

# World War I

## The Treaty of Versailles

World War I began in June 1914, and the fighting ended in November 1918. At war's end the major Allied Powers included Great Britain, France, and the United States. The major Central Powers were Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria. Each of the Central Powers signed its own **treaty** with the Allied Powers. The treaty that Germany signed was the last treaty to be signed, and it became the most famous one. The **Treaty of Versailles** was mainly negotiated by the leaders of the Allied Powers: France's Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau, Great Britain's Prime Minister David Lloyd George, and the United States' President Woodrow Wilson. Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm II had little participation because the others believed his actions caused the war. It was signed on June 28, 1919, in Versailles, France, and it officially ended WWI.

Clemenceau advocated for severe punishment for Germany. Much of France had been devastated by the battles when Germany had invaded. He wanted to protect France and keep Germany from becoming strong enough to begin another war. George and Wilson also did not want Germany to begin another war. However, they were concerned a severe punishment would set the pretext for another war. Wilson's concerns and proposals were largely ignored, and the final treaty had severe consequences for Germany.

Germany had to accept full blame for WWI and had to give up one million square miles of land. Some of this land had been seized by Germany before WWI, and the majority of this lost land was rich in natural resources that could have been used to improve Germany's struggling economy. In addition to losing this land, Germany also lost all of its colonies. Germany had to pay **reparations** to other countries for the losses and damages those countries had suffered as a result of the war. This would prove to be very difficult for Germany because it had to finance the rebuilding of its country, too. In order to keep Germany weak, its military had to be reduced and production was stopped on almost all war materials. Kaiser Wilhelm had escaped to the Netherlands after the war, so other representatives from the German government reluctantly signed the treaty.

In addition to outlining Germany's consequences, the Treaty of Versailles created the **League of Nations**. This organization of countries promised to work together to ensure another world war would not occur. Germany would not be allowed to join until 1926. Because of the severe consequences contained in the treaty, the United States did not **ratify** it and refused to accept any responsibility. The United States also did not join the League of Nations.

Many Germans greatly resented the restrictions put in place by the treaty, and as Germany's economy conditions worsened, many began protesting. Germany was becoming more isolated and distrusted by other countries. The Treaty of Versailles ended WWI, but the the severe consequences given to Germany would set events in motion that would eventually lead to World War II.

# World War I

## The Treaty of Versailles

### KEY TERMS

**Match the term to its definition.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ratify _____</li> <li>2. League of Nations _____</li> <li>3. Treaty of Versailles _____</li> <li>4. reparations _____</li> <li>5. treaty _____</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. money that a country that loses a war must pay because of the damage it caused</li> <li>b. to make a treaty official by signing it</li> <li>c. an official agreement between two or more countries</li> <li>d. treaty signed by Germany and the Allied Powers that officially ended WWI</li> <li>e. organization of countries that promised to work together to ensure another world war would not occur</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

**APPLY: Choose three terms and illustrate the meaning of each.**

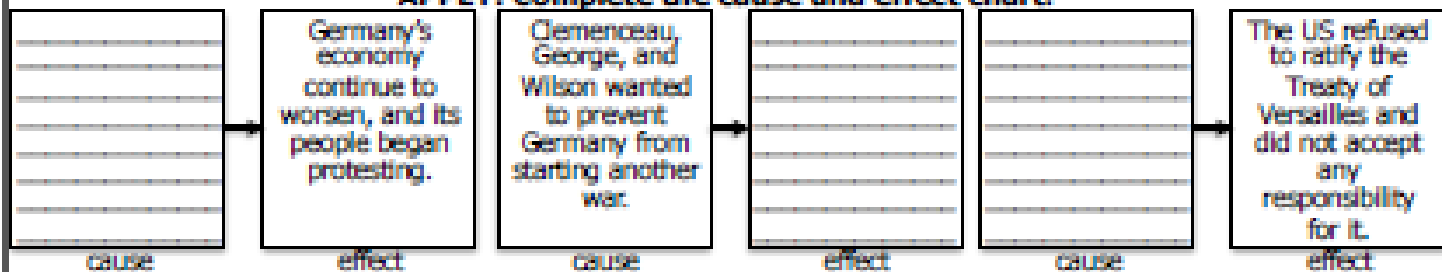
--	--	--

### DATES & EVENTS

**Fill in the blank to complete each fact.**

1. The Treaty of Versailles forced \_\_\_\_\_ to accept full \_\_\_\_\_ for causing WWI; give up \_\_\_\_\_ square miles of land; lose all of its \_\_\_\_\_; pay \_\_\_\_\_ for damages caused by the war; and its \_\_\_\_\_ had to be reduced and product stopped on most \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The land Germany lost was rich in \_\_\_\_\_, which could have helped improve its struggling \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Treaty of Versailles was mainly negotiated by \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Treaty of Versailles established the \_\_\_\_\_, which \_\_\_\_\_ was not allowed to join until 1926. The \_\_\_\_\_ also did not join.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were worried severe consequences could lead to another war.
6. World War I began in \_\_\_\_\_, and the fighting ended in \_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ wanted a severe punishment for Germany because much of \_\_\_\_\_ had been devastated.
8. Many Germans resented the \_\_\_\_\_ put in place by the treaty, and \_\_\_\_\_ occurred.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ was the last treaty to be signed, and it officially marked the end of WWI on \_\_\_\_\_.

**APPLY: Complete the cause and effect chart.**



# World War I

## The Treaty of Versailles

### ⇔ SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE ⇔

**Label each fact as true or false. If the fact is false, rewrite the fact so it is true.**

1. David Lloyd George wanted Germany to be punished severely. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Wilhelm II signed the Treaty of Versailles on behalf of Germany. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Woodrow Wilson did not agree with the Treaty of Versailles, so the US did not ratify the treaty nor accept responsibility. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. David Lloyd George, Georges Clemenceau, and Woodrow Wilson did not want Germany to be able to regain strength and start another war. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Many of David Lloyd George's proposals and concerns were ignored during the negotiations of the Treaty of Versailles. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**APPLY:** Create a comic showing the negotiations that led to the Treaty of Versailles. Include the main significant figures. The speech and/or thought bubbles must reflect each participant's stance regarding the treaty.


### ⇔ LITERACY CONNECTION ⇔

**Answer the prompt using complete sentences in paragraph form.**

Why did US President Woodrow Wilson disagree with the Treaty of Versailles?

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---