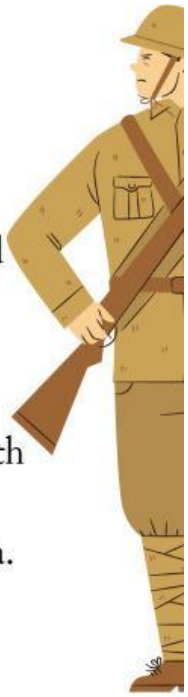
# WORLD WAR ONE



World War One has been called the first man-made conflict in history. World War One began in 1914 for many reasons. Tension was building in Europe because countries often got into "disagreements" with each other.
For example:

•Britain and Germany both had a very strong navy. They were competing with each other to have the most boats.

• Many European countries were trying to develop colonies in southern Africa. This led the countries to be unfriendly to each other.

•France and Germany disliked each other because Germany won a war they fought in 1870.

## Getting the "isms" straight!

*NATIONALISM* : The belief that one's country is better than another
*IMPERIALISM*: The desire to expand one's country by taking over colonies or smaller countries
*MILITARISM* : The collection of weapons in order to prepare for war or armed conflict

People around the world wanted others to know how great their country was. This idea of nationalism made people think their country was better than others. Many believed their country would win if there was ever a war.

Countries made alliances to try and stop war. Alliances were like teams. Some countries joined together to form a team. If one country had a problem with another, it meant a whole team of countries had a problem with another team. A small disagreement could turn into a big one.

In Europe, most people were very proud of their country. Many were unhappy because they didn't live in their own country. Some countries were part of an empire with people who spoke different languages and had different religions.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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Empires were created when big countries wanted to take over smaller lands and countries. This is called imperialism. France and Britain had control of places in Africa and Asia. Germany and Italy wanted to become empires too and have their own colonies. Colonies were used to make things cheaply.

The Balkan area of Europe was partly controlled by Austria and Russia. Both countries wanted to control the whole area, which caused more problems. All this tension, along with strong feelings of nationalism and issues with imperialism, led to militarism. Militarism is when countries build up their armies and collect weapons. European countries didn't trust each other, so they started getting ready for war.

**1. Why were people in Europe having feelings of "unrest"?**

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The First World War began because Archduke Franz Ferdinand was killed. He and his wife were shot in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914. Ferdinand was supposed to be the next ruler of Austria. Gavrilo Princip, a Serbian, killed them because he did not like Austro-Hungarian rule. This made things worse, leading to the start of the First World War.

**2. People who study history believe that there are many reasons for the start of World War One. List three of those reasons. Use the reading passage to help you with your answer.**

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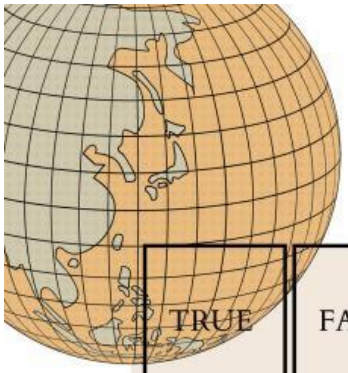
LIVEWORKSHEETS



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| TRUE | FALSE | READ THE STATEMENTS AND CHOOSE TRUE OR FALSE. |
|---|---|---|
| | | 1. France and Germany disliked each other. |
| | | 2. The assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the "spark" that led to the start of World War One. |
| | | 3. Militarism is the feeling of pride for one's country and believing that one's country is the best. |
| | | 4. Some European countries had colonies in other parts of the world. |
| | | 5. Neither Britain nor Germany had a strong navy. |
| | | 6. World War One started in 1918. |
| | | 7. Alliances were like teams, with several countries making up an alliance. |

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