**World War I Station Activity**

A variety of powerful forces – including growing nationalism, a tangle of alliances, and decades of rivalry and competition – created conditions that transformed a single assassination into a worldwide world. After years of unprecedented bloodshed and political upheaval, the warring nations finally reached an uneasy peace.

**Station One – WWI Timeline**

WWI occurred from 1914-1917 and was fought over several different continents and countries.

Directions: Fill in the timeline below using the following website: http://bit.ly/ww1intertimeline

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Event** | **Guided Questions** |
| June 28, 1914 |  | **How did Nationalism lead to the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand?** |
| August 1, 1914 – August 29, 1914 |  | **According to the video, what was the role of alliances in the first 30 days of WWI?** |
| February 4, 1915 |  | **How did submarine warfare threaten the freedom of other nations?** |
| July 9, 1915  September 28, 1915 |  | **What role did the colonies play in the war effort?** |
| March 1, 1917 |  | **How does Germany get the United States to enter the war?** |
| April 6, 1917 |  | **What did Wilson mean when he said that the world must be made “safe for democracy”?** |

**Station Two – WWI Timeline Continued**

WWI occurred from 1914-1917 and was fought over several different continents and countries.

Directions: Fill in the timeline below using the following website: http://bit.ly/ww1intertimeline

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Event** | **Guided Questions** |
| April 16, 1917  November 7, 1917 |  | **Why did the Bolshevik’s seize power over the Russian government?** |
| May 25, 1917 |  | **What does “total war” mean?** |
| January 8, 1918 |  | **What did Wilson’s Fourteen Points peace plan include?** |
| November 11, 1918 |  | **What were the intentions of the armistice that that the Allies presented to the Germans?** |
| February 14, 1919 |  | **What was the purpose of the League of Nations?** |
| July 9, 1919 |  | **What was the result of the Treaty of Versailles?** |

**Station Three – Total War**

Use the excerpts below to come to a conclusion on the definition of total war. Total war was a tactic used by all nations during WWI.

**Excerpt #1 - A New Kind of War**

World War One was like no other war before in history. The main theatre of war, the Western Front, was deadlocked from a few months after the war's start in 1914 until a few months before its end in 1918, stretching in a continuous line of trenches from the English Channel to the Swiss frontier. By 1916 the forces of Germany, France and the British Empire, armies millions of men strong, measured advances in terms of a few miles gained over several months. This was not the kind of war that anyone, including the politicians and generals who directed it, wanted to fight.

This was a demonstration of the strength, resilience and killing power of modern states.

What made World War One so different was the long-term impact of the Industrial Revolution, with its accompanying political and social changes. The war was also fought at a high point of patriotism and belief in the existing social hierarchy; beliefs that the war itself helped destroy, and that the modern world finds very hard to understand.

More than a century before, the French Revolution of 1789 had seen the first attempts to harness citizenship and patriotism to a national war effort. In the ideology of revolutionary France, young men were conscripted into the armed forces as part of their duty as citizens, but the remaining population was also expected to make personal sacrifices for the war, blurring the distinction between civilian and soldier.

Known at first as 'People's War', this idea developed in the 19th century as part of a growing sense of national identity. By the middle of World War One it was known as **'Total War'** - the organization of entire societies for war in a social, economic, and even spiritual sense. There were, of course, protests and debates, but the vast majority of people fought in World War One, or supported it with the 'Home Front' because they believed that victory for their own country was worth the cost.

**What made World War I different from previous wars in World History?**

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**After reading Excerpt #1, what is your definition of Total War?**

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**Excerpt #2 - Everyone’s A Target**

"… the Germans did something new. They opened cylinders of poison gas to try to break through the defensive strength of the allies on the other side. French and Canadian troops were hit by this gas, or chlorine gas, and were terrified. These are men without really any protection against this because it never happened before. These weren't shells, these were cylinders that had been lined up, and when the German troops thought that the wind was blowing the right way, the cloud opened – it looked very much like a green cloud – and the people who didn't escape from it would have their lungs burned out and die an awful death.

"Now, that moment is very important in understanding how the war that so many people joined up to fight turned into something much worse.

"It's important for a whole series of reasons. One, is that gas warfare is another level of brutality, another level of violence that until that point, had not been available to either side. And once it became available to one side, it was used by both.

"This made the fight unfair, because if you couldn't get out of a trench, if you couldn't flee, if you couldn't surrender, then there is a different nature to battle and confrontation. That is extermination, not combat, because a soldier cannot surrender.

"If he has no protection against the gas, he will simply suffocate and die miserably.

"The nature of that kind of war opens up the whole issue of whether this conflict began with a degree of understanding about what the limits of violence were, and, slowly but surely those limits were pushed and pushed until they didn't exist anymore. So that by the end of 1915, you could say that everyone in each combatant country was at risk. No one was safe. Everyone was a target.

"The first of those steps was the bombardment of civilian populations through zeppelins. This is something that brought home to the civilian population that they, too, were on the firing line. A kindergarten in the east of London was not what the zeppelins aimed at, but given the time, it's not surprising that they killed children.

"It is in 1915, that this kind of war was born, and the best way to understand it and its horrifying character, is to call it total war."

**What new war tactics were used during World War I?**

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**After reading Excerpt #2, what is your definition of Total War?  
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**Excerpt #3 - Women’s Contribution to the War Effort**

**Many women found the war a genuinely liberating experience.**

"It was very important to them that they were actually supporting the war effort, although lots of them didn't really think much about what the war was about. They knew that their friends, relations, husbands, sons were abroad. They were dying. There was a shell shortage. And they felt they really could do something to support the war effort. It was very exciting for a lot of them.

"There were two main dangers to women munitions workers. The first was simply from explosions. Obviously, if you're working with all these dangerous materials it's very important to keep all sparks, or possibility of sparks, away from the area. And there were several big explosions in various factories around the country, the biggest one being Silvertown, and women were killed. It's very difficult to know quite how many women were killed because all this was subject to censorship during the war.

**Women knew that they were important to the war.**

"The whole atmosphere of the war was also *quite different from earlier wars. Its scale meant that it affected food supplies. It affected supplies of all kinds of goods in this country. It was quite obvious that women had to fulfill a new role in all sorts of jobs or the war couldn't have been fought*.

"I think the way they actually coped with the fact they were making weapons of death varied from woman to woman. Some of them just cut it off from their home experience. They didn't want to think about it. *Others actually felt they were making things that would bring the war to a close much faster*."

**What role did women play in World War I?**

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**After reading Excerpt #3, what is your definition of total war?**

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**After reading all three excerpts, what is your definition of total war drawing evidence from ALL three excerpts?**

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**Station Four - Trench Warfare Simulation**

Trench warfare was an unpleasant experience - soldiers were often, cold, hungry, and wet. The trenches filled up with water and bred sickness. When soldiers were ordered over the top they entered “no-man’s land” and could expect a barrage of machine gun fire and artillery.

Directions: Go to the following link: http://bit.ly/trenchwarfaresimul to play the trench warfare simulation game - be sure to pick your weapons wisely! When you finish answer the questions below.

1. Which weapons did you pick? Why did you pick these weapons? Were they effective?
2. Were your missions successful? Why or why not?

**Station Five - Propaganda**

Propaganda was used during WWI to sway public opinion in favor of the war, government initiatives, and increase patriotism during the war.

Directions: Using the information about propaganda located on your table analyze ONE of the WWI propaganda poster’s and answer the guided questions provided. Share out your analysis below with your group!

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title of Poster** | **Country of Origin** | **Objective of Poster** | **Propaganda Tactic and Evidence** |
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When you finish:Use Canva ([www.canva.com](http://www.canva.com)) create your own Propaganda poster for either the U.S., Great Britain, or Germany. Pick an objective for your poster and use at LEAST TWO tactics. Download your poster as a PDF and then submit using the following link: http://bit.ly/wwonepropaganda

**Analyzing Wartime Propaganda**

**Common Objectives of Wartime Propaganda**

1.       To recruit soldiers, either through a draft or voluntary enlistment.

2.       To finance the war effort through the sale of war bonds (loans from citizens to the government) or through taxes.

3.       To eliminate dissent and unify the country behind the war effort.

4.       To conserve resources – such as food, oil, and steel – necessary for the war.

5.       To increase participation in organizations to support the war effort.

**Common Tactics used in Wartime Propaganda**

* **Demonization**
  + Portrays the enemy as purely evil, menacing, murderous, and aggressive. The propagandist attempts to remove all confusion about who the public should hate. The enemy may be portrayed as a hairy beast or as the devil himself. This tool becomes more powerful when the enemy can be blamed for committing atrocities against women, children, or other noncombatants.
* **Emotional Appeal**
  + Plays on people’s emotions to promote the war effort. Since fear is a very strong emotion, propagandists create their work based on the premise that the more a communication frightens a person, the more likely he or she is to take action.
* **Name Calling**
  + Using labels to encourage hatred of the enemy. For example, using a label like “Huns” to compare the Germans to an earlier vicious group of attackers reinforces a negative stereotype and assists propagandists in demonizing the enemy.
* **Patriotic Appeals**
  + Uses patriotic language or symbols to appeal to viewer’s national pride.
* **Half-Truths or Lies**
  + Uses deceptions or twisting the truth. The propagandist may attempt to include some element of truth in the propaganda to make an argument more persuasive. For example, assigning the enemy complete responsibility for the war and portraying one’s own country as a victim of aggression.
* **Catchy Slogans**
  + Uses memorable phrases to encourage support for the war effort. For example, short phrases like “Remember the Maine!” have been very successful in motivating Americans to support war.
* **Evocative Visual Symbols**
  + Uses symbols that appeal to people’s emotions – like flags, statues, mothers, children, and enemy uniforms – to promote the war effort.
* **Humor or Caricatures**
  + Captures the viewer’s attention through the use of humor or great exaggeration to promote the war effort. The enemy is almost always the butt of the jokes used by propagandists.