








Key Vocabulary

alliance	An agreement between two or more people, groups or countries to support each other.
armistice	An agreement by countries at war to stop fighting.
assassinated	The act of murdering someone (usually an important person).
colonised	One country taking control of another country.
declare	To announce.
invade	To enter an area and forcibly take control.
rationed	Being given a food allowance when food is in short supply.



Who Went to War?

July 28th 1914 - November 11th 1918

The Triple Entente/The Allies		The Triple Alliance /The Central Powers	
	United Kingdom		Germany
	France		Italy
	Russia		Austria-Hungary
	The USA was a major trading partner with Britain. In April 1917, the USA declared war against Germany for attacking their trading ships around Britain.		

Europe Before the War

In the early 1900s, many European countries such as Britain, France, Spain and Italy **colonised** countries in Africa and Asia and were considered very powerful.

Germany did not **colonise** other countries and they were not as powerful. Germany wanted greater power so they began building large warships and creating a strong army.

Countries also formed **alliances**. The Triple **Alliance** was formed in 1882. The Triple Entente was formed in 1907.

Because of the different power struggles and **alliances**, there was tension and distrust amongst some countries across Europe.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand

The main event thought to have triggered the start of the First World War is the **assassination** of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

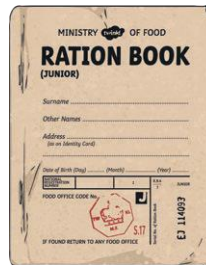
- In 1914, Archduke Ferdinand was due to become the king of Austria-Hungary.
- Gavrilo Princip from Serbia **assassinated** Archduke Ferdinand and his wife, causing Austria-Hungary to **declare** war on Serbia.
- Russia began to move their army in case they were needed.
- Germany did not like Russia preparing their army and so **declared** war on them. Germany then also **declared** war on France.
- Britain **declared** war on Germany to support Russia and France.

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!

Rationing

- Food soon began to run out as people were panic buying.
- Gardens and other areas of land were turned into allotments so food could be grown and animals could be kept.
- Sugar, meat, butter and cheese were all **rationed**.
- **Ration** books were issued and everyone had to register with a butchers and grocers.



The Battle of the Somme

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



The End of the War

- Italy joined the Triple alliance in April 1915.
- After the USA also joined the Triple Entente in April 1917, Germany began to realise that they couldn't win the war.
- Austria-Hungary signed an **armistice** on 3rd November 1918 leaving Germany on their own.
- An **armistice** was signed by Britain, France and Germany on 11th November 1918 putting an end to all fighting.
- A two-minute silence is held every year on 11th November to celebrate the end of the war and to remember all the people who fought in the First World War and all other wars.
- Poppies are also worn around this time to remember the soldiers who died in the war; as after all the fighting had stopped, poppies began to grow on the battlefields.

