in 1918, and fled to the Netherlands.



**Woodrow Wilson** – (1856-1924) was the 28<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, serving between 1913 and 1921. At the outbreak of World War I, in 1914, the US was neutral, but remained an important supplier to Great Britain and the Allies. However, after 2 1/2 years of war, America declared war on Germany on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1917, after Germany continued to attack neutral boats and ships. In early 1918, Wilson gave his outline of 14 points that he thought would bring lasting peace. This influenced the eventual Treaty of Versailles. He received the 1919 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.



**David Lloyd George** – (1863-1945) was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom throughout the latter part of the war effort, and in the years following the war. He was integral to reorganising the Allied military strategy to work more cohesively under one military commander. Lloyd George also played an important role after the war, being one of the 'Big Three' (alongside the leaders of France and the US) to negotiate the Treaty of Versailles with Germany. He represented the halfway point between the harsh demands of Clemenceau and the more lenient requests of Wilson.



**Tsar Nicholas II** – (1868-1918) was the last Emperor of Russia, ruling from 1894 until his forced abdication on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1917. Throughout his reign, Russia fell from being one of the foremost great powers of the world, to economic and military collapse. These factors, coupled with the perception of Nicholas' weak leadership, led to the events of the Russian Revolution, Nicholas' abdication, and his eventual execution. The Russians' catastrophic losses forced them to leave the war effort before the end of the war, with Russia eventually becoming a part of the communist Soviet Union.



**Wilfred Owen** – (1893-1918) Wilfred Edward Salter Owen was a British poet and soldier. He was one of the most prominent World War I poets, detailing the horrors of trench warfare in a similar style to his mentor: Siegfried Sassoon. His poetry brought a sense of realism to public perceptions of war, in stark contrast to the earlier works of poets such as Rupert Brooke. He composed almost all of his poetry in just over a year, from August 1917 to September 1918. Among the most famous are *Dulce et Decorum est* and *Anthem for Doomed Youth*. He was killed one week before the end of the war.



## Timeline of Major Events

28 Jun, 1914 – Archduke Franz Ferdinand is killed by a Serbian  
 28 Jul 1914 – Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia. Russia steps in to help Serbia  
 Aug 1-4 1914 – Keeping promises to their allies, Germany, France, and Britain all enter the war.  
 Sep 5-12 1914 – The advancing German army is stopped by British and French forces before Paris. 4 years of trench warfare begins.  
 11 Nov 1914 – The Ottoman Empire declares war on the Allies.  
 25 Apr 1915 – The Ottomans defeat the Allies at the Battle of Gallipoli.  
 1 Jul 1916 – The Battle of the Somme begins. Over 1 million soldiers will be killed or wounded  
 8 Mar 1917 – The Russian Revolution begins. Tsar Nicholas II is removed from power.  
 6 Apr 1917 – The U.S enters the war, declaring war on Germany.  
 15 Jul 1918 – The Allies decisively win at the Second Battle of Marne.  
 11 Nov 1918 – Armistice signed. The fighting ends.