

## Theatres of War

Although World War One was a world war, most of the fighting was confined to a few key areas. These areas are usually referred to as the theatres of war.



### The Western Front

The German army crossed the Belgian border on August 3rd 1914. Britain and France declared war on Germany on August 4th. The Germans pushed through Belgium and entered France. The British and French armies marched to stop the German advance. The Battle of Marne 4th - 10th September stopped the Germans from marching on Paris.

To avoid losing the territory already gained in France, the Germans began digging trenches. The British and French, unable to break through the line of trenches, began to dig their own trenches. Throughout the entire war, neither side gained more than a few miles of ground along what became known as the western Front.

### Eastern Front

The line of fighting on the Eastern side of Europe between Russia and Germany and Austria-Hungary is known as the Eastern Front. Fighting began on the Eastern front when Russia invaded East Prussia on 17th August 1914. Germany immediately launched a counter-offensive and pushed Russia back. This pattern of attack and counter-attack continued for the first two years of the war and meant that the Eastern Front changed position as land was captured and lost by both sides. By 1917, the Russian people were fed up with the huge number of Russian losses. The government and monarchy were overthrown and the new Bolshevik government signed the treaty of Brest Litovsk which took the Russians out of the war.



### Italian Front

Before the outbreak of war in August 1914, Italy had sided with Germany and Austria-Hungary. However, tempted by offers of more land once the war was won, Italy entered the war in April 1915 on the side of the allies. The Italian front is the name given to the fighting that took place along the border between Italy and Austria. The Italians only managed to advance a short way into Austria. Between 1915 and 1917 there were twelve battles fought along the river Isonzo, just inside the Austrian border. After being defeated at the battle of Caporetto the Italians were pushed back.



### Gallipoli

The Gallipoli peninsula is located in the south of Turkey. In 1915, the allied commanders decided to try to attack Germany by attacking her ally, Turkey. Allied soldiers, mainly from Australia and New Zealand, were sent to the Peninsula while British ships tried to force a way through the Dardanelles. The entire mission was a failure. The allies lost more than 50,000 men but gained hardly any land.

### The War at Sea

Even before the war, Germany and Britain were involved in a naval race. Germany knew that she was unlikely to win a naval war against Britain and avoided naval conflict with Britain. Britain's main naval tactic was to keep German ships in German ports and to block supplies from reaching Germany. Germany's main naval tactic was to post u-boats (submarines) in the Atlantic ocean and to destroy ships taking supplies from America and other countries to Britain.

# Europe Before WWI



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**World History**  
**World War I**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hour: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*This worksheet goes along with "Theatres of War" and "Europe Before WWI."*

1. Draw an arrow on the map to demonstrate what is happening in the underlined sentence on the "Theatres of War" worksheet. (*Arrow should represent troop movement.*)

2. What two countries marched to stop the German advance on Paris?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

3. Trenches were a large part of the war on the Western Front. According to the reading, what were trenches used for?

4. What countries fought on the Western Front?

Allies

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Vs.

\_\_\_\_\_

Central

5. What countries fought on the Eastern Front?

Allies

\_\_\_\_\_

Vs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Central

6. Explain the significance of the Treaty of Brest Litovsk. What impact did it have on the Western Front?

7. Why did Italy join the side of the Allies in 1915?

8. What two countries faced off on the Italian Front?

Allies

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Central

9. What modern day country did the Battle of Gallipoli take place in? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What countries were involved in the Gallipoli battles?

Allies

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Vs.

Germany \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Central

11. a. Explain the British naval tactics during the war.

b. Explain the Germany naval tactics during the war.

12. Label ALLIED POWERS COUNTRIES with RED POLKA DOTS.

13. Label CENTRAL POWERS COUNTRIES with BLUE POLKA DOTS.

\*\*Label ITALY with both colors!

14. Shade the following areas according on the Europe Before WWI Map:

- a. Shade the area of the western front RED
- b. Shade the area of the eastern front BLUE
- c. Shade the area of the Italian front GREEN
- d. Shade the area of the Gallipoli front ORANGE