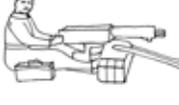


# World War One Timeline

Cut apart the timeline squares and the timeline strip. Glue the three parts of the timeline strip together to make one long timeline. Glue timeline squares on to the timeline strip.

 <p><b>28 June 1914</b> Archduke Ferdinand is assassinated</p>	 <p><b>4 Aug 1914</b> Germany invades Belgium, war begins</p>	 <p><b>23 Aug 1914</b> Battle of Tannenburg</p>	 <p><b>23 Aug 1914</b> Battle of Mons</p>	 <p><b>6 Sept 1914</b> 1st Battle of the Marne</p>	 <p><b>Oct-Nov 1914</b> Battle of Ypres</p>	 <p><b>25 Dec 1914</b> Christmas Truce</p>
 <p><b>22 Apr 1915</b> Germans use gas in battle</p>	 <p><b>7 May 1915</b> Lusitania is sunk</p>	 <p><b>Feb-Dec 1916</b> Battle of Verdun</p>	 <p><b>31 May 1916</b> Battle of Jutland</p>	 <p><b>July-Nov 1916</b> Battle of the Somme</p>	 <p><b>15 Sept 1916</b> First tanks used in battle</p>	 <p><b>6 April 1917</b> U.S. enters the war</p>
 <p><b>12 April 1917</b> Canadian victory at Vimy Ridge</p>	 <p><b>July-Nov 1917</b> Battle of Passchendaele</p>	 <p><b>3 Mar 1918</b> Germans and Russians make peace</p>	 <p><b>21 Mar 1918</b> German Spring Offensive</p>	 <p><b>1 April 1918</b> RAF founded</p>	 <p><b>15 July 1918</b> 2nd Battle of the Marne</p>	 <p><b>11 Nov 1918</b> Armistice</p>

## Layers of Learning

1916

1917

Glue this tab to top of Book of Years page. Cut off if not using Book of Years.

1914

1915

# World War I

1918

## Timeline Events Explained

- 1. 28 June 1914 Archduke Ferdinand of Austria is assassinated.** The countries of Europe had made treaties with each other saying if one country went to war the others would come to their aid. Germany had a treaty with Austria so when Austria's duke was killed by a Serb Germany declared war with Serbia, which caused Russia to declare war against Germany. Germany wanted to expand territory so they quickly invaded Serbia. Other European nations protested but they still hoped to avoid war.
- 2. 4 August 1914 Germany invades Belgium.** Belgium was one of the few countries of Europe that had tried to remain neutral. But for the Germans to get to their archenemy France they had to cross Belgium, so Germany invaded Belgium by surprise in the hope they could secure the whole country before the French could mobilize. Britain was outraged by this unprovoked attack and declared war on Germany. European nations quickly took sides and all out war was entered.
- 3. 23 August 1914 the Battle of Tannenberg.** This was fought between Germany and Russia and resulted in a terrible defeat for the Russians. The Germans effectively used the railroads to quickly move their troops and equipment into place so they could take on the Russian 2nd army and then move everyone to take on the Russian 1st army. While the Russians kept fighting this battle was decisive and the Russian role in the remainder of the war was small.
- 4. 23 August 1914 the Battle of Mons.** Meanwhile in the west the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) had landed in Belgium. The British were defeated at a little town called Mons and forced to retreat, but they fought exceptionally well against a much superior force and delayed the Germans long enough for the French to mobilize enough troops to prevent the Germans from taking France. It became a moral victory for the British, especially after the legend of the angels of Mons began to circulate.
- 5. 6 September 1914 1st Battle of the Marne.** This was a major allied victory. The Germans had advanced nearly as far as Paris and everyone thought the city would soon fall. Then the French and British pushed back and forced a German retreat. It ended the German hope of a swift victory.
- 6. 19 October - 22 November 1914 Battle of Ypres.** Each army, German and Allied, had tried to outflank the other to the north after the Battle of the Marne. This created a long battle line from the Marne river to the sea in Belgium. The line ended near a town called Ypres. This was the last chance to outflank the enemy and gain an advantage. But both sides had dug in trenches, making the modern machine guns and cannons useless. The battle ended in a stalemate with the trenches making the lines for the next years of the war.
- 7. 25 December 1914 - Christmas Truce.** On Christmas eve German and English troops ceased firing their guns and sang Christmas carols at each other across the trenches. Then on the morning of December 25 the Germans climbed, unarmed and cautious out of their trenches and crossed no-mans land to approach the British. The British slowly realized this wasn't a trick and emerged to shake hands, smoke cigarettes, and play a game of pick-up soccer (football) in no mans land. The commanders were not pleased and squashed any future truces.
- 8. 22 April 1915 - Germans used chlorine gas in battle for the first time.** Gas had been used in war before this time, but this was the first time it was effective on a large scale. Gas masks were soon developed which made chemical attacks pointless. Public outrage all over the world made chemical warfare an international crime and it was used much less in later wars.
- 9. 7 May 1915 Lusitania sunk.** The United States had not entered the war but they were

shipping lots of food, ammunition, and equipment to Britain and France from the beginning of the war. The Germans tried to stop this through submarine warfare in the Atlantic. They shot the Lusitania, sinking it, in this effort. The Lusitania, though almost certainly carrying war supplies, was also a passenger ship full of civilians. The Americans were outraged and Germany greatly curtailed its submarine warfare after this in the hope of keeping the Americans out of the war.

- 10.21 February to 21 December 1916 Battle of Verdun.** This was the longest battle of the war and fought between the Germans and the French. The German goal was to inflict such high casualties on the French that they would be forced to give up. The casualties were indeed high at perhaps 360,000 French men, but the French held out for a grueling 11 months during which they gave as good as they got. German casualties were also incredibly high at an estimated 340,000.
- 11.31 May 1916 Battle of Jutland.** The British had blockaded the North Sea, keeping the Germans penned in and away from the Atlantic. The Germans launched an assault to break the blockade. It resulted in the largest sea battle of the war: 151 British vessels versus 99 Germans. The outcome was indecisive though the Germans were denied free access to the Atlantic.
- 12.1 July to 18 November 1916 - Battle of the Somme.** The British launched a major offensive at Somme to take the pressure off the French at Verdun. More than three million men fought in this battle and nearly one million were killed or wounded, making it the highest casualties of any battle in history. The outcome was indecisive, but many historians see it as turning point from which the Germans didn't recover because of the massive losses.
- 13.15 September 1916 - first tanks used in war.** The early tanks were developed in the hopes of rolling right over enemy trenches while protected from machine guns and shells. The British finally made a tank, the Mark I, which could roll over barbed wire, trenches, and bomb craters. It was deployed for the first time during the Battle of the Somme.
- 14.6 April 1917 The United States enters the war.** The American people did not want to get involved in a European war, but their politicians and events like the Lusitania and an intercepted German telegram encouraging Mexico to declare war on the U.S. convinced them to get involved. The Americans never made much difference except in terms of morale and supplies. Just when all sides were nearly exhausted a fresh nation, rich and bursting with fresh young men, entered on the side of the allies.
- 15.12 April 1917 Canadian victory at Vimy Ridge.** The Germans had controlled Vimy Ridge, one of the few pieces of high ground, since 1914. The Canadians were given the assignment to take the ridge. They did it in just one day then held it firmly against a major assault for four more days. The ridge remained in allied control. Canadians became known for winning where others could not.
- 16. July-November 1917 Battle of Passchendaele.** The goal was for the British and French to recapture the village of Passchendaele. The battle opened in torrential rain that made mud an enemy as great as the German guns. A man or horse that fell into a bomb crater was likely to drown. An average of 2100 men were killed or wounded each day. Little progress was made and then the Canadians were called up. The village was recaptured but by then there wasn't a stone standing on top of another.
- 17.3 March 1918 - Russian Tsar Alexander was deposed** and the Bolshevik government made peace with Germany. This left the Germans free to move their men and equipment to the western front.
- 18.21 March 1918 German Spring Offensive.** Strengthened with men from the eastern front the Germans planned to launch a decisive offensive before the Americans could fully deploy troops. The onslaught was terrible but the Germans were slowed when they couldn't bring new supplies to the advancing front quickly enough. The allies counter attacked

and pushed the Germans back to the previous lines.

- 19.1 April 1918 RAF founded.** Aircraft had been important since the beginning of the war when they were used for reconnaissance. Soon aircraft were used for bombing, then someone figured out how to mount a machine gun and air-to-air combat became significant. By the end of the war aircraft were important enough to create new military branches just for them. The RAF, Royal Air Force, was the first independent air corps to be formed.
- 20.15 July to 6 Aug 1918 2nd Battle of the Marne.** The Germans tried one last time to defeat the allies at Marne. The attack failed when the allies launched a counterattack including several hundred tanks. From the point the allies relentlessly pressed Germany back and back.
- 21.11 November 1918 Armistice.** The armistice stopped the fighting on the western front. The Germans weren't exactly defeated as the Allies never took any German territory and the Germans did not surrender. A formal peace treaty was signed at Versailles in June of 1919.