

The First World War



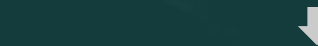
1882 - Triple Alliance formed (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy)

VS

1907 - Triple Entente formed (Britain, France, Russia)



28th June 1914 - heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, killed by Serbian assassin



23rd July 1914 - Austria-Hungary presented 10-Point Ultimatum to Serbia, who agreed to all but 1 point



28 July 1914 - Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia with German support



30 July 1914 - Russia mobilised army to help Serbia



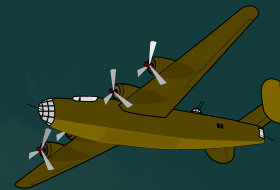
1 August 1914 - Germany declared war on Russia



3rd Aug 1914 - Germany initiated Schlieffen Plan, invading Belgium to get to France, dragging Britain into the war



Failure of Schlieffen plan caused stalemate situation - long, drawn-out war followed



1915 - Italy joined the war on the side of Britain, France and Russia



1917 - US declared war on Germany

1914 - first use of aeroplanes in warfare, used for reconnaissance but dropped bombs by 1917

Oct 1917 - Russian Revolution saw Russian population & Lenin's Bolsheviks overthrow the unpopular Tsar



Lenin had promised the Russian people to end their involvement in WW1 - signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

Mar - Jul 1918 - Ludendorff's Spring Offensive had cost Germany around 400,000 men



Aug - Nov 1918 - The Hundred Days Offensive - Allied armies forced Germany into full retreat

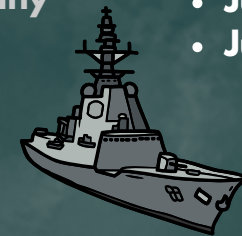
Helped by massive influx of US soldiers

Causes of the First World War 19th Century-1914

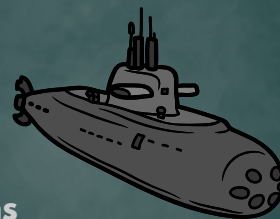
1905 - Moroccan Crisis - Britain and France humiliated Kaiser Wilhelm II (Germany) over the issue of Moroccan independence

1906 - naval race began between Britain and Germany

1908 - Bosnian Crisis - Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia, backed by Germany



1912-13 - The Balkan Wars - Russia + Balkan League took Balkans from Ottoman Empire, doubling Serbia in size - angered Austria-Hungary

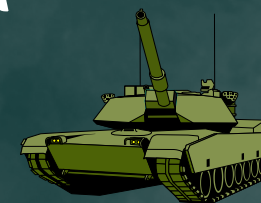


The First World War: Stalemate 1915-1917

Key battles at the Western Front:

- Sep 1914 - The Battle of Marne
- Feb - Dec 1916 - The Battle of Verdun
- Jul - Nov 1916 - The Battle of the Somme
- Jul - Nov 1917 - The Battle of Passchendale

first use of tanks



Key battles on other fronts (land):

- Mar 1915 - Jan 1916 - The Gallipoli Campaign

Conflict in the sea:

- Feb 1915 - Germany declared a war zone around Britain and initiated unrestricted submarine warfare
- May 1915 - sinking of the Lusitania - German u-boat attacks scaled back
- May 1916 - The Battle of Jutland
- Feb 1917 - Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare



Ending the War 1917-1918

October 1918 - Kiel Mutiny - German navy forces refused to follow orders to attack the British



Similar unrest against the Kaiser spread throughout the country - he was forced to abdicate (9th Nov) and Germany became a republic (these events are known as the German Revolution)



11am, 11th Nov - Germany signed the Armistice with the Allies and ended the First World War



28th June 1919 - The Treaty of Versailles was signed

