



St John Fisher RC Primary School

Year 6 Knowledge Organiser – Spring One - History

What we will be learning

I know:

- **Week 1: Causes of World War 1** - In the first week, we will explore the reasons why World War 1 started. We will learn about the major causes, such as nationalism, alliances, and imperialism. Students will listen to stories about countries getting angry with each other and how these feelings led to war.
- **Week 2: Key Countries Involved** - Which countries fought in the war. We will focus on the Allies, such as Britain, France, and Russia, and the Central Powers, including Germany and Austria-Hungary. The students will create a map to show where these countries are located.
- **Week 3: Trench Warfare** - Trench warfare and how soldiers lived and fought in trenches. Students will learn about the harsh conditions and why this type of fighting was used. We will read diary entries from soldiers to understand their feelings.
- **Week 4: Major Battles** - Important battles like the Battle of the Somme and how they changed the course of the war. Students will work in groups to present what they learned about a specific battle.
- **Week 5: How the War Ended** - How World War 1 ended in 1918. Students will learn about the Treaty of Versailles and what it meant for the countries involved.
- **Week 6: The Legacy of the War** - The legacy of World War 1. We will talk about how the war changed countries, borders, and lives. Students will reflect on what they think is the most important lesson to learn from this history.

World War 1 - Key Facts to Remember

- **Start and End:** World War 1 began on 28th July 1914 and ended on 11th November 1918. It lasted for four years.
- **Causes:** The war started because of many reasons, including the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria.
- **Major countries involved:** The main countries in the war were the Allies, like the United Kingdom, France, and Russia, and the Central Powers, which included Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire.
- **New Technology:** This war saw the use of new weapons like tanks, machine guns, and airplanes that changed how battles were fought.
- **Trench Warfare:** Many soldiers fought from trenches, which were long, deep ditches. Conditions were very tough and often muddy.
- **Number of Soldiers:** Around 65 million soldiers were involved in the war from different countries.
- **Key Battles:** Some important battles included the Battle of the Somme and the Battle of Verdun, which were very deadly.
- **End of Empires:** After the war, some large empires, like the Austro-Hungarian Empire, ended, leading to new countries forming.
- **Treaty of Versailles:** The war officially ended with the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, which set peace terms.
- **Impact on Society:** World War 1 changed many aspects of life, including roles for women, as they took on jobs traditionally held by men who went to fight.

Key Vocabulary and Glossary

- **Allies:** The countries that fought together against the Central Powers during World War 1, including Britain, France, and Russia. They worked as a team to win the war.
- **Central Powers:** The main countries that opposed the Allies. This group included Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria.
- **Battle of the Somme:** A major battle that took place in 1916. It was one of the bloodiest battles in history, with many soldiers losing their lives.
- **Armistice:** An agreement to stop fighting. The Armistice on 11 November 1918 ended World War 1 and is remembered each year in Britain as Remembrance Day.
- **Propaganda:** Information used to influence people's opinions about the war. Governments created posters and films to encourage support for the war effort.
- **No Man's Land:** The dangerous area between opposing trenches, where no soldiers could safely walk because of gunfire.
- **Chemical Warfare:** The use of poisonous gases, such as mustard gas, as weapons during battles, causing terrible injuries to soldiers.

Key Knowledge: Key People of World War 1

- **Ferdinand Foch** - Foch was a French general who became the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces. His leadership helped to plan successful battles that contributed to ending the war.
- **Woodrow Wilson** - Wilson was the President of the United States. He played a key role in bringing America into the war and later helped to create the peace treaty at the end.
- **David Lloyd George** - Lloyd George was the British Prime Minister who took charge during the war. He focused on improving supplies for soldiers and led Britain to victory.
- **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** - Archduke Franz Ferdinand was a prince of Austria who was assassinated in 1914, leading to World War I.

Chief Events of World War I, 1914–18

