WORLD WAR I | PART 3 OF 9 · AGES 11–16

WORLD WAR I TIMELINE

Nine turning points, from the July Crisis of 1914 to the peace signed at Versailles in 1919.

Jul 1914

The July Crisis

After the Sarajevo assassination, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on 28 July. By 4 August Germany, Russia, France and Britain were at war.

Sept 1914

Battle of the Marne

French and British troops stopped the German advance on Paris. Both sides dug in, and trenches soon ran from the Channel coast to Switzerland.

25 Apr 1915

Landings at Gallipoli

British, French, Australian and New Zealand troops landed in Ottoman Turkey. Ottoman forces held firm, and the last Allied troops left on 9 January 1916.

1916

Verdun and the Somme

Germany attacked Verdun on 21 February; Britain and France attacked on the Somme on 1 July. Both battles lasted months and cost hundreds of thousands of lives.

6 Apr 1917

The USA enters the war

Unrestricted German submarine warfare and the Zimmermann Telegram led the United States to declare war on Germany.

1917–1918

Russia leaves the war

Revolutions in March and November 1917 ended the Tsar's rule and put Lenin's Bolsheviks in power. They made peace at Brest-Litovsk on 3 March 1918.

8 Aug 1918

The Hundred Days begin

After Germany's spring offensives stalled, the Allies attacked at Amiens and kept advancing, pushing German forces back to the battlefields of 1914.

11 Nov 1918

The Armistice

Germany signed an armistice and the guns fell silent at 11am. Bulgaria, the Ottoman Empire and Austria-Hungary had already stopped fighting.

28 Jun 1919

Treaty of Versailles

Germany signed the main peace treaty at Versailles, near Paris, five years to the day after Franz Ferdinand was killed.

Russia's calendar

Russia used an older calendar until 1918, 13 days behind Western Europe. So the 'February' Revolution happened in March 1917 and the 'October' Revolution on 7 November.

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4. The Allies vs the Central Powers

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