

Y9 History Knowledge Organiser: Unit 1- World War One 1914-1918

Key words:	
World War One	A global conflict involving the main European Powers and their empires from August 1914 to November 1918.
Long term cause	Factors / causes which happen a long time before an event takes place.
Short term cause	Factors/causes which happen just before an event takes place – usually a catalyst
Alliances	A group of countries who promise to support and protect each other. Rival groups have rival alliances.

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.



Short term Causes

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.

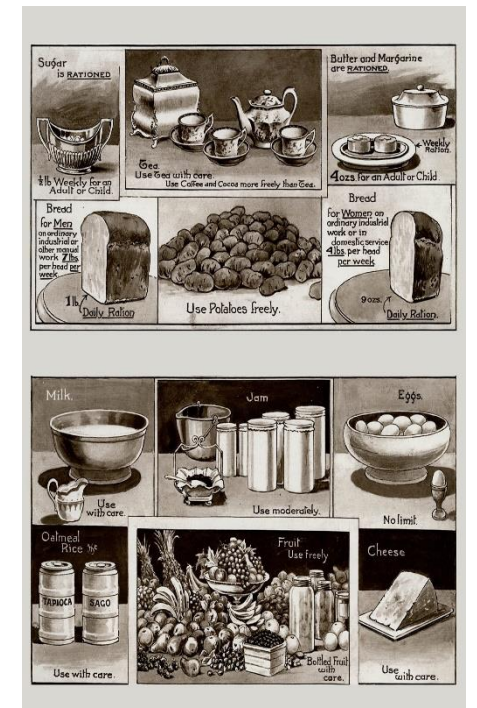
Assassinated on June 28, 1914 by Gavrillo Princip

Life on the Home Front:

Britain relied on a lot of food from abroad. However, German U-boats were sinking a lot of British ships.

- The British Government encouraged people to 'avoid waste' and grow their own food.
- Gardens and public parks were turned into allotments.
- Football pitches and tennis courts were dug up and planted with vegetables.

Food was also rationed.



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

Women

From 1915, women were needed to do the jobs left by men. 1 million drove trams, trains and buses. 750,000 worked in offices. There were women shopkeepers, postal workers and police officers.

Women could now join the army. from 1917 women could join: Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS), Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) or the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF). Women did not fight but performed vital support jobs such as clerks, drivers, cooks, engineers, signallers, telephone operators and de-coders.

The most important work done by women was in the munitions factories making shells and explosives. Workers here would suffer from TNT poisoning and were nicknamed Canaries as their skin turned yellow.

As food became harder to find, the government started recruiting land girls to work on the farms. By 1918 250,000 women were working on the land.

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.
- **Gas:** Gas attacks could damage soldiers' lungs and skin
- **Shellshock:** This was caused by the constant noise in the trenches. It would cause nervous exhaustion.



The Treaty of Versailles

The Germans lost the war and were forced to sign the treaty. They were really unhappy because...

- They had a really small army to protect themselves
- They had no money left after the war – paying back all the money would lead to people starving
- Germany had to give land to Britain and France – this wasn't fair
- Germany didn't see why they had to take all of the blame – other countries had been involved.

