



WORLD WAR I



WWI

The Great War was one of the deadliest conflicts in history lasting from 28th July 1914 to 11th November 1918. There were two alliances formed that fought against each other during this war: The Triple Entente (France, Great Britain and Russia) and the Triple Alliance (Austria-Hungary, Germany and Italy [who later switched sides]).



A lot of the war was fought using trench warfare along the Western Front in France. The armies hardly moved at all—they bombed and shot at each other from across the trenches. The Eastern Front was on the other side of Germany bordering Russia—there was no trench warfare here.

Key vocabulary

Alliance - an association formed between countries that team up together to support, defend and protect one another.

Armistice - an agreement by both sides to stop fighting while a peace agreement (treaty) is negotiated.

Artillery - large, heavy guns used on land warfare.

Battle - a combat in warfare between two or more sides which can last anywhere between several hours, several days or even several months. War consists of multiple battles. 'War' and 'battle' are not the same.

Eastern front - WWI was fought on two fronts: The Eastern Front was fought in Eastern Europe between Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria on one side with Russia and Romania on the other side.

Front line - the point at which the armies of each side met. This is where most of the fighting took place.

No Man's Land - the area between the front lines of two enemy armies; it belonged to neither side.

Propaganda - Information used and distributed to present one side of a political issue - biased information.

Trench warfare - A type of land warfare where each side digs long lines of trenches (long, narrow ditches) into the ground for protection. The soldiers would eat, sleep and fight from these trenches.

Western front - WWI was fought on two fronts: The Western Front was fought in Western Europe between Germany and Austria-Hungary on one side and France, Britain, and (later) the United States on the other.

Dear Year 6 parents/guardians,

This half term in Year 6, our topic focus is World War I. Your child will learn about many aspects of life during WWI including how the war began and ended, what life was like for a soldier, what life was like for women and children back home and how the government used propaganda to promote the war. Our history work will closely link with our English and Art (War Horse by Michael Morpurgo being our key text) as well as providing us the opportunity to visit the Staffordshire Regiment Museum.

Please help your child with their learning by going through this fact sheet with them.

Many thanks,

Year 6 teachers

Top 10 facts

1. World War One was known as 'The Great War' and 'The War to End All Wars' at the time as they had no idea that WWII was just around the corner.
2. WWI began when the Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his pregnant wife Sophie were assassinated by a Serbian terrorist group, called The Black Hand, who did not believe that Ferdinand should rule over Serbia and Bosnia.
3. There were two sides in the war. The Triple Entente and the Triple Alliance who later became known as the Central Powers when Italy left and joined the Entente in 1915. America joined the war supporting the Triple Entente in 1917.
4. Only men aged 18 and over could join the army and fight but some lied about their age to get in. The youngest known soldier to fight for Britain was 12 year old Sidney Lewis from Surrey.
5. Soldiers lived and fought in trenches (see picture). Conditions in the trenches were horrendous. They were muddy, flooded, infested by giant rats and lice and the toilets often overflowed. 'Trench foot' was a disease associated with these living conditions.
6. Animals were used during the war including horses (for cavalry and artillery) and dogs and pigeons (for sending messages).
7. During the war, up to 12 million letters a week were delivered to soldiers, many on the front line.
8. Whilst women couldn't fight, they still helped with the war effort. They farmed the land, made weapons and served as nurses tending to the wounded soldiers.
9. Propaganda was used by the government and the papers to make it look like the war wasn't as horrific and bloody as it actually was and to try and persuade men to join the army and women to support the war.
10. The war was ended by the signing of many different peace agreements (treaties), the most important being the Treaty of Versailles. The Central Powers surrendered to the Triple Entente for many reasons including: the British had blocked the German ports, the Americans had thousands of fresh, young soldiers ready to fight and the German Navy refused to fight anymore.