

The Battle of the Somme

- 1st July – 18th Nov 1916.
- It took place in France.
- One of the most devastating events of WWI.
- Over one million soldiers died.
- 19 000 British soldiers were killed on the first day of battle.



The Great War.



Key vocabulary

Need to know	Nice to know	Super-specialist
trench	ceasefire	armistice
poison gas	colony	Ypres
machine gun	assassinated	Somme
tank	declare	Austria-Hungary
invade	artillery	Ottoman Empire
ration	trench foot	treaty
poetry	dugouts	Lord Kitchener
letters	periscope	bombing raids
camouflage	assault	biplane
alliance	khaki	zeppelin
no mans land	front line	u boat
battleship	shell shock	commonwealth
rats	lice	

Learning Journey—In history, children will learn about the events that triggered world war 1, as well as studying the conditions soldier lived under when fighting in trenches on the western front. They will examine the artistic contributions of soldiers from the first world war and how technology advanced in this period.

In geography, they will study the countries involved both in Europe and globally. We will also make links to our work using maps.

Main Participating Countries

Allied Countries		Central Powers	
Country	Flag	Country	Flag
France		Germany	
United Kingdom		Austria-Hungary	
Italy		Ottoman Empire (Modern Turkey)	
Russia		Bulgaria	
U.S.A			

Major Events		
Event	Description	Date
Archduke Franz Ferdinand is assassinated	Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria is assassinated by a Serbian terrorist. Following a number of threats, Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia.	28 th June 1914 28 th July 1914
Other nations begin to join the war	Germany declares war on Russia in support of Austria-Hungary before declaring war on France. Following a German invasion of Belgium, Britain declares war on Germany.	August 1914
Trench Warfare	The German army is stopped short of Paris by British and French soldiers. Both sides dig in and trench warfare begins with only tiny gains achieved.	September 1914 before continuing throughout
America joins the war	The United States of America declares war on Germany, providing France and Britain with much needed financial and military support.	April 1917
Russia leaves the war	Following a revolution in Russia that sees new leaders, Russia signs an armistice that sees them withdraw from the war.	December 1917
Fighting comes to an end	An armistice is agreed that sees Germany admit defeat at the end of the war. Guns officially fall silent at 11am.	11 th November 1918



Soldiers' Equipment and Uniforms

British infantrymen were equipped with some of the most cutting-edge equipment available during the war. Their equipment included:

- the Lee Enfield rifle, which was famously accurate;
- putties (long rolls of material) wrapped around the lower legs to keep them dry;
- webbing around their torso which carried much of their equipment, including a water bottle, bayonet, ammunition and rations;
- khaki, or camouflage-coloured, uniforms meant that the British were less visible to the enemy among the mud and grass.

The Trenches

- Trenches were dug out of the land to protect the soldiers.
- Soldiers would sleep and rest in the trenches as well as eat their meals.
- The trenches were very dirty and wet. They were often filled with rats!



Links to prior learning:

Geography: Countries and continents, ordinance survey map.

Science: forces, human body, nutrition and health, light, sound and electricity.

History: First world war, British Empire; Slavery; Victorians; black history month,

RE: Christianity and Judaism.

Recommended texts:

WW1

Where the poppies grow now, Hilary Robinson and Martin Impey; **The story of world war one**, Richard Brassey; **Archie's War**, Marcia Williams; **Stories of the First world war**, Jim Eldridge; **Frightful first world war**, Terry Deary; **Private Peaceful**, Michael Morpurgo; **DK findout! World war 1**.

WW2

Letters from the lighthouse, Emma Carroll; **Carrie's War**, Nina Bawden; **The lion and the unicorn**, Shirley Hughes; **My secret war diary**, Flossie Albright; **Tail -end Charlie**, Mick Manning; **Woeful Second World War**, Terry Deary; **The Blitzed Brits**, Terry Deary; **Jet the rescue dog**, David Long; **When Hitler stole pink rabbit**, Judith Kerr.

Links to future learning:

Further learning:

Science: Scientists and inventions.

Geography: Effects of colonialism in Africa and Asia.

History: European history post 1945, Cold war.

English/Art: How propaganda or advertising can be used to influence behaviour.

Online resources

https://kids.kiddle.co/World_War_I

https://kids.kiddle.co/World_War_II

Also see Espresso at www.discoveryeducation.co.uk which has lots of information on the wars.

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/world-war-i/>

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/world-war-ii/>

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/general-history/first-world-war/>

<https://historyforkids.org/wwi-trenches-facts-for-kids/>

Remembrance

Remembrance Day is held on the 11th of November - the 11th day of the 11th month of the year. A one minute silence is always held at 11am to remember the millions who have died at war.

The first Remembrance Day was held on 11th November 1919, one year after the end of the fighting in WW1.

Red poppies are used as a symbol of remembrance because millions of poppies grew on the battlefields of the Western Front. The ground was churned up due to the heavy shelling which allowed their seeds to spread.



britannica.com true or false quiz.

