



Why was the War so deadly?

Trenches: British trenches were muddy, disease spread quickly. Soldiers got gangrene (trench foot) from the mud.

Medical Care: When soldiers were injured they were taken to temporary field hospitals. Transportation was difficult due to enemy fire, mud and lack of roads. The injuries that soldiers got in WW1 were very different to usual and doctors had to learn how to treat them. In battles, there were often staff shortages - in the Battle of Ypres 1917, 379 doctors treated 200,000 casualties. They developed a triage system to manage the injuries, dividing them into the walking wounded, those in need of surgery and those who were so wounded they would die.

Weapons: Weaponry changed a lot e.g. gas, machine guns and barbed wire. Machine guns fired 1,000 bullets a minute.

Tactics: WW1 was the first time trenches had been moved so much. Lots of tactical mistakes were made in the early years of the War because generals were still learning how to manage this form of warfare. E.g. The Battle of the Somme.

How did WW1 end?

- The United States of America entered the war in 1917.
- On 21 March 1918, the Germans launched Operation Michael – a huge last-ditch attack.
- On 8 August 1918, the German Army's 'Black Day', when their attack was defeated.
- The Allies and Americans, began to push back the Germans. The Allies and Germany signed a ceasefire, or armistice, at 11am on 11 November 1918.

France, Britain and the USA met at Versailles to decide on the terms of the Peace Treaty. These terms were about:

- Land** – Germany lost territory.
- Army** – Germany's military was reduced.
- Money** – Germany had to pay reparations.
- Blame** – Germany had to accept 'War Guilt'.

The Germans saw the terms of the Treaty as a Diktat – forced upon them. They saw those in Government who signed it as 'November Criminals' as they betrayed Germany. The soldiers believed that Germany could have fought on and that the Treaty was unfair.

Which new weapons helped Britain to win the war?

Tanks

First used in 1916, they broke through German defences and sheltered British troops.

Poison gas

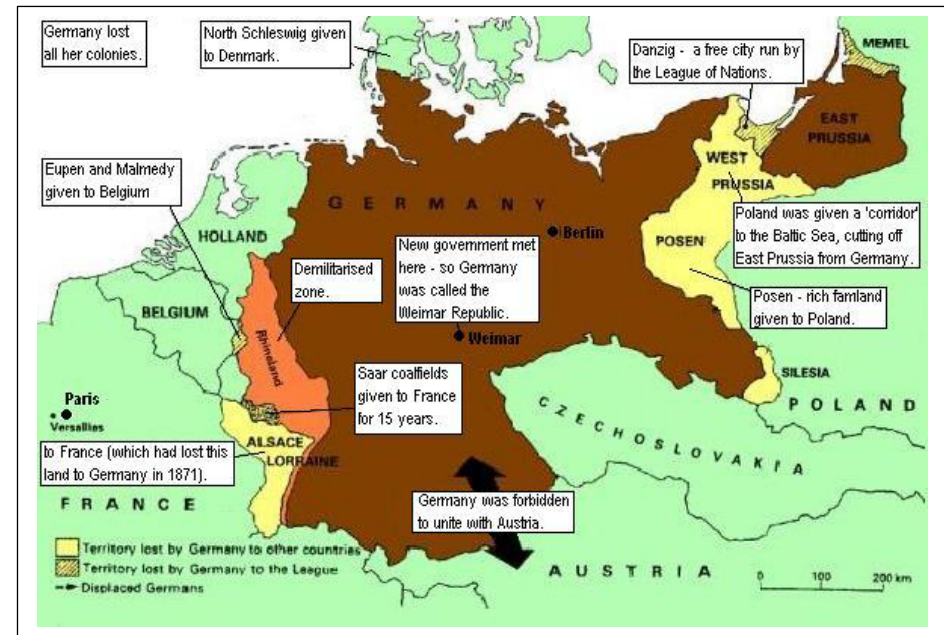
Although cruel and at the mercy of the weather, it instilled fear into soldiers on both sides. Chlorine, Mustard and Phosgene.

Aeroplanes

Very useful for reconnaissance and later bombing as well as preventing bombing raids.

Artillery

The 'creeping barrage' first used in 1916 forced Germans to remain in their shelters while the British advanced. It combined artillery, tank and foot soldiers.



Concept: Significance.