

# World War I

## SS5H4a

*The student will describe U.S. involvement in World War I and post World War I America.*

**Explain how German attacks on U.S. shipping during the war in Europe (1914-1917) ultimately led the U.S. to join the fight against Germany; include the sinking of the Lusitania and concerns over safety of U.S. ships, U.S. contributions to the war, and the impact of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.**

## SS5G2

**The student will explain the reasons for the spatial patterns of economic activities.**



# Build on What You Know

- **When your friend has a problem, you probably try to help solve it. In the same way, the nations of Europe tried to help their friends during WWI.**

# Vocabulary

- Alliances- countries agree to help each other if one of them is attacked.
- Isolationist- when countries believe they should not get involved in each other's problems.
- U-Boats- ships that sailed under water. (submarines)
- Rations- setting limits on the amount of goods people could have.
- Propaganda- information that is used to shape people's thinking.
- Armistice- an agreement to end fighting between two sides.
- Civilians-people who are not soldiers.
- Trench warfare- a form of war where each side dug trenches and fought from them.
- Ratified-approved

# Europe Goes to War

- During the early years of the twentieth century, many European nations formed alliances.
- In 1914, Archduke Ferdinand was heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary.
- While Archduke was visiting Bosnia, Serbian nationalist (*Serbian nationalists who wanted Bosnia to be part of Serbia, not Austria-Hungary*) assassinated him.
- Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia and threatened war.



# **Europe Goes to War**

**Tank Attack: Second Battle of the Marne**

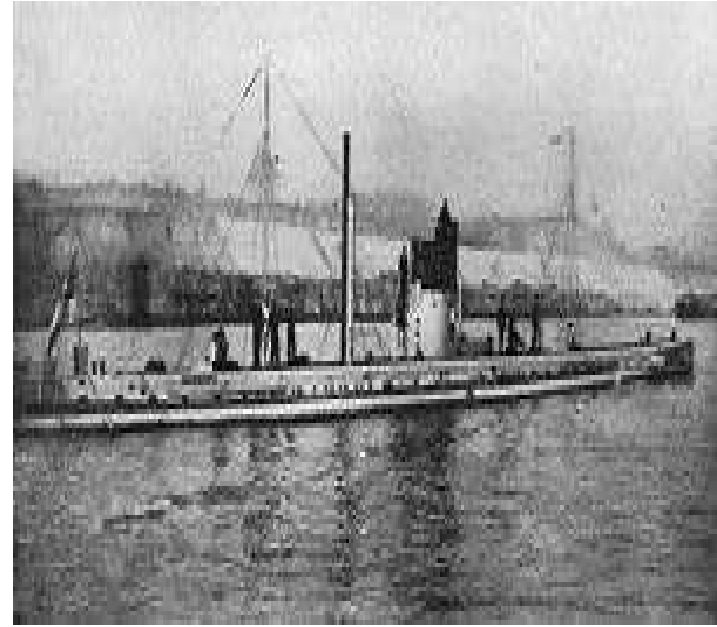
- **Russia, Serbia's ally, promised to defend Serbia if Austria-Hungary attacked.**
- **Germany vowed to fight on the side of Austria-Hungary and soon all of Europe was at war.**
- **Germany and Austria-Hungary formed an alliance called the Central Powers.**
- **Russia, Great Britain, and France became the leaders of an alliance known as the Allied Powers.**
- **This conflict eventually involved nations around the world and became known as World War I.**

# The U.S. Joins the Fighting

- **At first, most U.S. citizens wanted to stay out of the war (isolationist).**
- **They believed it was the Europe's fight, not the U.S.'**
- **President Woodrow Wilson won re-election in 1916 vowing not to get the U.S. involved in the fighting.**
- **Over time, a number of things happened that led the U.S. to enter the war.**

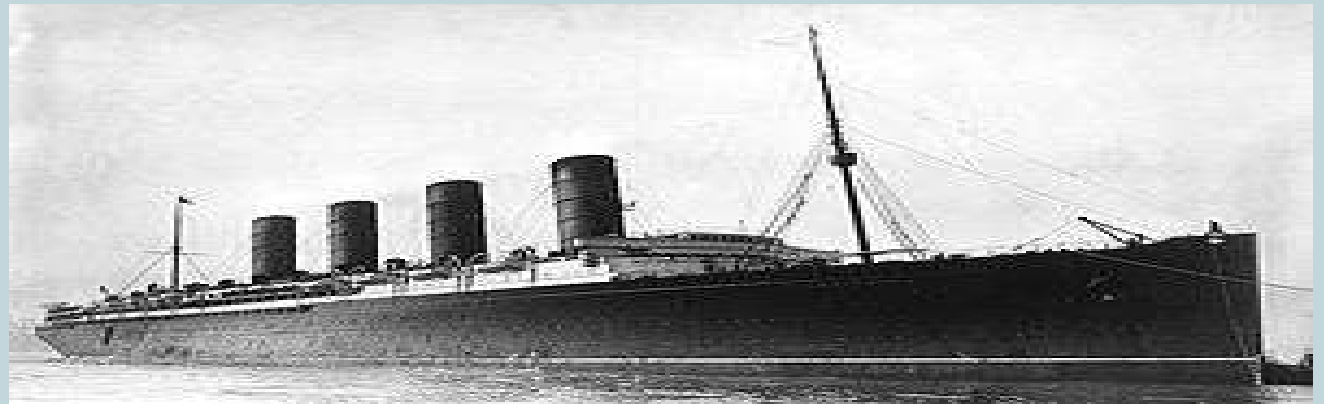
# U-Boats and the Lusitania

- **During WWI Germany used U-boats.**
- **U-boats could stay hidden under water as they fired torpedoes that sank ships.**
- **German U-boats fired not only on enemy ships but also ships from other countries.**
- **Germany believed these ships were carrying goods to help other nations fight Germany.**



# U-Boats and the Lusitania

- In May 1915, U-boats sank a passenger ship called the Lusitania.
- Over 100 U.S. passengers died.
- People in the U.S. were furious!
- The U.S. government was secretly using passenger ships to sneak military supplies to Great Britain and its allies.
- After this more people in the U.S. began to favor war.





# The Zimmerman Telegram

- GERMANY'S FOREIGN MINISTER, ARTHUR ZIMMERMAN, SENT A SECRET TELEGRAM TO MEXICO CITY.
- IT ASKED MEXICO TO ATTACK THE U.S. IF WE EVER WENT TO WAR WITH GERMANY.
- GERMANY PROMISED TO HELP MEXICO WIN BACK PARTS OF NORTH AMERICA IT HAD LOST TO THE U.S. DURING THE 1800'S.
- MEXICO DID NOT AGREE WITH GERMANY.
- WHEN THE U.S. LEARNED OF THE OFFER IT CAUSED MORE U.S. CITIZENS TO SUPPORT THE IDEA OF GOING TO WAR.

# America Enters the War

- After the sinking of the Lusitania, Germany agreed not to attack any more passenger ships.
- In 1917, Germany broke this promise and attacked U.S. ships.
- In April 1917, the U.S. declared war on the Central Powers.

# New Weapons During WWI

- Trench warfare—a form of war where each side dug trenches.
- Machine guns that could shoot hundreds of bullets per minute.
- Hand grenades which were small bombs.
- Submarines
- Tanks
- Poison Gas
- Airplanes used to drop bombs
- WWI was the most destructive war in history at that time.



# The War Effort

- To create more supplies for the soldiers, the government rationed what civilians could have.
- The government used propaganda posters to shape people's thinking.
- During the war millions of workers were needed to make supplies for soldiers.
- Many men were serving in the military.
- African Americans worked in factory jobs in the North and earned good wages.
- Women took jobs that had only been available to men before WWI.
- In 1920, because of women's hard work, the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment was passed which gave them the right to vote.

# Treaty of Versailles

- On November 11, 1918, both sides signed an agreement, called an armistice, to end the fighting.
- The Treaty of Versailles was signed May 7, 1919 and formally ended the war.
- The U.S. lost 116,516 soldiers in the war.
- A total of almost 10 million soldiers died in the war.
- 21 million were wounded.
- 5 million civilians, people who are not soldiers, died.

# Outcome of World War I

- **Germany had to pay Allied powers back for the costs of the war.**
- **It also said that countries should form an organization to try to prevent another war.**
- **This organization was called the League of Nations.**
- **Even though the League of Nations was the idea of U.S. President Woodrow Wilson, the United States never joined.**



# After World War 1

- After the war, European economies were devastated.



- Property, industries, and infrastructure had been badly damaged.

- U.S. businesses were not damaged because there was no fighting done in the U.S.



- The U.S. was producing more goods than ever before, while many other industrialized nations were trying to recover.

- The U.S. found itself as an economic world power.