Introduction

- Great War was the largest conflict in history up to that time
- Millions of French, British, Russian, and German soldiers mobilized for battle
- German forces fought their way toward France, but Belgian resistance foiled Germany’s plans for a quick victory
- Both sides dug deep trenches along the battlefront to protect their armies from enemy fire
- The fighting on this Western Front turned into a long, deadly stalemate, a deadlock that neither side could break
Trenches
Trench Warfare

Life in the trenches was rough on soldiers. They had to worry about rats, catching diseases, shellfire, and body lice. Food was also in short supply towards the end of the war. If you were injured, it could take a while until you were treated. Some injuries were so bad that they had to be amputated. Also, if you disobeyed your orders you ran the risk of being executed. However, the soldiers did get a small daily ration of alcohol.
Trench Warfare
No Mans Land

Aircraft can warn of the build-up of enemy troops before an attack.

Barbed wire: metres deep and an impassable obstacle for any troops able to reach it.

Concrete block house for a machine-gun.

Support trench.

Reserve trench.

Long-range artillery is placed about 10 km behind the front line. These guns fire at advancing enemy troops.

Communication trenches allow reserves to be brought forward without exposing them to enemy fire.

No Man's Land (the stretch of land between the trenches of the opposing sides) has already been churned up by shell fire. In wet weather it becomes a mass of mud, making it even harder for troops to cross.

Front-line dug-outs provide protection but not against a direct hit from an artillery shell.

A deep dug-out. German ones could be 15 m below ground and too well constructed to be damaged by shell fire.

PROBLEMS FACING ATTACKING TROOPS
WWI Technology

- Technology made WWI different from earlier wars
- Modern weapons caused high casualties
- In 1915, first Germany then the Allies began using poison gas
- Advances in technology brought about the introduction of tanks, airplanes, and modern submarines
- Germany used zeppelins to bomb the English coast
World War I Tank
World War I Tank
Airplanes
World War I Submarine
World War I Submarine
Zeppelin
Hot-air balloons were widely used in World War 1. Many were placed on the Western Front as observers because they were cheaper than planes. The development of fighter planes made it more dangerous to be in an air balloon. Balloon crew members were given parachutes. They were also given a powered wrench that helped them bring the balloon down quickly.
WWI Technology

• Pilots known as “flying aces” confronted each other in the skies, but these “dog fights” had little effect on the ground war
• German submarines, called U-boats, did tremendous damage to Allied shipping
• To defend against them, the Allies organized convoys, or groups of merchant ships protected by warships
U-Boat
World War I Dogfight
World War I Dogfight
On Europe’s Eastern Front, battle lines shifted back and forth, sometimes over large areas.

Casualties rose higher than on the Western Front.

Russia was ill-prepared and suffered a disastrous defeat when pushing into eastern Germany.

In 1915, Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary and Germany.

In 1917, the Austrians and Germans launched a major offensive against the Italians.
A Global War

- Although most of the fighting occurred in Europe, WWI was a global conflict.
- Japan used the war to seize German outposts in China and the islands in the Pacific.
- The Ottoman Empire (Turks) joined the Central Powers.
- The strategic location of Turkey enabled the Turks to cut off Allied supply lines to Russia through the Dardanelles, a vital strait connecting the Black Sea and the Mediterranean.
- Allied forces attempted to re-take the Dardanelles but failed after 10 months and more than 200,000 casualties.
- The Ottoman Turks were hard hit in the Middle East.
Dardanelles
Arab Nationalism

- Arab nationalists revolted against Ottoman rule
- The British sent T.E. Lawrence, or “Lawrence of Arabia”, to aid the Arabs
- European colonies in Africa and Asia were also drawn into the war

T.E. Lawrence ( “Lawrence of Arabia”)
Powerpoint Questions (18 points)

• 1. What did both sides dig along the European battlefronts?
• 2. What is the term for a deadlock that neither side could break?
• 3. In the trenches, what did soldiers have to worry about? (4 points)
• 4. What was the potential punishment if orders were disobeyed?
• 5. What deadly weapon was first introduced in 1915?
• 6. What new warfare technologies were introduced during World War I for the first time? (5 points)
7. A German submarine was called a ???
8. What were convoys?
9. Which front – Western or Eastern – suffered higher casualties?
10. Why was the Dardanelles vital to the Allied war effort?
11. Who did the British forces send to the Middle East to assist Arab nationalists revolt against the Ottoman Empire?
The End