

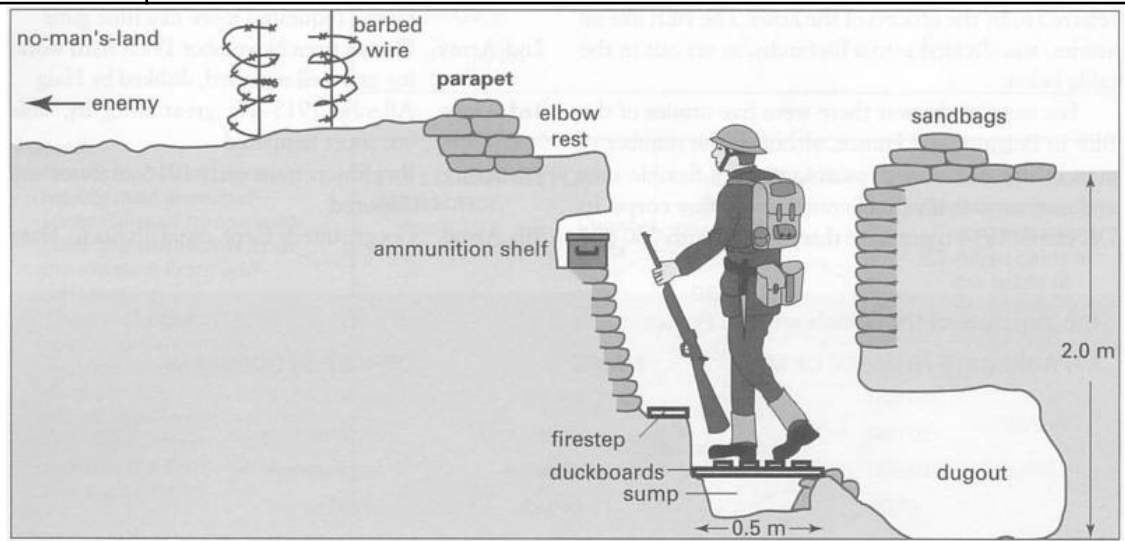
Year 9: Unit 1: The First World War – Why did the First World War start? What was it like to be in the war?

Timeline

28th June 1914	The heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian empire was assassinated.
5th July	Germany promised to help Austria-Hungary in any action it wants to take.
23rd July	Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia for the assassination and sent a list of demands to Serbia.
25th July	Serbia agreed to most, but not all, demands.
26th July	Russia promised to help Serbia.
28th July	Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.
29th July	German Kaiser warned Russia not to mobilise its troops. Russian troops prepared for war.
1st August	Germany declared war on Russia. France prepared its troops for war.
3rd August	Because of the Schlieffen Plan, Germany declared war on France and invaded Belgium (to get to France)
4th August	Britain had promised to defend Belgium and so declared war on Germany.

KEY TERMS

Colony	Land settled by and under the control of people from another country.
The Balkans	An area in south-east Europe that included Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Herzegovina, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey.
Patriotism	Love for your own country.
Arms race	A competition between countries for the development and production of weapons.
Alliance	An agreement between countries that benefits each of them.
Conscription	Forcing people to join the army, rather than relying on people volunteering.
Western Front	The zone of fighting that stretched from Switzerland to the English Channel.
Allied forces	British troops and those of Britain's allies.
Bombardment	A continuous attack with shells (shelling), intended to destroy trench defences, especially barbed wire.
Imperialism	A policy of extending a country's power and influence through colonisation.
Militarism	The belief that a country should stay strong militarily and be prepared to use force in a time of war.



Year 9: Unit 1: The First World War – Why did the First World War start? What was it like to be in the war?

Key Information: Why did the First World War start?

<p>Alliances</p>	<p>As each country began to feel threatened, they looked for <u>friends to back them up in a time of war</u>—known as allies. Europe split into two alliances. Britain, France and Russia formed the Triple Entente, and Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy formed the Triple Alliance. <u>The idea was to put people off starting a war</u> as it would mean fighting three nations as opposed to one. Although this made them more secure, it meant that it would only take one small disagreement between two nations and all of them would be dragged into a war.</p>
<p>Nationalism</p>	<p>At the beginning of the twentieth century, <u>people started to take pride in their countries</u>. This is called ‘nationalism’ - thinking that your nation is better than another one. Unfortunately for the leaders of Europe, the best way to prove this was by having a war with their rivals.</p>
<p>The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand</p>	<p>On the 28th June 1914, <u>the heir to the Austro-Hungarian empire—Archduke Franz Ferdinand</u>—arrived in the Bosnian city of Sarajevo. Bosnia was part of Austria-Hungary—but many Bosnians were unhappy about this. They wanted to join their neighbours, Serbia. Serbians wanted them to join with them. One gang of Serbians, known as <u>the ‘black hand’, assassinated the Archduke and his wife.</u></p>
<p>Empires</p>	<p>Britain had conquered lots of land all over the world by 1914 and had a huge empire. But other nations wanted big empires too—known as imperialism. <u>The race to gain control of lots of parts of the world led to fierce competition between countries in Europe.</u> They began to see other countries as a threat to their own power.</p>
<p>Naval & Arms Race</p>	<p><u>People took great pride in their armies and navies and countries spent lots of money on growing their armies.</u> This is known as militarism. To many, there was no point in having a big expensive army if you weren’t going to use it.</p>

Key Information: What was it like to be in the war?

<p>Trench Conditions</p>	<p>Soldiers in the trenches faced fear of death and the death of friends. They also had <u>poor living conditions</u> and it was impossible to keep clean. <u>Mud coated boots, socks and trousers; rats grew fat eating rotting bodies and clothes became covered in lice.</u></p>
<p>Losses</p>	<p><u>616,382 British servicemen were killed.</u> Another <u>1.6 million were wounded</u> or permanently disabled. Some people referred to them as a <u>‘lost generation’</u>. The <u>Spanish Flu</u> broke out in summer 1918 <u>which killed over 50 million worldwide.</u> Unemployment benefits were limited. Not enough houses were built. Railway and coal mine owners provided reduced wages.</p>
<p>The Treaty of Versailles</p>	<p>The Great War ended in November 1918, The leaders of the victorious countries, David Lloyd George, Woodrow Wilson (USA) and George Clemenceau (France) met to decide Germany’s punishment, known as <u>The Treaty of Versailles.</u> Germany was told to sign the peace agreement or face invasion. <u>Germany had to pay for the war in money and goods, hand over colonies to Britain and France, have no air force or submarines (just a tiny army), no German soldiers were allowed anywhere near France.</u></p>
<p>Gains</p>	<p>There were many <u>medical advances in the First World War,</u> including in blood transfusion and storage, x-rays and plastic surgery. Aircraft design also improved as aeroplanes were used for observing. Light industry developed and produced consumer goods which women worked on.</p>
<p>The Battle of the Somme</p>	<p>The Allied infantry attack on German trenches at the Somme began on the <u>1st July 1916.</u> By the <u>end of the first day, 57,470 Allied and 8,000 German soldiers were wounded or dead.</u> A week before, the allies began a massive military bombardment of the German trenches but they simply went into their dug-outs. The Germans emerged unhurt after the attack. The British Commander, <u>General Haig, saw no reason to change tactics</u> and by November, <u>620,000 Allied troops had been killed</u> or wounded for <u>only 15km of territory gained.</u></p>