

# Y8 History Knowledge Organiser: Unit 2- World War One 1914-1918

**Key words:**

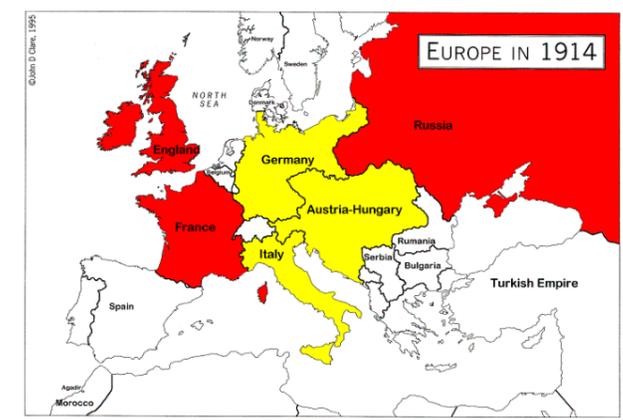
<b>World War One</b>	A global conflict involving the main European Powers and their empires from August 1914 to November 1918.
<b>Long term cause</b>	<b>Factors / causes which happen a long time before an event takes place.</b>
<b>Short term cause</b>	<b>Factors/causes which happen just before an event takes place—usually a catalyst</b>
<b>Militarism</b>	An emphasis on military ideals and strength. Wanting your country to have a strong army and navy.
<b>Alliances</b>	A group of countries who promise to support and protect each other. Rival groups have rival alliances.
<b>Imperialism</b>	The desire to conquer colonies, especially in Africa. This brought the powers into conflict: Germany wanted an empire. France and Britain already had empires.
<b>Nationalism</b>	The belief that your country is better than others. This made nations assertive and aggressive

**Alliances:**

For a number of years tension between the main European powers has been increasing. In 1914 there were two main power blocks / alliances:

- **The Triple Entente**- Great Britain / France / Russia
- **The Triple Alliance**- Germany / Italy and Austria-Hungary

Each member promised to help its allies if they were attacked by a country belonging to another alliance.



**Long term causes of WW1: Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism, Nationalism**

**European countries Empires in 1914.**

	Population of country	Population of colonies	Area in km <sup>2</sup> of colonies
Great Britain	40.8 million	390 million	27 million
France	39.6 million	63 million	11 million
Germany	63 million	15 million	2.5 million
Austria	50 million	none	none
Russia	139 million	none	none

**European Military spending and the size of their armies, 1913 - 14.**

Country	Soldiers	Money spent in millions.
Britain	750,000	50,000,000
France	1,500,000	40,000,000
Germany	8,250,000	60,000,000
Austria	750,000	22,500,000
Russia	1,250,000	15,500,000
Italy	750,000	10,000,000

**What were the Great Powers concerned about in 1914?**

- Britain: Germany's growing military and naval strength. Germany was also producing more goods.
- Germany: Jealousy of Britain. Fear of having hostile neighbours (France and Russia).
- Russia: Rivalry with Austria-Hungary. Russia was keen to increase its influence in the Balkans.
- Austria Hungary: Many regions in the Empire wanted their independence. Russia was prepared to support these regions. Huge rivalry with Russia.
- Italy: To try and remain neutral in the event of a major European war.
- France: Wanted revenge after losing an earlier war to Germany and losing the territory of Alsace-Lorraine

**Short term consequences: Events of 28 June 1914 in Sarajevo:**

**Archduke Franz Ferdinand**

- A member of the Austrian Royal Family - nephew of Emperor Franz Josef
- Heir to the Austrian throne (next in line to be the Emperor / ruler of Austria-Hungary)
- Not very well liked in Austria
- Married to Sophie and had three Children
- Was sent on a Royal tour to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia – a county which Austria has just taken over.
- Assassinated on June 28, 1914 by Gavrillo Princip

**Gavrilo Princip**

- Gavrilo Princip was born in Bosnia in 1894, the son of a postman.
- He became a member of the Black Hand – a Serbian terrorist organisation which wanted to hurt Austria and get it out of Bosnia.
- Planned to assassinate Franz Ferdinand

**Timeline of 1914 – events leading up to the start of WW1**

**June 28** - Archduke Franz Ferdinand, prince to the Austria-Hungary throne, is assassinated in Sarajevo by a Serbian named Gavrilo Princip.

**July 23** - Austria-Hungary demands Serbia pay for the assassination of Franz Ferdinand. Serbia does not meet these demands.

**July 28** - Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia. Russia begins mobilizing its troops.

**August 1** - Germany declares war on Russia.

**August 3** - Germany declares war on France as part of the Schlieffen Plan.

**August 4** - Germany invades Belgium. Britain declares war on Germany.

**August 23 to 30** - The Battle of Tannenberg is fought between Germany and Russia. The Germans defeat the Russian Second Army.

**September 5 to 12** - The advancing German army is stopped before Paris by the British and French at the First Battle of the Marne. The Germans dig in and four years of trench warfare begins.

**What was the BEF?**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1914 war was declared. The British government send the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) led by General French to France to stop the German invasion. The 70,000 strong force quick arrived in northern France and met the Germans at the city of Mons in Belgium. The BEF were heavily outnumbered by 160,000 German troops. However, the British were well trained and were able to slow the advancing Germans.

**What was the Schlieffen Plan?**

- The plan was the work of the German army chief-of-staff Alfred von Schlieffen.
- It took nine years to devise - it was started in 1897, presented in 1905, and revised in 1906.
- It was a plan to win a war fighting against both France and Russia
- The plan imagined a huge hammer-blow at Paris, using 90 per cent of the German army, swinging down through Belgium and northern France, to take out France in a quick, decisive campaign.
- It was a plan of attack - for Germany, mobilisation and war were the same thing.
- It was Germany's only plan for war.
- It failed because the Germans were slowed down by the French and British and they failed to capture Paris.

# Y8 History Knowledge Organiser: Unit 2- World War One 1914-1918

## Recruitment and propaganda:

When war broke out, Britain had a small army of around 250,000 professional soldiers. Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War told the government that Britain needed at least one million men. The government began a massive recruitment drive. It set up recruitment offices in every town and city, it commissioned posters and pamphlets urging young men to join up. The campaign was hugely successful.

There was a frenzy of enthusiasm. Football teams and bus depots joined up together entering the army in 'Pals Battalions'. No one, it seemed, wanted to be left out. In the first month over 500,000 men had signed up. By March 1916 over 2.5 million men had volunteered to join 'Kitchener's Army'.

## Why did men volunteer to fight?

- To fight alongside friends and family
- Duty to defend the King and Country
- To avenge the deeds of the enemy
- Fear of being seen as a coward
- For better money or wages.
- To learn a trade or skill

## Pals Battalions:

In September 1914, Lord Kitchener, British war secretary, was put in charge of recruiting more volunteer soldiers to help fight in the trenches. By the end of September, 175,000 men between the ages of 19 and 38 were recruited and were grouped together depending on where they lived or worked. Therefore most of the men in these 'Pals Battalions' were close friends.

## Conscientious objectors

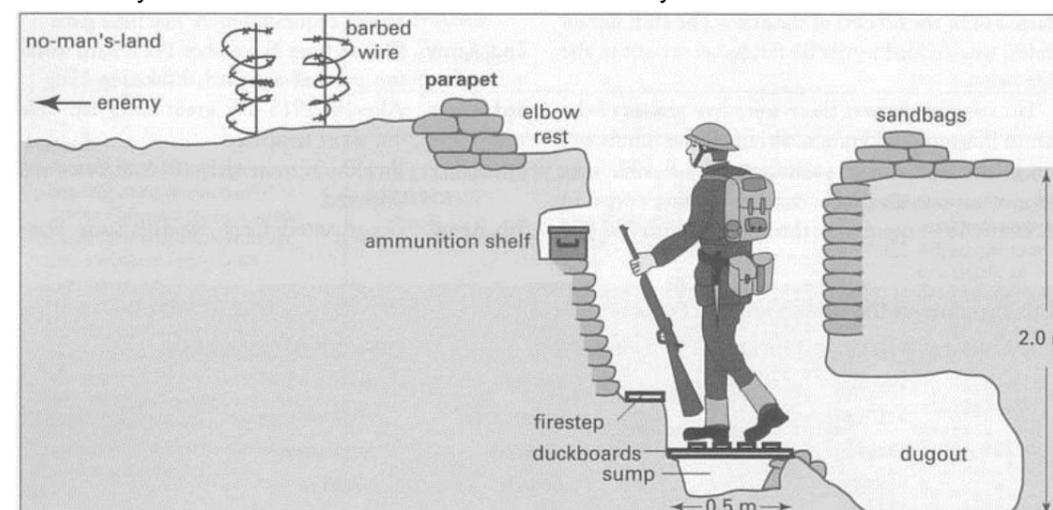
Conscientious objectors are people who refused to fight or be involved with war. There were over 16,000 conscientious objectors in Britain. These 'conchies' or 'Cuthberts' (as they were often nicknamed) had many different reasons for refusing to fight:

- Some were pacifists who were against war in general.
- Some people felt the war was wrong or thought it went against their conscience or personal beliefs.
- Some were political objectors who did not consider the government of Germany to be their enemy
- Some were religious objectors who believed that war and fighting was against their religion. Groups in this section were the Quakers and Jehovah Witnesses.
- Some were 'absolutists' who refused to have anything to do with the war and would not participate in any activity even related to fighting such as munitions.

Many of these COs decided to go before special courts to ask to be excused from military service. The courts turned down most of these requests, believing that those asking for exemption were cowards. Those who were allowed to avoid joining the armed forces were normally only able to do so if they agreed to do other war work on the battle fields that did not involve directly fighting the enemy such as serving as ambulance men or messengers.

## Trenches:

Trenches were long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived all day and night. **Trenches were long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived all day and night.** In the middle, was **No Man's Land**, so-called because it did not belong to either army. Soldiers crossed No Man's Land when they wanted to attack the other side.



## Life in the trenches:

Soldiers in the trenches did not get much sleep. When they did, it was in the afternoon during daylight and at night only for an hour at a time. They were woken up at different times, either to complete one of their daily chores or to fight. During rest time, they wrote letters and sometimes played card games.

The trenches could be very muddy and smelly. There were many dead bodies buried nearby and the latrines (toilets) sometimes overflowed into the trenches. Millions of rats infested the trenches and some grew as big as cats. There was also a big problem with lice that tormented the soldiers on a daily basis.

## Problems in the trenches:

- **Trench foot:** The wet and muddy conditions in the trenches caused feet to swell up and go black. The flesh would go rotten and the soldiers would be in terrible pain.
- **Lice:** The trenches did not have running water or showers, so soldiers found it very hard to keep clean. They soon became infected with lice that lived on all parts of their bodies.
- **Rats:** The dirty conditions and the lack of storage attracted rats to the trenches. The rats ate the soldiers' rations and crawled all over them when they slept. They carried diseases.
- **Toilets:** There was no running water or sewage pipes in the trenches. This meant that proper toilets could not be fitted.

## Weapons used during World War One

Task find out what each weapon did during the war.

**Rifles.** All nations **used** more than **one** type of firearm **during the First WorldWar.** ...

**Machine guns**

Flamethrowers..

Mortars.

Artillery.

Poison gas.

Tanks.

Aircraft