



# WORLD WAR I KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



## Main Participating Countries

ALLIED POWERS			CENTRAL POWERS		
Country	Date Joined	Flag	Country	Date Joined	Flag
FRANCE	3 <sup>rd</sup> Aug, 1914		GERMAN EMPIRE	1 <sup>st</sup> Aug, 1914	
BRITISH EMPIRE	4 <sup>th</sup> Aug, 1914		AUSTRIA-HUNGARY	28 <sup>th</sup> Jul, 1914	
RUSSIA	1 <sup>st</sup> Aug, 1914		OTTOMAN EMPIRE	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct, 1914	
USA	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr, 1917		BULGARIA	12 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 1915	

## Major Events

Event	Image	Description	Date/s	Fact
European Alliances		To protect themselves, powerful European countries had 'alliances' (pacts) with one another before the war. On one side was the allied powers of France, Great Britain, Russia and others. On the other side was the central alliance of Germany and Austria-Hungary.	1879-1914	The pacts meant that countries must help an ally under attack.
Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand		Franz Ferdinand, the Austro-Hungarian heir, and his wife Sophie, were murdered by Gavrilo Princip, a member of the Serbian 'Black Hand Society.' It had catastrophic consequences.	28 <sup>th</sup> June 1914	An earlier attempt to kill Franz had failed.
July Crisis		After the murder, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Russia therefore declared war on Austria-Hungary, before Germany declared war on Russia! By the 4 <sup>th</sup> August, all of the European powers were involved.	July-August 1914	Britain declared war on 4 <sup>th</sup> August 1914.
Trench Warfare		Both sides built large trenches, which stretched from the North Sea, through Belgium and France. 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 lots of illnesses and diseases like trench foot.	From September 1914 until November 1918 (the end of the war).	The enemy trenches were about 50 to 250 metres apart. In between was barbed wire and mines.
Gallipoli Campaign		The Gallipoli Campaign was an unsuccessful attempt by the Allies to control the sea from Europe to Russia. They suffered big losses at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.	19 <sup>th</sup> February 1915 – 9 <sup>th</sup> January 1916	The Allies had to retreat 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.	1 <sup>st</sup> July 1916 – 18 <sup>th</sup> November 1916	This battle is where tanks were first used.
America Declares War		The USA declared war on Germany, after Germany continued to attack neutral boats in the seas around Europe.	6 <sup>th</sup> April 1917	The fresh US troops turned the war.
Second Battle of Marne		The Second Battle of Marne was the last major German attack in the war. They were defeated as the Allies counter-attacked.	15 <sup>th</sup> July - 6 <sup>th</sup> August 1918	After this battle, the Allies had the upper hand.
Armistice of 11 <sup>th</sup> November		The Armistice of the 11 <sup>th</sup> November 1918 saw an end to the fighting between Germany and the Allies. It came into force at 11am. It marked a victory for the Allies and defeat for Germany.	11 <sup>th</sup> November 1918	Fighting ended at 11am on the 11 <sup>th</sup> day of the 11 <sup>th</sup> month.
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. Germany had to accept responsibility for all of the loss and damage in the war and make large repayments to other countries.	28 <sup>th</sup> June 1919	Many people felt that the treaty was far too harsh on Germany.

## Key People

**Archduke Franz Ferdinand** – (1863-1914) was the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne. He began his military career young (aged just 12). He was murdered in Sarajevo in 1914, alongside his wife, Sophie. The killer was Gavrilo Princip, a member of the Serbian Black Hand secret society. Only a month later Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, which started the chain of events leading 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. His support for Austria-Hungary in the crisis of July 1914 was a leading factor in the outbreak of World War I. He was not a very well respected leader, and it is thought that his army generals led German war policy.



**Woodrow Wilson** – (1856-1924) was the President of the United States throughout WWI. At first, the US was neutral. However, after 2 ½ years of war, America declared war on Germany. In early 1918, Wilson offered 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 during the final years of the war (and afterwards). He made a number of effective changes to the Allies organisation. He also played an important role after the war, being one of the 'Big 3' leaders (with the leaders of US and France) to negotiate the Treaty of Versailles with Germany.



**Tsar Nicholas II** – (1868-1918) was the last Emperor of Russia. Throughout his reign, Russia fell from being one of the most powerful countries in the world, to being on the brink of collapse. His weak leadership caused the events of the Russian Revolution, Nicholas' abdication (stepping down as King), and his execution. Russia became a part of the communist Soviet Union.



**Wilfred Owen** – (1893-1918) Wilfred Owen was a British poet and soldier. He is one of the best known World War I poets, telling of the horrors of trench warfare in an extremely realistic tone – poets before him had described the 'glory of war.' He wrote almost all of his poetry in just over a year, from August 1917 to September 1918. He was killed just 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 helps Serbia

Aug 1-4 1914 – Keeping promises to their allies, Germany, France, and Britain all enter the war.

Sep 5-12 1914 – The German army is stopped by British and French forces near 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 are 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 win at the Second Battle of Marne.

11 Nov 1918 – Armistice signed. The fighting ends.