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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zeppelin</th>
<th>refugees</th>
<th>armistice</th>
<th>trenches</th>
<th>tanks</th>
<th>troops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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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 War

June 1914

- Archduke Franz Ferdinand from Austria-Hungary and his wife were assassinated in ______ 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 ________.

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 ________ escaped Belgium over the coming weeks.
- Britain declared war on Germany, and ______ 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 ________ 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 ______ 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 ________ airships bombarded ______ for the first time.

July 1916

- Battle of the Somme. ________ 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 ______ 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 ________ with the Allies. They agreed to cease firing immediately and withdraw German troops to the borders. Fighting ended in France and Belgium at ________ 00 a.m.

1 based on material from the Imperial War Museum, London
2 Image credits (from top): ©IWM Q081831; ©IWM 010898; ©IWM Q5092; ©IWM; ©IWM Q048212; Wikipedia commons
The main events of the First World War

Student A worksheet

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 Sarajevo 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.