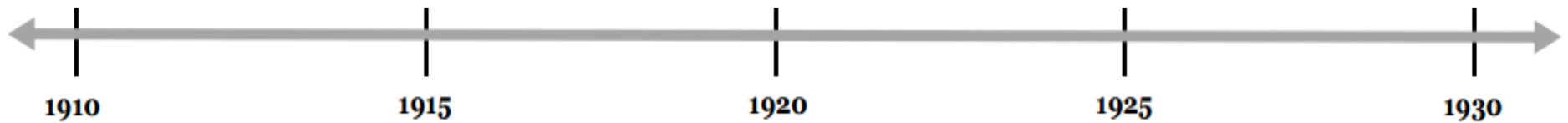


Name: _____ Date: _____ World War I Timeline Activity



Above you will create a timeline of events leading up to, during, and following World War I. You will need plot all of the below events. There are also five questions to answer on the next page. You will need to pick three events to write extra information about, and a different three events to illustrate pictures to help describe the event.

- Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated (6/28/1914)
- Germany announces unrestricted submarine warfare (1/1915)*
- Zimmerman Telegram published by the Associated Press to the American public (3/1/1917)
- Treaty of Versailles signed (6/28/1919)
- Spanish Flu kills 20-50 million people worldwide 1918-1919
- Germany declares war on France, WWI begins (Aug 2, 1914)
- November 1917, Russia pulls out of WWI due to revolution
- German U-Boat sinks the Lusitania (5/7/1915)
- US Congress declares war against Germany & its allies (4/6/1917)
- Armistice signed, WWI ends (11/11/1918)
- Austria-Hungary declares war against Serbia (7/28/ 1914)
- Wilsons Fourteen Points announced to Congress (1/8/1918)
- Germany begins paying war reparations (1/1921)
- Stock market crashes, US enters the Great Depression (10/29/1929)

Answer the questions below based on the timeline and your own knowledge.

1. How many years was World War I? When did it begin, and when did it end?
2. What year did the United States enter the war? How many years did the US fight for?
3. How much time passes between President Wilson announcing his Fourteen Points to Congress, and the Treaty of Versailles being signed? How did Congress react to the Treaty of Versailles?
4. How much time passed between the end of World War and the United States entering the Great Depression? Inference, how could these two events be related?
5. What is one thing that you have a better understanding of about World War I now that you have completed this timeline?
6. In the boxes below, in the top three summarize three of the events from the timeline. In the bottom three, draw images reflecting a different three items from the timeline.

World War I Entry Documents

Document A: President Woodrow Wilson, in a speech before Congress, August 19, 1914.

The people of the United States are drawn from many nations, and chiefly from the nations now at war. It is natural and inevitable that some will wish one nation, others another, to succeed in the momentous struggle.

Such divisions among us would be fatal to our peace of mind and might seriously stand in the way of our duty as the one great nation at peace, the one nation ready to play a part of mediator and counselor of peace.

The United States must be neutral in fact, as well as in name, during these days that are to try men's souls. We must be impartial in thought, as well as action.

Document B: President Woodrow Wilson, in a speech before Congress, April 2, 1917

Property can be paid for; the lives of peaceful and innocent people cannot be. The present German submarine warfare against commerce is a warfare against mankind.

The German policy has swept every restriction aside. Ships of every kind, whatever their flag, their character, their cargo, their destination, their errand, have been ruthlessly sent to the bottom of the ocean without warning. American ships have been sunk, American lives taken.

I advise that the Congress declare the recent actions of the Imperial German Government to be, in fact, nothing less than war against the Government and people of the United States.

Neutrality is no longer feasible or desirable where the peace of the world is involved.

The world must be made safe for democracy. We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek not material compensation for the sacrifices we shall freely make. We are but one of the champions of the rights of mankind.

It is a fearful, but right thing to lead this great peaceful people to war. We shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts – for democracy, for the right of [people] to have a voice in their own government, for the rights and liberties of small nations.

1. Read the first speech. Does Wilson think the United States should enter WWI? Why or why not?
2. Read the second speech. Does Wilson think the United States should enter WWI? Why or why not?
3. Use the 1917 speech to “imagine the setting.”
 - a. What does Wilson accuse Germany of doing?
 - b. Do you think this is a good reason to go to war?
 - c. What additional information would you need to have before making a decision?
4. Re-read the last two paragraphs of the 1917 speech. Why do you think Wilson added these paragraphs? How do you think these words made Americans feel?

Document C: Howard Zinn, *A People's History of the United States*, 1980.

Howard Zinn was a historian and activist who is best known today as the author of *A People's History of the United States*, a book that tells American history from the perspective of people of color, women, and poor people. The book is very critical of the United States government.

President Woodrow Wilson had promised that the United States would stay neutral in the war. . . . But in April of 1917, the Germans had announced they would have their submarines sink any ship bringing supplies to their enemies; and they had sunk a number of merchant vessels. Wilson now said he must stand by the right of Americans to travel on merchant ships in the war zone. . . .

As Richard Hofstadter points out (*The American Political Tradition*): "This was rationalization of the flimsiest sort. . . . The British had also been intruding on the rights of American citizens on the high seas, but Wilson was not suggesting we go to war with them. . . .

The United States claimed the *Lusitania* carried an innocent cargo, and therefore the torpedoing was a monstrous German atrocity. Actually, the *Lusitania* was heavily armed: it carried 1,248 cases of 3-inch shells, 4,927 boxes of cartridges (1,000 rounds in each box), and 2,000 more cases of small-arms ammunition. . . . The British and American governments lied about the cargo. . . .

Prosperity depended much on foreign markets, it was believed by the leaders of the country. In 1897, private foreign investments of the United States amounted to \$700 million dollars. By 1914, they were \$3.5 billion. . . .

With World War I, England became more and more a market for American goods and for loans at interest. J.P. Morgan and Company acted as agents for the Allies and when, in 1915, Wilson lifted the ban on private bank loans to the Allies, Morgan could now begin lending money in such great amounts as to both make great profit and tie American finance closely to the interest of a British victory in the war against Germany.

1. Why does Zinn claim that Wilson made a flimsy argument?
2. What does Zinn suggest are the real reasons the United States entered the war?
3. What evidence does Zinn provide to support his claims that the United States was motivated by other reasons (besides German attacks on U.S. ships)?
4. Do you find Zinn's argument convincing? Why or why not?

Document 1: The Zimmerman Telegram

FROM 2nd from London # 5747.

"We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavor in spite of this to keep the United States of America neutral. In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal or alliance on the following basis: make war together, make peace together, generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you. You will inform the President of the above most secretly as soon as the outbreak of war with the United States of America is certain and add the suggestion that he should, on his own initiative, invite Japan to immediate adherence and at the same time mediate between Japan and ourselves. Please call the President's

attention to the fact that the ruthless employment of our submarines now offers the prospect of compelling England in a few months to make peace." Signed, ZIMMERMANN.

1. Who sent the telegram and where is it being sent?
2. What was promised as a result of starting a conflict with the United States?
3. How did this document impact the people of the United States and politics in America?



The Dallas Morning News, 2 March 1917.

1. Describe in detail how Germany is depicted in the above cartoon?
2. Describe how Mexico is depicted?
3. Where do you think this cartoon is set?
4. What is being offered?
5. Why do you think such an offer was being made?
6. What do you think the American reaction was to the offer?

Why did the US enter World War I

Directions: Below, I have provided a list of reasons the United States entered World War I. Your task is to list them from most important to least important below. Then explain why you selected the one as most important. If you believe that it is a combination of reasons, you may explain why instead. (5-7 Sentences).

1. Because the U.S. was under attack despite its neutrality?

It would be the resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare that would ultimately bring the United States into the war.

-- The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

2. To make the world "safe for democracy"?

Our object...is to vindicate the principles of peace and justice in the life of the world as against selfish and autocratic power.... We are glad...to fight...for the ultimate peace of the world and for the liberation of its peoples, the German peoples included: for the right of nations great and small and the privilege of men everywhere to choose their way of life and of obedience. The world must be made safe for democracy....

-- President Woodrow Wilson's War Message (April 1917)

3. Because we would have faced economic collapse if the Allies could not pay back all the loans made to them by American bankers?

...We have loaned many hundreds of millions of dollars to the Allies in this controversy. While such action was legal and countenanced by international law, there is no doubt in my mind but the enormous amount of money loaned to the Allies in this country has been instrumental in bringing about a public sentiment in favor of our country taking a course that would make every bond worth a hundred cents on the dollar and making the payment of every debt certain and sure.

-- Senator George W. Norris in Opposition to President Woodrow Wilson's War Message (April 4, 1917)

By 1917, American loans to the Allies had soared to \$2.25 billion; loans to Germany stood at a paltry \$27 million.

-- The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

4. Because it was good for business?

...through the instrumentality of others who have not only made millions out of the war in the manufacture of munitions, etc., and who would expect to make millions more if our country can be drawn into the catastrophe...

-- Senator George W. Norris in Opposition to President Woodrow Wilson's War Message (April 4, 1917)

American participation in the war against Germany would constitute the most tremendous and profitable coup in the history of American finance... The war created 21,000 new American millionaires and during the war period, 69,000 men made more than three billion dollars over and above their normal income... It would have been quite impossible for President Wilson to have begun a war really intended to 'make the world safe for democracy' without facing the united opposition of Wall Street.

-- John Kenneth Turner, Shall It Be Again? 1922

5. Because of cultural, historical, and economic ties to Great Britain?

The failure to treat the belligerent nations of Europe alike, the failure to reject the unlawful "war zones" of both Germany and Great Britain is wholly accountable for our present dilemma.

-- Senator Robert M. LaFollette in Opposition to President Woodrow Wilson's War Message (April 4, 1917)

6. Because of anti-German sentiment influenced by historic ties to England, German policies, and American and British propaganda?

...a large number of the great newspapers and news agencies of the country have been controlled and enlisted in the greatest propaganda that the world has ever known to manufacture sentiment in favor of war.

-- Senator George W. Norris in Opposition to President Woodrow Wilson's War Message (April 4, 1917)

7. The result of the expansion of the U.S.'s armed forces and weaponry?

That which has driven the masses of Europe into the trenches and to the battlefields is not their inner longing for war; it must be traced to the cutthroat competition for military equipment, for more efficient armies, for larger warships, for more powerful cannon. You cannot build up a standing army and then throw it back into a box like tin soldiers.

-- Emma Goldman, from "Preparedness: The Road to Universal Slaughter"