

Year 9 Term One Knowledge Organiser World War One

The MAIN causes of World War One		
M	Militarism	People were proud of their countries and wanted strong armies to show off their strength. Many countries had oversea empires and they needed a large army and navy to protect and control their colonies. Over time however this led to competition and arms' race and many people felt that if you invested a lot of money into your army you might as well use it.
A	Alliances	Militarism and colonial race meant that countries were very suspicious of their neighbours and wanted to protect themselves from possible attack. A good way of achieving that was to make an alliance with another powerful country that would promise military support in case of war.
I	Imperialism	Most powerful countries in Europe wanted to have overseas colonies for two main reasons: one was access to natural resources which were needed for fast developing industry and second was access to new markets to sell their product and make their countries richer. Most colonies were created in Africa and Asia. There was more interest than available places so countries like Great Britain, France, Germany and Russia were competing over colonies, for example France and Great Britain fought over Sudan in 1898.
N	Nationalism	From the middle of the 19th century, people started to take great pride in their countries, many became convinced that their country and the way of life were better than others and this led to many disagreements. Many nations did not have their own countries like Poles, Czechs, Hungarians, Slovaks in central Europe or Bosnian, Croats or Greeks in Balkans. They felt it was the time for them to become independent and they were willing to fight for it.

Key Terms	Definitions
Nationalism	The belief that your country is better than anyone else's.
Alliances	A group of countries who agree to support each other when needed.
Imperialism	The desire to take over and conquer other countries.
Militarism	Building up of armed forces, navy and so on.
Colony	A territory controlled by another country.
Arms race	A competition between two or more countries to have the best armed forces. This normally involves recruiting and training more soldiers and developing new, better weapons.
Military	Anything relating to army and armed forces.
Assassination	A murder of a usually prominent/important person by sudden or secret attack often for political reasons.

Short term causes of the First World War- the assassination of Franz Ferdinand

The short term cause of the First World War was the assassination of Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo on 28th of June 1914.

- Franz Ferdinand was an Austrian heir to the throne and was expected to reform Austria-Hungary in order to make it a stronger country. Many nationalists believed that would make gaining the independence impossible.
- Sarajevo was a capital city of Bosnia-Herzegovina, a Slav country which became independent from Turkey but than was incorporated by Austria-Hungary in 1908. Franz Ferdinand was visiting the Austrian armed forces in this country to show the power of Austria in the area.
- After several failed attempts the assassins finally succeeded and Gavrilo Princip executed Franz Ferdinand and his wife using his handgun.
- Serbia was the strongest, independent country from Austria-Hungary and Turkey, the biggest power in Balkans, and encouraged other Slav nations to fight for their independence. Serbia was allied with Russia, the biggest competitor of Austria in Balkans. Austria held Serbia responsible for the assassination.
- Austria was very keen to prove it still is the most powerful country in the area so its government demanded to have full control over police investigation and trial of the assassins from Bosnia and Serbia. This was breaking international laws and interfering with independence of Serbia.
- Austria-Hungary issued an ultimatum to Serbia with its demands or threatening with the war. The ultimatum was humiliating for Serbia and nobody expected it to agree to the conditions; Austria-Hungary was looking for an excuse to justify war. Serbia confirmed the support of Russia in case of Austrian attack. Austria-Hungary confirmed that Germany will support it if Russia will offer assistance to Serbia.
- Serbia agreed to most of the conditions of the ultimatum issued on 23rd of June but not all of them. However, Russia warned Austria-Hungary from starting an armed conflict. All the same, on 28th of June Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. Russia and two days later Germany started to mobilise their soldiers.

