

Causes of World War I

This worksheet will help you research and learn the causes of the First World War. War broke out in late summer 1914, but tension had been building in Europe since 1900. You need to complete the different tasks to help you work out why the war started.

The MAIN causes

M	Militarism
A	Alliances
I	Imperialism
N	Nationalism

GLOSSARY	Alliances - agreements or promises to defend and help another country.	GLOSSARY
	Imperialism - trying to build up an Empire.	
	Empire - where a powerful country controls several less powerful countries.	
	Militarism - building up armed forces, getting ready for war.	
	Nationalism - having pride in your country, willing to defend it.	

TASK 1: make sure you know the terms.

1. Using the glossary at the top right of this sheet, copy and complete this table. Write these terms down carefully, as you will use them later!

Militarism	
Alliances	
Imperialism	
Nationalism	

2. *Germany wanted to build up her Empire. Copy and complete:*
 Germany wished to build up her Empire. This is known as _____.
 Germany also built up her armed forces - known as _____.
3. *Britain had both the most powerful navy in the world and the largest Empire. Copy and complete:*
 As Britain had the most powerful navy she was worried about other countries building up their armed forces. We could call this a worry about _____.
 Germany, Britain and other countries were keen to have large Empires.
4. *Copy and try to fill in the missing words using your table:*
 Countries in Europe were very proud of themselves, and would defend their country as well as they could. This is known as _____.

TASK 2: create a diagram showing the alliances.

1. By 1900, Europe was divided into two alliances. Using your blank map of Europe, together with the OHP or textbook:

- Draw in the borders of the European Countries
- Write in the names of the major countries
- Colour in the countries - one colour for the Triple Alliance,
- one colour for the Triple Entente
- Make sure you have a key, so your map makes sense

2. Using your own map, copy and fill in the table below:

ALLIANCES	COUNTRIES IN THE ALLIANCE
Triple Entente	France,
Triple Alliance	Austro-Hungary,

3. Using the word box on the right, write out the following text, adding in the words.

Europe was divided into two _____. These were called the Triple _____ and the Triple _____. Members of each alliance promised to fight for the other members if they were attacked. It would only take a small incident to spark a war that involved the whole of _____.

Germany had been trying to build up her navy and her empire. B_____ was _____ about this. Both countries raced each other to build the best navy. There was tension between the two countries. This cause was _____.

The area south and south-east of _____ - _____ was known as the Balkans. This whole area was very unstable. The European Alliances had different ideas how to deal with the problems.

France was keen for _____ on Germany. The French had been defeated in 1871 and wanted their land back! They said it had been _____ from them by Germany.

WORD BOX

stolen
worried
alliances
Europe
Entente
Alliance
Austro-Hungary
militarism
revenge
Britain

TASK 3: Show that you understand.

Put the title Causes of World War I.

Write the letters **M, A, I, N** on separate lines. What does each letter stand for?