

The World Wars (WWI) Knowledge Organiser

Key knowledge

- ✓ War is a conflict between people or nations.
- ✓ There were three main causes of WW1: territories, armies and an assassination.
- ✓ When war broke out, Britain had a small army of around 250,000 professional soldiers. Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War told the government that Britain needed at least one million men. The government began a massive recruitment drive. It set up recruitment offices in every town and city, it commissioned posters and pamphlets urging young men to join up. The campaign was hugely successful
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Guns on the Western Front fell silent on 11 November 1918 – this was the first step to the ending of the war.

Key events

28 June, 1914	Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated.
29 July, 1914	Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Russia began mobilising her troops.
1 August, 1914	Germany declared war on Russia.
3 August, 1914	Germany declared war on France.
5 August, 1914	Germany invaded Belgium. Britain declared war on Germany.
11 November, 1918	Guns on the Western Front fell silent – the first step to the end of the war.
28 June, 1919	Treaty of Versailles (peace agreement) signed.

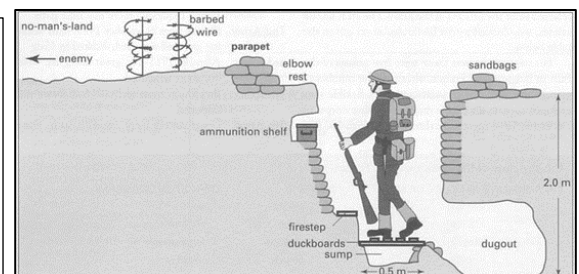
BIG Questions

What were the causes, events and consequences of the First and Second World Wars?

How was life in Great Britain affected by the World Wars?

What is the difference between a conflict and a world war?

Life in trenches: Soldiers in the trenches did not get much sleep. 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.



Key vocabulary

armistice	An agreement between countries who are at war with one another to stop fighting and to discuss ways of making peace.
Armistice Day	On the 11am of the 11th month 1918 (November 11 th). This became known as Armistice Day – the day Germany signed an armistice (an agreement for peace) which caused the fighting to stop.
trench	Long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived.
artillery	Large weapons used in battle.
battlefield	A place where battle is fought.
bayonet	A long, sharp blade that can be fixed to the end of a rifle and used as a weapon.
front line	The place where two opposing armies are facing each other and where fighting is going on.
No Man's Land	An unoccupied area between the front lines of opposing armies.
troops	A group of soldiers.