

World War One

Glossary

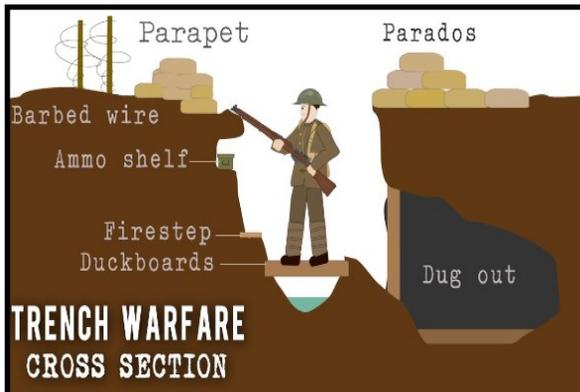
1	Alliance	when countries join forces or work together to achieve a certain goal
2	Armistice	a formal agreement of warring parties to stop fighting
3	Conscription	the requirement by law to join the armed forces
4	Front Line	the area where the armies are engaged in fighting
5	The Great War	the name used for World War One at the time
6	No Man's Land	the area of land between two enemy trench systems
7	Treaty	a written agreement between two or more countries
8	Trench	long ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived

Trench Warfare

Many battles were fought using trench warfare.

Long ditches were dug in the ground. Soldiers lived in the trenches and sometimes climbed out to attack.

A famous example of trench war was the Battle of the Somme which started in July 1916.



The Alliance system

Many countries had made alliances with one other. They agreed to protect each other. If one was attacked, the others would defend them.

The war was fought between:

- **The Triple Alliance:** Germany, Austria-Hungary and their allies.
- **The Triple Entente:** Great Britain, France and Russia.



Archduke Franz Ferdinand

The assassination of Franz Ferdinand (Archduke of Austria) sparked the outbreak of World War One.



Key Dates

June 1914: Assassination of Franz Ferdinand

August 1914: Germany invades Belgium. Britain declares war on Germany

August 1914: Battle of Mons

October 1914: Battle of Ypres

December 1914: Christmas truce

April 1915: Gas attack on Ypres

April 1915: Allied landings at Gallipoli

February 1916: Britain introduces conscription

July 1916: Battle of the Somme begins

July 1917: The United States declares war on Germany

March 1918: Start of German Spring Offensive

November 1918: Armistice

June 1919: Treaty of Versailles signed

The Treaty of Versailles

World War One ended at 11am on 11 November, 1918—this became known as **Armistice Day**. The leaders of the USA, Great Britain and France met in Versailles to decide what should happen next. The agreement was called the **Treaty of Versailles**.



Terms of the treaty included:

- Germany had to accept total blame for starting the war.
- They could not join the new League of Nations
- Some places Germany used to own were taken from them.
- Germany were banned from having an army of more than 100,000 men and from having any submarines or an air force.
- The country had to pay 132 billion gold marks to repair the damages of war. They became poor because of this.

New Technology

There were major developments in technology during World War One. New weapons and machines changed the way war was fought forever. Britain used **tanks** in battle for the first time in September 1916.

Aeroplanes were recent inventions. As aircraft technology developed, planes became more important.

Battleships— conflicts which took place on the sea were known as naval battles.



Artillery field guns fired shells that exploded when they hit something.

Machine guns fired up to 600 bullets a minute and were extremely dangerous.



Recruitment

- In the first weekend of the war, 100 men an hour (3,000 a day) signed up to join the armed forces.
- In 1916 Conscription was introduced.
- Men were encouraged to join up with their friends, these were known as 'Pals Battalions'.
- Some men—called conscientious objectors—refused to fight for moral or religious reasons. They said their consciences would not allow them to kill.
- A white feather was used as a symbol to mean a man was a coward. The idea was to shame the man and make him join the army. Technology used in conflict has developed over time



Remembrance day

Every year on 11 November, people in the UK stop for a short moment of reflection. Poppies, which grew on the barren fields of World War One, are used to remember soldiers who died.

