

Warmer – alliances in the First World War

Look at the map of Europe at the start of the First World War. Which countries do you think sided with:

A) Britain? B) Germany?



Britain's allies

-
-
-
-

Germany and the Central Powers

-
-
-

Quickly find the names of the countries in the text **The Timeline of the First World War** (on the next page) to check your answers.

Task 1 – discussing pictures

Match the words in the box to the pictures below.

Zeppelin	refugees	armistice	trenches	tanks	troops
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Europeana



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Task 2 – reading and vocabulary: filling the gaps

Using the words in the box above, complete gaps 1–6 in the timeline on page 2.

The Timeline of the First World War¹

June 1914

- ²Archduke Franz Ferdinand from Austria-Hungary and his wife were assassinated in [redacted] by Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip.
- Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia for this terrorist attack. Germany said it would support Austria-Hungary.



July 1914

- Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. To support Serbia, Russia started mobilising its **1)**.....

August 1914

- Germany declared war on Russia and France. Belgium refused Germans the right to cross over its territory into France. Germany attacked Belgium. Over one million **2)**..... escaped Belgium over the coming weeks.
- Britain declared war on Germany, and [redacted] joined the war on the British side.



September 1914

- In the Battle of Marne, the French and British armies (the Allies) stopped the Germans moving through northern France.
- The construction of **3)**..... began as soldiers on both sides started digging into the ground to hide and live there.



October 1914

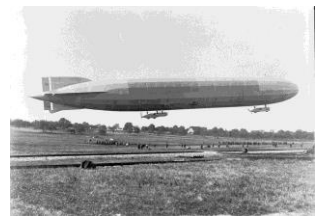
- Turkey joined the war on the side of the Central Powers (Germany and Austria-Hungary).

December 1914

- War spread to the sea. In the battle of the Falklands, the [redacted] navy defeated the German fleet.

April 1915

- Germany launched a major attack on the Allies around Ypres and used poison gas for the first time.
- The Allied troops landed at Gallipoli, Turkey, with the aim of capturing the Turkish capital.



May 1915

- German **4)**..... airships bombarded [redacted] for the first time.

July 1916

- Battle of the Somme. **5)**..... were introduced in the field for the first time there.



April 1917

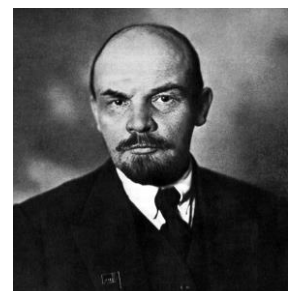
- In response to German underwater attacks on neutral ships, the USA declared war on Germany on the Allies' side.

November 1917

- Russian Revolution. Communists led by [redacted] took control of the Russian government.

March 1918

- The Russian Communist government signed a peace treaty with Germany and their allies.



November 1918

- Germany signed an **6)**..... with the Allies. They agreed to cease firing immediately and withdraw German troops to the borders. Fighting ended in France and Belgium at [redacted].00 a.m.

¹ based on material from the Imperial War Museum, London

² Image credits (from top): ©IWM Q081831; ©IWM010898; © IWM Q5092; ©IWM; ©IWM Q048212; Wikipedia commons

Task 3 – questions and answers: identifying the hidden information

There are six pieces of information that are hidden in your text, e.g.

June 1914

- Archduke Franz Ferdinand from Austria-Hungary and his wife were assassinated in [REDACTED] by Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip.



What questions do you need to ask to find this missing information?

Where were the Archduke and his wife assassinated in June 1914?

With a Student B, ask and answer the questions, and add your missing information to the timeline.

Task 4 – reading the timeline for detail

Choose one correct answer.

1. In June 1914, Austria-Hungary
 - a) assassinated Franz Ferdinand.
 - b) accused Serbia of supporting the assassination of the Austro-Hungarian duke.
2. Germany wanted Belgium to
 - a) let the German army cross Belgian territory to France.
 - b) attack France.
3. In the battle of Gallipoli, the Allied armies
 - a) had problems landing in Turkey.
 - b) planned to take control of the Turkish capital.
4. In 1917 the USA joined the war on the side of
 - a) Britain.
 - b) Germany.
5. The Russian Revolution in 1917 led to
 - a) Russia declaring war on Germany.
 - b) the collapse of the Russian government.
6. In November 1918, Germany signed an armistice
 - a) only with Russia.
 - b) with the Allies.

Task 5 – war expressions

In the reading text find expressions meaning:

- a) prepare a large number of soldiers for a fight (1914)
- b) say that you're starting a war against another country (1914 & 1917)
- c) stop shooting (1918)

Task 6 – summary writing

You have been asked by a local magazine to write a short article on 'The First World War in a nutshell'. Using your knowledge of the topic, write a short summary on the main events of the First World War.