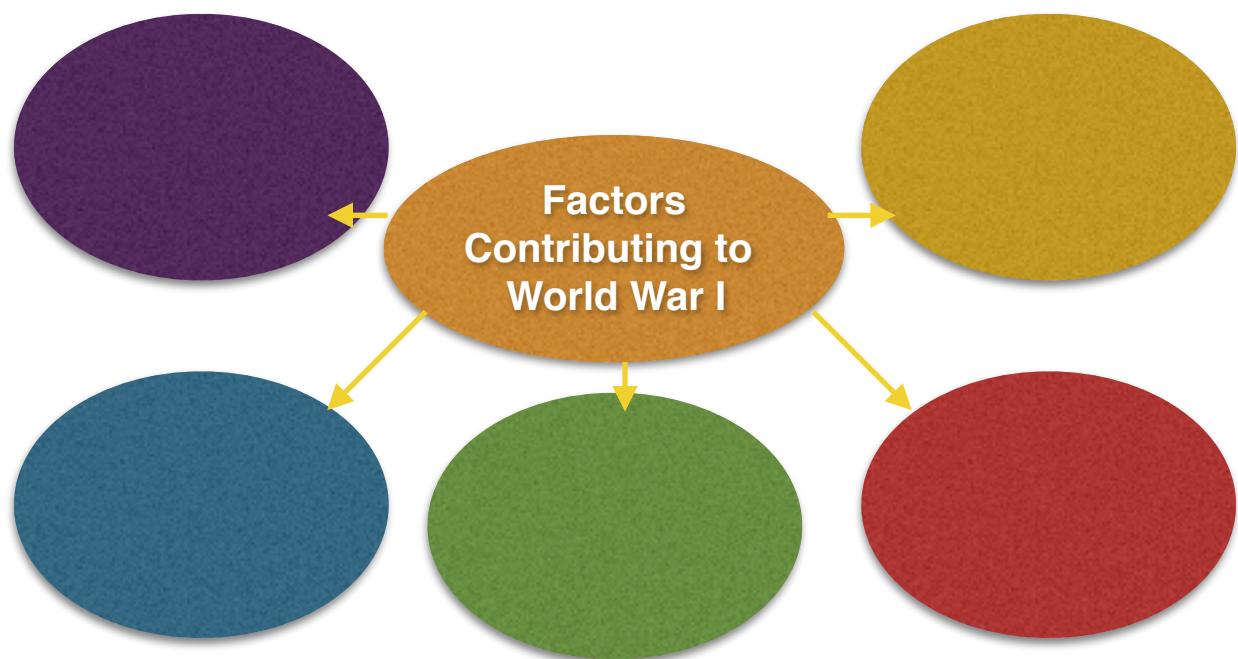


A Bloody Conflict

Big Idea

As you read through these passages, complete this graphic organizer by listing some kinds of warfare and technology used in the fighting.



Combat in World War I

Making Inferences

Explain why the land between the trenches was called “no man’s land.”

During World War I, troops began using powerful artillery guns that hurled huge explosive shells long distances. They also used machine guns. Troops dug trenches to protect themselves from artillery. On the Western Front, troops dug a network of trenches that stretched from the English Channel to the Swiss border. The space between the opposing trenches became known as “no-man’s-land.” Soldiers from either side would race across no-man’s-land while trying to dodge gunfire. Once across, they battled the enemy with grenades, bayonets, and sometimes even their fists. Combat was often brutal.

Both sides developed new technologies. The Germans began using poison gas. The fumes caused vomiting, blindness, and suffocation. The Allies also began using poison gas, and gas masks became necessary equipment. The British introduced the tank, which could roll over barbed wire and trenches. Airplanes were first used in World War I, first to observe enemy activities and then to shoot down German zeppelins and bomb enemy lines. Eventually, aircraft were used to shoot down other aircraft in air battles known as dogfights.

The Americans Arrive

Determining Cause and Effect

Write one effect of each cause.

1. Cause: U.S. ships traveled in convoys.

Effect:

2. Cause: Russia left World War I.

Effect:

About 2 million American soldiers fought in World War I. Although mostly inexperienced, they boosted the morale of the Allied forces. The admiral of the U.S. Navy suggested that merchant ships and troop transports headed for Europe be gathered in groups called convoys. Warships escorted the convoys. This system reduced shipping and troop losses.

In March 1917, riots broke out in Russia and its leader stepped down. A temporary government was unable to deal with the country's major problems. The Bolshevik Party led by Vladimir Lenin overthrew the Russian government. Lenin immediately pulled Russia out of the war, allowing Germany to concentrate its troops on the Western Front.

Germany launched a massive attack and pushed deeply into Allied lines. American and French troops twice blocked German drives on Paris. In September of 1918, American troops began a huge offensive against the Germans. By November, the Americans had destroyed the German defenses and pushed a hole in the German lines. Finally, on November 11, 1918, Germany signed an armistice, or cease-fire, that ended the war.

A Flawed Peace

Analyzing Information

List reasons why this lesson is called "A Flawed Peace."

The peace conference started in January 1919 at the Palace of Versailles in France. The resulting treaty was called the Treaty of Versailles. The main people involved, known as the Big Four, were leaders of the Allied nations. President Wilson made a plan for peace known as the Fourteen Points. Five points sought to eliminate the causes of war. Eight addressed the right to **national self-determination**. The final point called for the formation of a League of Nations to keep peace and prevent future wars. The other Allied governments believed Wilson's plan was too easy on the Germans.

The Treaty of Versailles included many terms to weaken and punish Germany. It reduced Germany's military and forced it to pay **reparations**, or war damages. The war led to the end of the Russian, Ottoman, German, and Austro-Hungarian empires and the establishment of several new nations. The Treaty of Versailles did include Wilson's plan for the League of Nations, but many U.S. Congress members opposed it for that reason. They believed it would force the United States into many conflicts. After voting twice, the U.S. Senate refused to ratify the treaty. The League of Nations started without the United States.

Section Wrap-Up

Answer these questions to check your understanding of the entire section.

1. What fighting techniques were used in World War I?

2. What was the American response to the Treaty of Versailles?

World War I Begins

World War I Begins

Making Inferences

Reforming Government

Distinguishing Fact from Opinion

Suffrage

Comparing and Contrasting

Reforming Society

Problems and Solutions

Section Wrap-Up

Answer these questions to check your understanding of the entire section.