

## Knowledge organiser: What was the First World War like?

| <p>This topic investigates the reasons why World War One began in 1914. It also considers what the war was like for those fighting in it, and what the losses and gains were once the war was over.</p> |   | Chronology: what happened on these dates?  |   | Vocabulary: define these words.  |  |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|
|   |   | <p><b>August 4<sup>th</sup> 1914</b></p> <p>Britain declares war on Germany. The BEF are dispatched the France.</p>  | <p><b>Western Front</b></p> <p>The zone of fighting that stretched from Switzerland to the English Channel.</p> |  |  |
| Summarise your learning   |   | <p><b>1914</b></p> <p>Kitchener introduces the 'Pals Battalions' as a method of recruiting more soldiers.</p>  | <p><b>Propaganda</b></p> <p>Posters used to persuade people of a particular point of view or perspective.</p>   |  |  |
| <p><b>Topic 1:</b><br/>How and why men volunteered to fight.</p>  | <p>National pride and patriotism were two important reasons why men joined the war effort in 1914. They signed up to Pals Battalions, with ultimately disastrous consequences.</p>  | <p><b>1915</b></p> <p>The Battle of Ypres begin. This is the first time poison gas is used on the Western Front.</p>   | <p><b>Conscription</b></p> <p>The legal requirement to join the armed forces.</p>                               |  |  |
| <p><b>Topic 2:</b><br/>What life was like living in a trench?</p>   | <p>Trench conditions were hard and the soldiers showed plenty of resilience. Rats, lice, trench foot and the constant fear of shelling all damaged the morale and health of the soldiers.</p>   | <p><b>1916</b></p> <p>The Battle of the Somme. More than 65,000 soldiers on both sides killed or wounded during the first day of battle.</p>   | <p><b>Battalion</b></p> <p>A fighting unit of up to 1000 men.</p>   |  |  |
| <p><b>Topic 3:</b><br/>New weapons and technology of the war</p>  | <p>World War One was the first industrial war. Devastating new weapons caused huge casualties on both sides. Poison gas was particular feared by all soldiers.</p>  | <p><b>1918</b></p> <p>End of the First World War.</p>  | <p><b>Bombardment</b></p> <p>A continuous attack with artillery shells (shelling).</p>                          |  |  |
| <p><b>Topic 4:</b><br/>Was Haig the 'Butcher of the Somme'?</p>   | <p>General Haig was one of the most controversial figures of the First World War. To some he was a butcher who cared little for the lives of the thousands of men who died as a result of his tactics. To others he did everything needed to ultimately defeat the Germans.</p> | <p><b>1919</b></p> <p>The Treaty of Versailles. Germany had to agree that it was to blame for starting the war, and to pay for the damage caused.</p>  | <p><b>Conscientious Objector</b></p> <p>Men who refused to join the army when conscription was introduced.</p>  |  |  |
| <p><b>Topic 5:</b><br/>How did the war come to an end?</p>  | <p>Numerous factors such as the arrival of American troops, the Russian Revolution and German mutiny all ultimately led to German defeat.</p>   | Terms of the Treaty of Versailles  |   | <p><b>Mutiny</b></p> <p>When soldiers or sailors rebel and refuse to follow orders.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>Topic 6:</b><br/>How fair was the Treaty of Versailles?</p>   | <p>The fate of Germany and its possessions all had to be decided by the victorious nations. Some believed the terms were too harsh, others not harsh enough.</p>  | <p><b>Key</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Land lost</li> <li>2 Forbidden to unite with Austria</li> <li>3 Terms of disarmament</li> <li>4 Rhineland demilitarised</li> <li>5 Amount of reparation</li> <li>6 Excluded from League of Nations</li> <li>7 War Guilt Clause</li> </ul> |   | <p><b>Creeping Barrage</b></p> <p>A new tactic used during the Somme. Artillery would fire ahead of the soldiers as they walked across No Man's Land, protecting them from machine gun fire.</p> |  |
|   |   |  |   | <p><b>Pacifist</b></p> <p>A person who believes violence is wrong no matter what.</p>  |  |
|   |   | <p><b>Shell Shock</b></p> <p>A psychological condition developed by soldiers due to horrific trench conditions.</p>  |   |  |  |
|   |   | <p><b>Chlorine Gas</b></p> <p>A greenish, yellow gas that irritates the eyes, nose and lungs.</p>  |   |  |  |
|   |   | <p><b>Versailles</b></p> <p>The palace near Paris where the treaty was signed.</p>   |   |  |  |

