

# Year 8 Knowledge Organiser Spring 2: WWI

Summary of the unit: Find out the complicated causes of WWI, was the war inevitable? Study sources to gain an understanding of life in the trenches. You will have opportunities to research rats, and the other horrors of WWI, as well as discovering the truth behind what the British public were told and what was really happening on the battlefield.

## Causes of World War I - MANIA

**Militarism** – policy of building up strong military forces to prepare for war

**Alliances** – agreements between nations to aid and protect one another

**Nationalism** – pride in or devotion to one's country

**Imperialism** – when one country takes over another country economically and politically

**Assassination** – murder of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand

## WWI timeline 1914

- June 28- Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austro-Hungarian empire, in Sarajevo, Bosnia
- July 28- Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia
- July 29 - December 9- Austria-Hungary repeatedly invades Serbia but is repeatedly repulsed
- August 1-Outbreak of war - Germany declares war on Russia
- August 3-Germany declares war on France
- August 4-Germany invades neutral Belgium
- August 4-Britain declares war on Germany
- August 4-US President Woodrow Wilson declares policy of US neutrality
- August 14- Battle of the Frontiers begins
- August 17-19 Russia invades East Prussia

Why did British men sign up to the war?

**Patriotism:** British men were brought up to love their King and country

**Social pressure:** Fear of being called a coward or being given a white feather by a woman

**Sense of adventure:** Many British men had never travelled abroad - this was a chance to see the world!

**Propaganda:** British propaganda posters used very persuasive techniques

**Belief in a quick victory:** Many men thought that the war would be 'over by Christmas'

## New Weapons that helped Britain win the war

**Tanks** :First used in 1916, they broke through German defences and sheltered British troops

**Poison gas** :Although cruel and at the mercy of the weather, it instilled fear into soldiers on both sides

**Aeroplanes**: Very useful for reconnaissance and bombing / preventing bombing raids

**Artillery**: The 'creeping barrage' first used in 1916 forced Germans to remain in their shelters while

