

Scheme of Learning: Year 8 History

Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
English Civil War	Democracy	Empire	Industry	Slavery	WWI	Inter War	WWII

Topic Overview:

This topic examines the many aspects of the Great War of 1914-1918, including the reasons for it happening (causes), the varying experiences of the war itself, the Russian Revolution and its end in 1918. This topic uses historians' interpretations, namely Christopher Clark's *Sleepwalkers* and Orlando Figes' *A People's Tragedy*, to better understand the topic and the academic debates that exist around it.

Lesson Sequence:

Lesson 1: What were the main causes of WWI? This lesson is an overview of the many causes of WWI, thinking about how they caused tension and whether they're 'long-term' or 'short-term' causes of the war. It is also here we introduce the first of our historians, Christopher Clark, and what he means when he says that Europe "sleepwalked" into WWI.

Lesson 2: How did alliances bring Europe closer to war? Here we examine the two main alliances, the Triple Entente and the Triple Alliance, the intentions behind them and the role they played in bringing Europe closer to war.

Lesson 3: How did the assassination of Franz Ferdinand spark WWI? The assassination of Franz Ferdinand is often pointed to a *the cause* of WWI. In this lesson we look at what happened and what role the murder played in causing war in Europe.

Lesson 4: What was the Schlieffen Plan? In previous lessons, it seemed clear from the evidence we have studied that Europe did "sleepwalk" into war in 1914, but in this lesson we look at the German plan to invade France and Belgium (made in 1905) and how that undermines Clark's "sleepwalkers" argument.

Lesson 5: Why was British recruitment for WWI so successful? Hundreds of thousands of British men volunteered to fight in WWI: why did they flock in such high numbers and what tactics were used by the government to achieve this? We examine sources, including posters, to answer these questions.

Lesson 6: What was trench warfare and what were the early years of WWI like? Before beginning studies on our focal point for the fighting in WWI, the Battle of the Somme of 1916, we look at what trench warfare was like and what happened during the early battles, such as Gallipoli and Verdun.

Lesson 7: What was the Battle of the Somme and how did experiences of it vary between troops? The Battle of the Somme was one of the most costly but pivotal battles in World War One. Many have traditionally seen the Somme as a "disaster" for all of those involved: here we look at how accurate that view is, examining the experiences of the Newfoundland, South African and British 30th divisions.

Lesson 8: Who was unhappy in Russia in 1905? Here we look at who was unhappy in Russia on the brink of the 1905 Revolution, including the peasants, workers and intelligentsia. We also introduce students to their next historical interpretations: Orlando Figes' *A People's Tragedy*, where he asserts the Russian Revolution was a "product of the First World War."

Lesson 9: How far was the February Revolution a "product of the First World War"? This lesson examines the reasons for the February Revolution and removal of the Tsar in 1917 and how far these can be linked to WWI, including WWI, Rasputin, food shortages and radical ideas.

Lesson 10: How far was the October Revolution a "product of the First World War"? This lesson examines the reasons for the October Revolution and how far these can be linked to WWI, including WWI, Lenin and the Bolsheviks and other factors.

Lesson 11: Why did Germany withdraw from WWI in November 1918? This lesson looks at the reasons for the German surrender, such as America's entry into WWI and the naval blockade.

Lesson 12: Knowledge Test and Written Piece.

Sequence of Lessons:

1	What were the main causes of WWI?
2	How did alliances bring Europe closer to war?
3	How did the assassination of Franz Ferdinand spark WWI?
4	What was the Schlieffen Plan?
5	Why was British recruitment for WWI so successful?
6	What was trench warfare and what were the early years of WWI like?
7	What was the Battle of the Somme and how did experiences of it vary between troops?
8	Who was unhappy in Russia in 1905?
9	How far was the February Revolution a "product of the First World War?"
10	How far was the October Revolution a "product of the First World War?"
11	Why did Germany withdraw from WWI in November 1918?
12	Assessment: Knowledge Test and Written Piece.
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Topic Resources:

Knowledge Map:	WWI Knowledge Map	Any other Resources:	
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Assessment:

Knowledge:	10 knowledge questions.
Application of Knowledge:	Written piece on one of the interpretations we have studied and how far they agree/disagree with it (using evidence).

Supportive Reading:

Any supported reading listed here	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zp94jxs