

WWI
Notes

World War I (SS textbook pgs. 304-309)

Time period

- 1914-1917

Causes of the War

- Nationalism, the belief that your country deserves more success than other, caused countries such as Germany, Russia, and France to compete for land and power
- Other countries started colonies around the world (imperialism)
- To protect their empires they built up their armies and navies (militarism) in an effort to frighten or defeat other countries

The War Begins

- European countries began to form alliances, an agreement nations make to support and defend each other
- Allied Alliance (Allies)
 - Russia
 - France
 - Great Britain
 - Italy
 - Portugal
 - Greece
 - Serbia
 - Romania
 - Montenegro
 - United States (1917)
- Central Powers
 - Austria-Hungary
 - Germany
 - Bulgaria
 - Ottoman Empire
- 1914- Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia
- Serbia had an alliance with Russia, so Russia fought on Serbia's side
- Germany invaded France- France was also aligned with Russia
- World War I began

The Battlefield

- Soldiers fought from trenches, long narrow ditches (trench warfare)
- Soldiers live in trenches day and night
- Soldiers braved mud, cold weather, and rats
- Millions of soldiers were killed
- Fighting lasted 4 years

America Enters the War

- 1914- U.S. remained neutral (stayed out of war)
- 1915- German submarine sank the Lusitania, a British passenger ship with many Americans on board
- Germans promised not to attack passenger ships
- 1917- Germany broke promise and began attacking U.S. ships
- April, 1917 U.S. declared war on the Central Powers
- U.S. entered on the side of the Allies

New Weapons

- New weapons used in WWI:
 - Machine guns-shot hundreds of bullets each minute
 - Hand grenades- small bombs
 - Cannons- could hit targets miles away
 - Submarines- sank ships in the Atlantic Ocean
 - Tanks- could attack across land between the trenches (invented by British)
 - Poison gas- used to harm and kill
 - Airplanes- used later in the war to drop bombs
 - Most destructive war in history at the time

Heroes of the War

- Eddie Rickenbacker- US hero
- Manfred Von Richthofen- German also known as The Red Baron

Americans and the War (Social Studies textbook pgs. 312-317)

Time Period:

- 1917-1920

The Home Front

- Many supplies were needed to fight the war
- The U.S. produced more war supplies than any other country had before

The War Effort

- The government **rationed** items such as meat- limited the amount consumers could buy of certain items
- Items not used by civilians could be used by soldiers
- **Propaganda**, information used to shape people's thinking was used by the government
- Propaganda reminded civilians to help with the war effort
- Factories needed workers to make supplies
- African-Americans moved to northern cities to work in factories
- Earned respect but still faced prejudice

Women in the Workforce

- Women took jobs that were usually held by men
 - Made weapons
 - Repaired cars
 - Delivered mail
 - Directed traffic
- People's opinion of women changed
- 1919- Senate passed 19th Amendment- gave women the right to vote
- 1920- 19th amendment approved by states

The War Ends

- November 11, 1918- WWI ends
- Central Powers signed an armistice- an agreement to stop fighting

The Treaty of Versailles

- Written in January 1919
- Ended the war
- Allies used the treaty to punish Germany
 - Germany lost colonies
 - Gave land to France
 - Germany paid money to Allied countries
- Created a League of Nations
 - Would try to solve world problems peacefully
 - Members would also protect each other if war did start
- US Senate did not approve the treaty
 - Afraid the US would be pulled into future wars
 - Americans began to believe in isolationism- stay out of world events