

## World War I

### Lesson 1 War in Europe

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*Why does conflict develop?*

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *What factors led to the outbreak of war in Europe?*
2. *What changes made World War I become a long and deadly war?*

#### Terms to Know

**nationalism** a feeling of intense loyalty to a country or group

**militarism** celebration of military ideals, and a rapid buildup of military power

**alliance system** a system in which countries agree to defend each other

**balance of power** an equality of power among different countries that discourages any group from acting aggressively

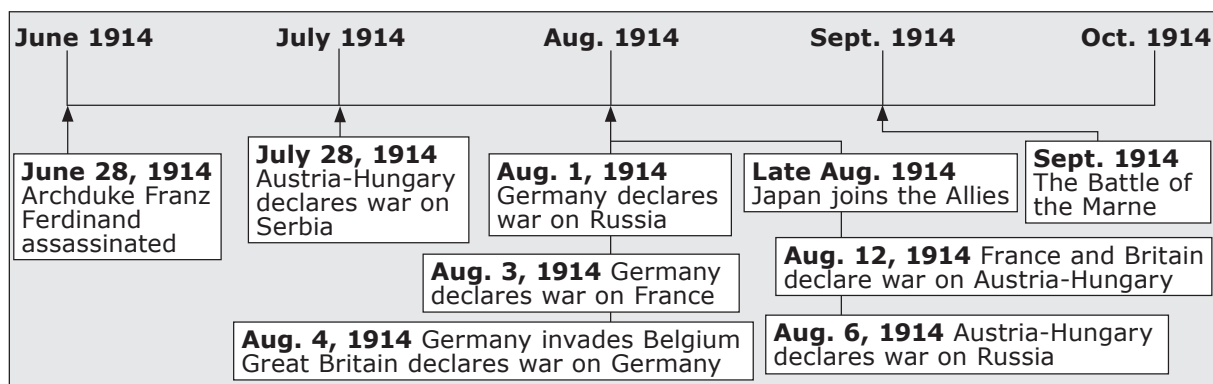
**stalemate** a situation in a conflict in which neither side can make progress against the other

**U-boat** a German submarine

### Where in the world?



### When did it happen?



## World War I

### Lesson 1 War in Europe, *Continued*

#### Troubles in Europe

In the early 1900s, a great deal of tension developed in Europe. **Nationalism** caused much of this tension. Nationalists felt strong loyalty to their country or group. Some groups united into new nations such as Italy and Germany. Some ethnic groups broke away from the nations that controlled them. New nations wanted to show off their power. This made older nations fear them.

Countries grew more powerful by building great empires. France and Great Britain had large empires but wanted to expand. Germany, Italy, and Russia wanted new colonies in Asia and Africa, too. As these empires grew, some countries were brought into conflict with each other.

Each empire wanted to be stronger than the others, so they each built up their military forces. This buildup of military power is called **militarism**. This militarism only made European nations more nervous.

Militarism in Europe	
Countries	What They Built Up
France, Germany, Russia	Huge armies
Germany, Great Britain	Large navies

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The nations created an **alliance system**. Nations in an alliance promised to help others if they were attacked. The alliance system was meant to keep peace. It was supposed to stop one country from being more powerful than the others. This was called a **balance of power**. However, this system was also dangerous. When one nation attacked another, an entire alliance would help defend it. Many countries would be pulled into a war.

There were two major alliances in 1914. The Triple Alliance included Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy. The Triple Entente included Great Britain, France, and Russia.

Slavic nationalists hoped to unite their people. They wanted to be free of the rule of Austria-Hungary. One small country, Serbia, supported them.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand was next in line to be king of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. A Serbian nationalist group thought they could bring down the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Their plan was to kill the archduke. On June 28, 1914, one of the nationalists shot and killed the archduke and his wife. Austria-Hungary then declared war on Serbia.

#### FOLDABLES®



#### Cause and Effect

1. Use a two-tab Foldable and place it horizontally along the dotted line over the text beginning with "The nations created ..." Write the title *Alliance System* on the anchor tab. Label the first tab *Cause* and the second tab *Effect*. Use the space on both sides of the tabs to list the causes and effects of the alliances formed in 1914.



#### Explaining

2. What did Serbian nationalists hope to accomplish by killing Archduke Franz Ferdinand?

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**World War I****Lesson 1** War in Europe, *Continued***? Cause and Effect**

3. What effect did the alliance system have on World War I?

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**? Explaining**

4. How did Belgium help the Allies?

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**? Identifying**

5. What effect did trench warfare have on the progress of the war?

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The alliance system brought many nations into the war. Russia had agreed to protect Serbia. As a result, the Triple Entente nations joined in, too. Austria-Hungary was in the Triple Alliance, so its allies were ready to help. The war spread quickly.

**A World War Begins**

The "Great War" had begun. At this point, the names and members of the alliances changed a bit.

**The Allied Powers  
"The Allies"**

Great Britain  
France  
Russia  
Japan  
Italy

**The Central Powers**

Germany  
Austria-Hungary  
The Ottoman (Turkish)  
Empire

Germany invaded Belgium on its way to attack France. It took the powerful German army nearly three weeks to defeat the Belgians. This delay gave France and Great Britain more time to prepare for war.

The French and the British met the Germans at the Marne River in September 1914. After a week, the Allies stopped the German advance. This battle made everyone realize that neither side would win easily.

Ground soldiers dug a system of trenches along the front lines. The trenches protected soldiers from flying bullets and shells. The war became a **stalemate** where neither side could make progress. To try to break the stalemate, both sides launched major attacks.

Germany attacked at Verdun. The battle lasted from February to December of 1916. About 750,000 soldiers were killed. Germany gained some ground but lost it again.

France attacked at the Battle of the Somme in July 1916. The Allies suffered very high casualties and eventually gained 7 miles (11.2 km).

During this war, new weapons caused more deaths and injuries than ever before. Better artillery fired larger shells farther. Better rifles shot more accurately. In April 1915, the Germans used poison gas against the Allied troops. Poison gas could injure or kill anyone who came into

**World War I****Lesson 1** War in Europe, *Continued*

contact with it. Soldiers began to wear gas masks. The Allies began to use gas, too. In January 1916, the Allies started using armored tanks. Their tanks worked so well that the Germans began making tanks, too.

Airplanes changed the warfare for both sides. Pilots could report troop movements and bomb targets. Fighter planes had machine guns to shoot down enemy planes. Germany also used blimps to drop bombs on Allied cities.

The armies on land were not making progress against one another, so both sides tried a new tactic. Great Britain blocked ports used by the Germans. The blockade caused severe shortages of a variety of goods. Many Germans went without food and other supplies.

The Germans fought back with another weapon, the **U-boat**, or submarine. Submarines sank supply ships on their way to Great Britain. U-boat attacks on Americans at sea brought the United States into the war.

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**Check for Understanding**

**List four advancements in technology that made warfare in World War I so deadly.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**How did the alliance system contribute to a war which involved nearly all the nations of Europe?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Marking the Text**

6. Underline each new weapon that was used on land.

**Reading Check**

7. What was the result of German U-boat attacks on Americans at sea?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



8. Use a three-tab Foldable and place it along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write the title *Technology & New Weapons* on the anchor tab. Label the three tabs *Land*, *Air*, and *Sea*. On the front and back of the tabs, write words and phrases that you remember about the advancements in warfare on land, air, and sea and the effects of each. Use your Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.

## World War I

### Lesson 2 America's Road to War

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*Why does conflict develop?*

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS

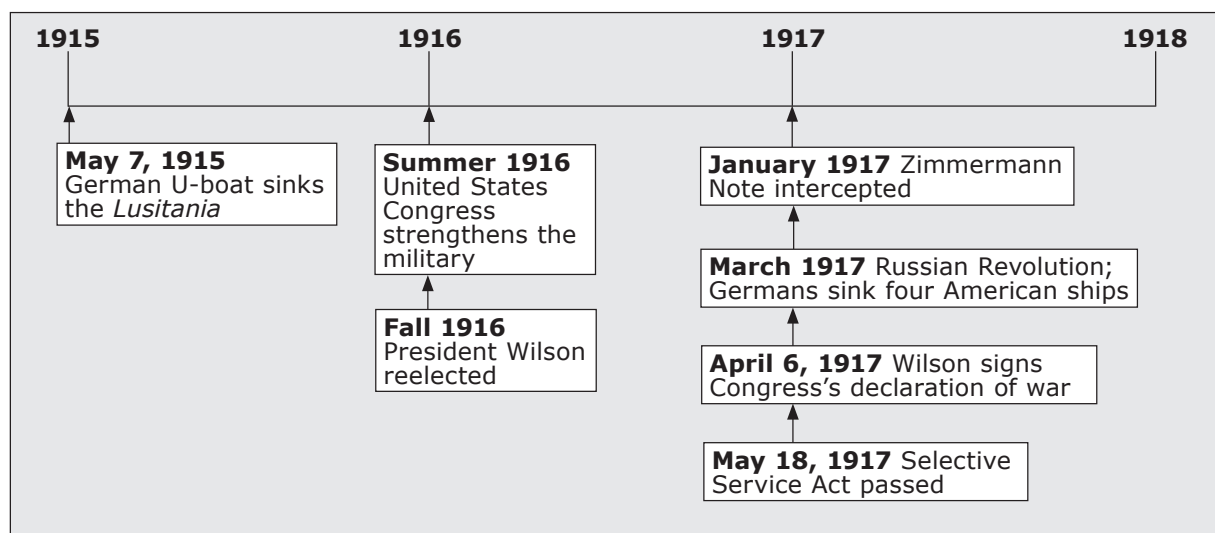
1. *Why did the United States try to remain neutral during the war?*
2. *What made the United States decide to enter the war?*

#### Terms to Know

**propaganda** information used to influence opinion

**autocracy** a government in which one person with unlimited power rules

### When did it happen?



### What do you know?

In the first column, answer the questions based on what you know before you study. After this lesson, complete the last column.

Now ...		Later ...
	Which side did Americans favor early in the war?	
	How did the war in Europe affect the U.S. economy?	
	How did Americans feel about the Russian Revolution?	

**World War I****Lesson 2** America's Road to War, *Continued***American Neutrality**

President Wilson declared that the United States would be neutral in the war in Europe. But more than 30 million Americans were either foreign-born or were children of immigrants. They felt strong ties to one side or the other in the war. Most Americans favored the Allies. Their language, customs, and traditions were like those in Great Britain.

About 8 million Americans had come from Germany or Austria and favored the Central Powers. Many of the 4.5 million Irish Americans did, too. They were angry at Great Britain for their rule of Ireland.

Each side in the war wanted people to support them. They used **propaganda** to do it. Propaganda is information that is used to influence public opinion. The Allies called attention to the fact that Germany had invaded Belgium. Belgium was neutral. They told stories of German cruelty and called Germans "Huns" or "barbarians." The Central Powers used strong propaganda, too. But Allied propaganda had the greatest effect on Americans.

The United States was still neutral, and it wanted to trade with both sides in the war. Both sides needed what American businesses made. Then the British blockaded German ports. The British navy stopped American ships and seized goods going to Germany. The British said their country was fighting to survive. The Americans then traded only with Great Britain.

Trade between the United States and the Allies grew a great deal. France and Great Britain borrowed billions of dollars from the United States to pay for their war efforts. This war spending caused an economic boom in the United States. It also made the Germans angry. They were angry because they did not believe that a neutral nation, such as the United States, should help the Allies.

The Germans could not stop the British blockade. Instead, they decided to stop ships trading with Britain. In 1915, Germany said they would sink all ships that were using British ports. President Wilson warned Germany that he would hold Germany responsible for any American lives that were lost in attacks.

On May 7, 1915, a U-boat fired on the *Lusitania*. It was a British passenger ship. As it sank, more than a thousand people died. Among them were 128 Americans. This made Americans very angry. Later, Americans learned that the *Lusitania* had also carried war supplies.

**Explaining**

1. What is the purpose of propaganda?

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**Marking the Text**

2. Underline the sentence that explains why the war might help the U.S. economy.

**Explaining**

3. What made the Germans upset at the United States?

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## World War I

### Lesson 2 America's Road to War, *Continued*



#### Explaining

4. What was the Sussex Pledge?

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#### Determining Cause and Effect

5. What actions did the United States take in response to German submarine attacks?

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#### Analyzing

6. Why did the Zimmermann Note upset Americans?

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A few months later, another submarine attack injured some Americans. They were aboard the French passenger ship *Sussex*. This attack also made Americans angry. Germany offered money to the injured people to try to keep the United States from entering the war. It also promised to warn neutral ships before attacking them. This promise was the Sussex Pledge.

#### German Actions:

- Invaded Belgium
- Sank the *Lusitania*
- Attacked the *Sussex*
- Made the Sussex Pledge

## The End of Neutrality

The submarine attacks made Congress take action. In the summer of 1916, Congress passed laws to strengthen the military. They doubled the size of the army. They also provided money to build warships.

Still, President Wilson hoped to stay out of the war. Most Americans agreed. But some saw the military buildup as a step toward entering the war. One Democratic campaign slogan for Wilson that year was, "He Kept Us Out of War." Wilson won by only a small margin.

January 1917

**Germany warns they will sink on sight all ships using Allied ports.**

By 1917, Germany believed they could defeat the Allies. They wanted to do this before the United States became involved. In January, they warned that they would sink all ships using Allied ports.

A few weeks later, British agents seized an important message. Arthur Zimmermann was the German foreign minister. He sent a note to the government of Mexico. He offered to form an alliance with Mexico if the United States joined the war. The note made Americans even more angry at Germany.

March 1917

**Revolution begins in Russia**



**World War I****Lesson 2** America's Road to War, *Continued*

In March 1917, a revolution began in Russia. It was an effort to overthrow the government. The Russian ruler had power with no limits. This type of government is an **autocracy**. The Russians defeated their ruler. Their new government would be more democratic. The new rulers said they would have free elections and promised to keep fighting Germany, too. Russia's new government raised the Allies' hopes. Wilson could now say that they were fighting a war for democracy.

In the same month, Germany sank four American trading ships. Thirty-six Americans died.

April 1917

**The United States declares war on Germany**

President Wilson decided the nation must enter the war. On April 2, 1917, he asked Congress to declare war against Germany. Congress debated the president's request. On April 6, they agreed that the United States must defend its rights as a world power. They passed the declaration of war. President Wilson signed it on April 6.

U.S. military forces would have to grow quickly. On May 18, Congress passed the Selective Service Act. This set up a military draft. A draft requires people to register and serve in the military if chosen. Millions of men from ages 21 to 30 registered. Three million were called to serve and two million more joined as volunteers. For the first time, women enlisted, but they did not serve in combat. They served as clerks, radio operators, and nurses.

More than 300,000 African Americans joined the armed forces. They were not treated fairly. Most of these men held low-level jobs at military bases. The military sent about half of them to Europe. Many served with honor. One regiment received medals from France.

**Check for Understanding**

**List two actions that prove the United States was not totally neutral.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**What do the *Lusitania* and the *Sussex* have in common?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Marking the Text**

7. Underline the statement that gives the reason Congress agreed to declare war.

**Identifying**

8. What was the purpose of the Selective Service Act?

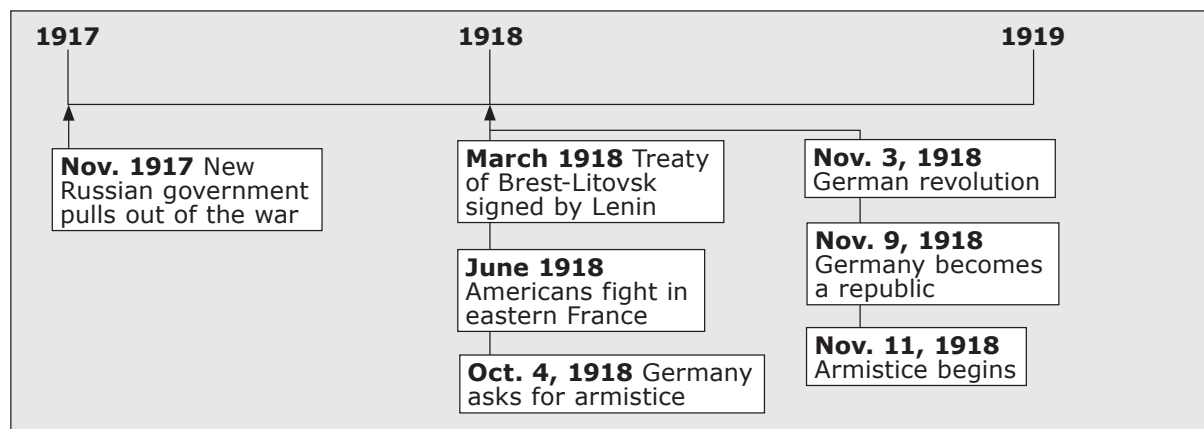


9. Use a two-tab Foldable and place it along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write *Reasons for ...* on the anchor tab. Label the two tabs *U.S. Neutrality* and *U.S. Entering the War*. Use both sides of the tabs to list what you remember about why the United States tried to remain neutral and what made that change. Use your Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.



**World War I****Lesson 3** Americans Join the Allies**ESSENTIAL QUESTION***Why does conflict develop?***GUIDING QUESTIONS**

1. *How did American troops help to turn the tide of the war toward the Allies?*
2. *What events occurred that led to the armistice being signed?*

**Terms to Know****convoy** a group of ships that escort and protect other ships**kaiser** German emperor**When did it happen?****What do you know?**

In the first column, answer the questions based on what you know before you study. After this lesson, complete the last column.

Now...		Later...
	How did the U.S. Navy help the British when the United States entered the war?	
	What effect did the second Russian Revolution have on World War I?	
	What effect did the revolution in Austria-Hungary have on the Central Powers?	
	What role did President Wilson play at the end of World War I?	

**World War I****Lesson 3** Americans Join the Allies, *Continued***Supplying the Allies**

The Allies needed help from American soldiers. By 1917, the Allied armies were exhausted from fighting in the trenches. The British were running low on food and war supplies. Some of the French troops had stopped fighting. German submarines sank one of every four ships leaving British ports. Supplies could not move in or out.

The United States entered the war and had an immediate effect. The U.S. Navy helped the British destroy the German submarines that blocked British ports. Teams of navy ships called **convoys** helped supply ships cross the ocean. Convoys kept German submarines away from supply ships. The convoys worked very well. Not one American soldier heading for Europe was killed by submarine attack.

The Allies needed more troops because the Russian government had changed once again.

**March 1917: First revolution**

- New government supports the Allies.
- Russia suffers food shortages and other problems.

**November 1917: Second revolution**

- People riot to protest the problems.
- The Bolsheviks, led by Lenin, take over.
- The Russians pull out of the war.

In March 1918, Vladimir Lenin signed the treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany. This treaty took Russia out of the war. Russia also gave up a large amount of land to the Germans. As a result, the Germans were able to move thousands of their troops away from Russia. Those troops went to fight against the Allies on the Western Front. After the treaty was signed, the Germans attacked the Allied lines. They pushed the Allies back to within 40 miles (64 km) of Paris. It looked as if Germany might win the war.

In the spring of 1917, the AEF (American Expeditionary Force) arrived in Europe, led by General John Pershing. They were warmly welcomed in Paris. They were called "doughboys" because of the shape of the buttons on their uniforms. In June, 1918, they faced difficult fighting. They helped turn back an attack at Château-Thierry, on the Marne River east of Paris. The AEF then moved to Belleau

**Marking the Text**

1. Underline the reason the British had run so low on food and supplies.

**Explaining**

2. How did U.S. Navy convoys help the British?

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**Listing**

3. What two actions did Russia take as a result of the treaty of Brest-Litovsk?

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**Describing**

4. How did the French react when the AEF arrived in Europe?

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## World War I

### Lesson 3 Americans Join the Allies, *Continued*

#### Paraphrasing

5. Explain what General Pershing meant by saying the battles “turned the tide of war.”

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#### Explaining

6. Why was the Battle of the Argonne Forest important?

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#### Reading Check

7. What troubles did the Austro-Hungarian empire face in 1918?

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Wood. Soldiers fought constantly for three weeks against a solid line of machine-gun fire.

American and French troops fought along the Marne and Somme rivers and stopped the Germans. General Pershing wrote that these battles “turned the tide of war.”

Now the Allies could start their own military push. In the fall of 1918, the Americans helped fight at Saint-Mihiel. Half a million American troops fought off the Germans. Next, more than a million American troops joined the Allies to fight in the Argonne Forest. It was to be the largest attack in American history.

The Battle of the Argonne Forest lasted about seven weeks. It ended in early November. Allied troops struggled through the heavy forest in rain, mud, and barbed wire. They faced German machine guns. When this battle ended, the Allies had pushed the Germans back and broken their lines. Now the Germans faced an invasion of their own country.

Two brave Americans caught the nation’s attention. These soldiers’ actions earned each the Medal of Honor.

Corporal Alvin York	Captain Eddie Rickenbacker
fought at the Argonne Forest	captain of the 94th Aero Squadron
killed several enemy soldiers	fought 134 air battles
captured machine guns	shot down 26 aircraft
took 132 prisoners	

### The End of the War

Fighting went on along the Western Front. In late 1918, Germany’s allies had trouble, too. A revolution broke out in Austria-Hungary. Ethnic territories began to break away from the empire and Austria-Hungary surrendered. The Ottoman Empire was also breaking apart. It surrendered, too.

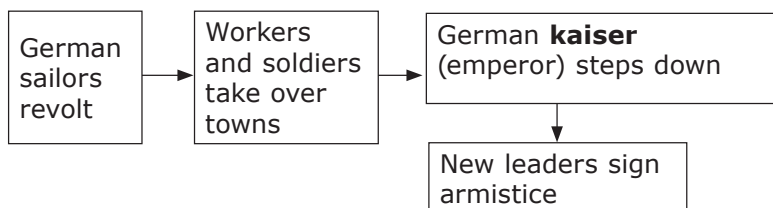
The American troops and supplies had made the Allies very strong. At home, Germans suffered because they had little food. Other supplies were also low. German leaders realized they had little chance of winning the war.

**World War I****Lesson 3** Americans Join the Allies, *Continued*

On October 4, 1918, German leaders spoke with President Wilson. They asked for an armistice. An armistice is an agreement to stop fighting. Wilson agreed, but wanted these things:

- Germany must accept his peace plan.
- Germany must promise not to start fighting again.
- All German troops must leave Belgium and France.
- President Wilson would work only with leaders who were not in the military.

While the Germans thought over the agreement, things changed in Germany.



Two days after Germany became a republic, the armistice began. It began on November 11, 1918. It began at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

Germany withdrew its sea forces from the Baltic Sea. It pulled its land forces back across the Rhine River. Germany also gave up huge amounts of war equipment. The "Great War" was over. It was the most destructive war in history at that time.

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**Check for Understanding**

**List three ways in which American troops helped change the outcome of the war.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**How did the two Russian Revolutions affect the course of the war?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Marking the Text**

8. Underline the definition of *armistice*.



9. Use a three-tab Foldable and place it along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write the title *Americans Join Allies* on the anchor tab. Label the left tab *Allied Forces Pushed Back*, the middle tab *Allied Forces Push Forward*, and the right tab *Armistice*. Use the space on both sides of the tabs to list facts you remember about each event. Use your Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.

## World War I

### Lesson 4 The War at Home

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*Why does conflict develop?*

#### GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How did the United States prepare to fight the war?*
2. *Why did the U.S. government approve legislation to control public opinion?*

#### Terms to Know

**mobilization** the gathering of resources and troops in preparation for war

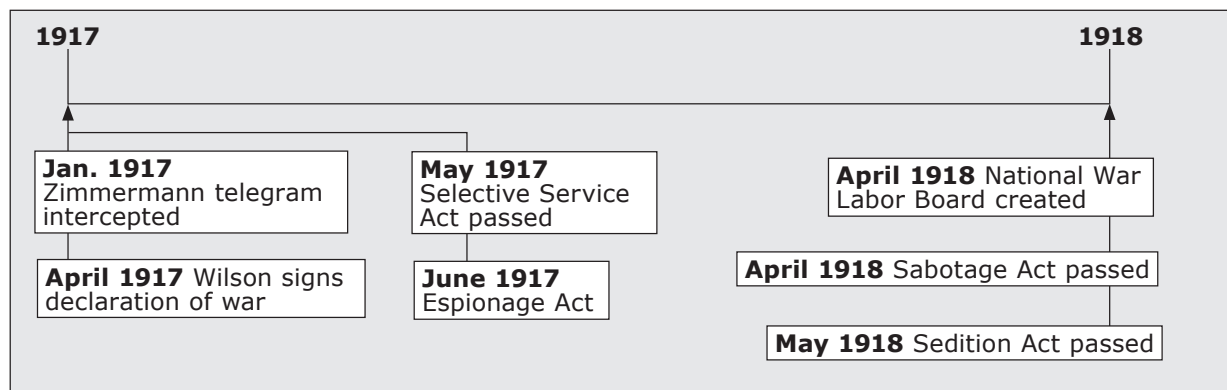
**ration** to limit use

**socialist** a person who believes industries should be publicly owned

**pacifist** a person who is opposed to the use of violence

**dissent** disagreement or opposition

### When did it happen?



### What do you know?

In the first column, answer the questions based on what you know before you study. After this lesson, complete the last column.

Now ...		Later ...
	How did World War I affect workers' rights?	
	What groups gained jobs during this time?	
	What groups opposed the war?	
	How did the government react to criticism of the war?	

## World War I

### Lesson 4 The War at Home, *Continued*

#### Mobilizing the Nation

The United States declared war on Germany in 1917, so the nation had to get ready. **Mobilization** is preparing for war by gathering troops and resources. This process changed American life.

The government set up the National War Labor Board to make sure that war materials were produced. The board also made sure workers making war materials would keep working. The board urged businesses to agree to some worker demands. If the demands were met, the workers agreed not to strike. Workers won the following rights:

• eight-hour work day

• overtime pay

• equal pay for women

• the right to form unions

The United States government sold war bonds to pay for the war. The government also raised taxes.

To produce war materials, industries needed to grow. However, millions of men left their jobs to serve in the armed forces. Immigration had also slowed. There were few immigrants to take jobs. As a result, there were not enough workers for industry to expand.

Many women had never worked outside the home before the war. This was a new opportunity for them. Women filled jobs that men left.

From 1914 to 1920, between 300,000 and 500,000 African Americans moved to the North. They came from the South looking for jobs. This became known as the Great Migration. In addition, thousands of Mexicans moved north looking for work.

The United States had to produce food for its citizens. It also had to feed the Allies. A new agency called the Food Administration urged farmers to grow more. The agency also asked the public to eat less. They encouraged voluntary **rationing** of food and other goods. Rationing is when the use of something is limited. In this case,



#### Identifying

1. What was the purpose of the National War Labor Board?

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#### Identifying

2. What new rights did workers gain?

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#### Listing

3. Name the three groups of people who filled the labor shortage.

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#### Summarizing

4. What did Americans have to do about food during the war?

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**World War I****Lesson 4** The War at Home, *Continued***Marking the Text**

5. Underline the sentence that describes how the CPI wanted people to see the war.

**Comparing**

6. How were the Food Administration and the Fuel Administration similar?

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**Evaluating**

7. Do you think people who opposed the war were un-American? Explain.

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Americans limited the amount of food they used. The Food Administration made sure there was enough food to send to the Allies.

Another agency, the War Industries Board, supervised the nation's industries. Many factories were needed to produce war-related goods. They had to stop making what they had been making before the war. The Board also set prices for certain products.

The government also created a Fuel Administration. It managed the nation's coal and oil. The Fuel Administration called for "Heatless Mondays" to save fuel. It also started daylight saving time.

Some Americans still did not think the United States should enter the war. President Wilson formed the Committee on Public Information or CPI. The CPI's job was to present the war as a fight for democracy and freedom. The Committee produced pamphlets, articles, and books in support of the war. Newspapers were given articles written by the government. The Committee also hired speakers, writers, artists, and actors who used their talents to build support for the war.

**Public Opinion and the War**

The war was good for the American economy, but it did have some harmful effects. The government tried to quiet people who were against the war. Some people began to reject those they saw as different.

Those Who Opposed the War	Why
Some German Americans and Irish Americans	They favored the Central Powers.
<b>Socialists</b> (people who believe industries should be owned by the public)	They thought the war would help rich business owners and hurt working people.
<b>Pacifists</b> (people who do not believe in the use of violence)	They were against the use of violence.

The CPI knew there was **dissent**, or opposition, to the war. They tried to silence this disagreement. The CPI made people seem un-American if they opposed the war.



**World War I****Lesson 4** The War at Home, *Continued*

The Espionage Act of 1917 set up laws and punishments for spying. A person who helped the enemy or interfered with Army recruiting could also be punished.

In 1918, Congress passed the Sabotage Act. It punished anyone who damaged or destroyed war materials. Congress also passed the Sedition Act to silence dissent. If a person said, wrote, or published anything that criticized the government, they could be punished. Thousands of people were punished under these laws.

New Laws	Purpose
The Espionage Act of 1917	to prevent people from spying or helping the enemy
the Sabotage Act of 1918	to punish people who destroyed war materials
the Sedition Act of 1918	to silence opposition to the war

Americans were used to speaking freely. Many people spoke out against these new laws. However, most Americans felt that, during a war, no law could be too harsh for traitors and disloyal Americans.

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**Check for Understanding**

**Define mobilization and list four ways it changed life in America.**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**How did the U.S. government react to opposition to the war at home?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Reading Check**

8. Why do you think Congress passed laws to punish people who criticized the government?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



9. Use a two-tab Foldable and cut the tabs in half to make four tabs. Place it along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Write the title *Describe the Purpose of ...* on the anchor tab. Label the four tabs *National War Labor Board, Food Administration, War Industries Board, and Fuel Administration*. Use both sides of the tabs to list words and phrases you remember about each. Use your Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.



**World War I**

**Lesson 5** Searching for Peace

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION**  
*Why does conflict develop?*

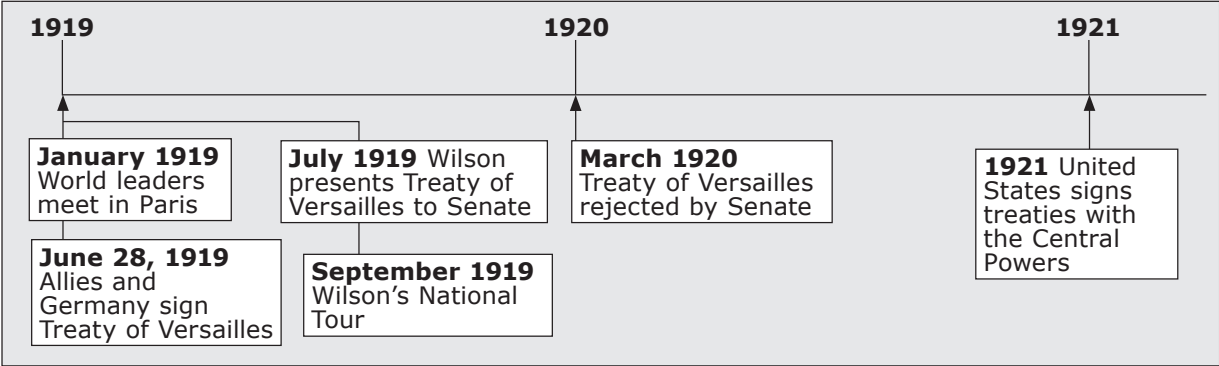
- GUIDING QUESTIONS**
- 1. *Why did the Allies oppose Wilson’s plan for peace?*
  - 2. *Why did the U.S. Senate reject the Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations?*

**Terms to Know**

**national self-determination** the right of people to decide how they should be governed

**reparation** payment for damages caused during a war

**When did it happen?**



**What do you know?**

In the first column, answer the questions based on what you know before you study. After this lesson, complete the last column.

Now ...		Later ...
	What was the purpose of President Wilson's Fourteen Points?	
	What was the goal of the League of Nations?	
	What countries were leaders in the Paris peace conference?	
	How did the U.S. Senate react to the Treaty of Versailles?	

## World War I

### Lesson 5 Searching for Peace, *Continued*

#### Making a Peace

In January 1919, world leaders from 27 nations came to Paris, France. They met for a peace conference after World War I. There were problems to solve. In Europe, France, Russia, Germany, and Austria-Hungary had each lost between 1 and 2 million dead. Millions more people were wounded. The war had destroyed towns and farms. Russia was having a civil war. Some European people were trying to form their own nations. At the same time, influenza, or the flu, killed millions of people around the world.

Woodrow Wilson wanted the world to have a fair and lasting peace. He described his peace plan in the Fourteen Points. The points included changing some countries' borders and making new nations. Wilson believed in **national self-determination**. He believed the people of these new nations should have the right to decide the kind of government they wanted for their nation. President Wilson also had ideas that could help nations get along with one another.

##### Some of Wilson's Fourteen Points

- Free trade among nations
- Free use of the seas
- No more secret treaties
- Limit weapons each nation may have
- Countries should peacefully settle conflicts over colonies
- Form League of Nations

Wilson's final, or last, idea was to create a League of Nations. Its purpose was to preserve peace and prevent future wars among member nations.

Many Europeans liked Wilson's ideas, but they worried that some of them were not complete. For example, in areas where several cultures were grouped together, there was no plan for how to make national self-determination work.

Neither Germany nor Russia sent leaders to the peace talks. They were not invited. Among those who attended were leaders from the United States, France, Great Britain, and Italy. They were called the Big Four.

#### ? Contrasting

1. How was the European war experience different from that of the United States?

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#### Marking the Text

2. Underline the sentence which describes the goal of Wilson's Fourteen Points.

#### ? Identifying

3. What problem did some Europeans find with Wilson's ideas?

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#### ? Listing

4. Which two nations did not send representatives to Paris? Why?

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## World War I

### Lesson 5 Searching for Peace, *Continued*



#### Reading Check

5. Why didn't Great Britain, France, and Italy support Wilson's Fourteen Points?

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#### Analyzing

6. Why do you think Great Britain and France wanted Germany to pay large reparations?

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#### Reading Check

7. Why did Wilson bring the Treaty of Versailles to the U.S. Senate?

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#### The Big Four

President <i>Woodrow Wilson</i>	United States
Prime Minister <i>David Lloyd George</i>	Great Britain
Premier <i>Georges Clemenceau</i>	France
Prime Minister <i>Vittorio Orlando</i>	Italy

Wilson did not want to punish defeated nations. The Europeans wanted revenge. They did not support Wilson.

Clemenceau and Lloyd George wanted Germany to make large **reparations**. Reparations are payments for damages caused by war. Clemenceau wanted Germany to be broken up into smaller countries. Wilson believed in his own ideas, but he finally had to give in to the Allies' demands.

On June 28, 1919, The Allies and Germany signed the Treaty of Versailles. It was harsh, but the Germans had no choice but to sign.

According to the treaty, Germany had to:

- pay billions of dollars in reparations to the Allies
- completely disarm
- give up overseas colonies
- give up some land in Europe.

The treaty also broke up the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Empires. It made new nations and brought back old ones. These actions allowed the people in the new areas to have national self-determination, but there would be trouble later. Wilson's League of Nations remained in the treaty. He felt it would be able to correct any mistakes in the rest of the treaty.

### Opposition at Home

In July 1919, Wilson brought the Treaty of Versailles to the U.S. Senate. They would have to approve it before Wilson could sign it. But some Americans had objections.

#### The main American objections:

- The Treaty was too hard on Germany.
- The League of Nations would keep America involved in the problems of other nations.

**World War I****Lesson 5** Searching for Peace, *Continued*

Wilson was a Democrat, but the Republicans controlled the Senate. Some of the senators wanted to embarrass Wilson and his party by not approving the treaty. Other senators did not agree with parts of the treaty, especially the League of Nations. A few would not sign any treaty at all.

Henry Cabot Lodge was a powerful senator. He headed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Lodge was also an enemy of Wilson. He wanted the treaty to limit the United States' promises to other nations.

Senator Lodge did the following:

- He argued that if the United States joined the League of Nations, other nations might order the United States to go to war.
- He delayed a vote on the treaty to give time for other opponents to speak.
- He proposed changes to the treaty to limit obligations of the United States.

In September 1919, Wilson went on a national tour to gather support for the treaty. When he came back he was too ill to fight for it.

In March 1920, the Senate finally voted to reject the Treaty of Versailles. Over the next year, the United States signed a different treaty with each of the Central Powers. The United States never joined the League of Nations.

//////////Glue Foldable here//////////

**Check for Understanding**

**What did Wilson do to promote the Treaty of Versailles?**

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**Why do you think his efforts failed?**

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**Reading Check**

- 8.** Why did Republicans oppose the Treaty of Versailles?

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- 9.** Use a two-tab Foldable and place it along the dotted line to cover Check for Understanding. Label the anchor tab *Treaty of Versailles*. On the left tab, write the question *Who signed it and why?* On the right tab, write the question *Who did not sign it and why?* Use both sides of the tabs to answer the questions about the Treaty of Versailles. Use your Foldable to help answer Check for Understanding.