From Crisis to Change

Trace how World War I reshaped combat, governments, and borders.

SS24.WH.7 "Explain causes and consequences of World War I, including imperialism, militarism, nationalism, and the alliance system. 7a Assess the effects of trench warfare and new military technologies on combat during World War I..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a cause and its effect in each paragraph, then write 1 beside the link about the war's spread, 2 beside the link about combat, and 3 beside the link about political change.

How One Crisis Changed Europe

(1) In 1914, Europe's leaders watched a crisis spread from Sarajevo, where a Serbian nationalist assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary. Nationalism made some groups demand independence and encouraged leaders to defend national honor. Imperial rivalries had also sharpened distrust among European powers, while militarism meant governments had built large armies and detailed war plans. The alliance system turned a regional conflict into a wider war: Austria-Hungary attacked Serbia, Russia mobilized to support Serbia, and Germany backed Austria-Hungary. Germany then declared war on Russia and France. When German troops entered neutral Belgium, Britain declared war on Germany.

(2) On the Western Front, opposing armies dug long networks of trenches. Between them lay no man's land, exposed ground crossed by barbed wire and swept by machine-gun fire. Artillery shells killed and wounded soldiers even inside trenches. An attack might gain a few hundred yards at enormous cost, making a quick victory unlikely. Poison gas caused terrifying injuries, but masks and shifting winds limited its ability to break the deadlock. Tanks, used later in the war, could cross some obstacles, although early models often broke down. Years of combat brought massive casualties and shortages at home, especially in Russia.

(3) In Russia, battlefield losses and shortages weakened support for the tsar, who abdicated in March 1917. A provisional government kept fighting the war. Later that year, the Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, seized power by promising peace, land, and bread. They sought a socialist system with shared ownership of major industries, though the Bolshevik Party held political power. Russia left the war in 1918. In 1922, their new state became the Soviet Union. After Germany's defeat, the 1919 Treaty of Versailles assigned Germany responsibility for war damage, imposed reparations and military limits, returned Alsace-Lorraine to France, and gave Poland some German territory. Its terms fueled resentment in Germany.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the alliance system help turn the conflict between Austria-Hungary and Serbia into a wider war?

2. Why did machine guns and barbed wire make attacks costly, and how did tanks respond to a problem they created?

3. How did the war help the Bolsheviks rise to power, and what kind of economy did they seek?

4. How did the Treaty of Versailles change Germany's military power and borders, and what reaction did its terms cause?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence museum label for a worn World War I soldier's boot. Link one prewar cause to trench combat and then to a political or boundary change during or after the war, explaining how each event led to the next.

ANSWER KEY

From Crisis to Change

GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a cause and its effect in each paragraph, then write 1 beside the link about the war's spread, 2 beside the link about combat, and 3 beside the link about political change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the alliance system help turn the conflict between Austria-Hungary and Serbia into a wider war?	**Russia mobilized to support Serbia, while Germany backed Austria-Hungary. Germany declared war on Russia and France, and Britain entered after German troops crossed Belgium.**
2	Why did machine guns and barbed wire make attacks costly, and how did tanks respond to a problem they created?	**Barbed wire slowed soldiers on exposed ground, where machine-gun fire could hit them. Tanks could cross some obstacles, though early models often broke down.**
3	How did the war help the Bolsheviks rise to power, and what kind of economy did they seek?	**Losses and shortages weakened support for Russia's rulers, and the Bolsheviks promised peace, land, and bread. They sought shared ownership of major industries.**
4	How did the Treaty of Versailles change Germany's military power and borders, and what reaction did its terms cause?	**The treaty limited Germany's military, returned Alsace-Lorraine to France, and gave Poland some German territory. Its terms fueled resentment in Germany.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

This worn boot recalls a war that grew when Europe's alliances drew more countries into the fighting. On the Western Front, barbed wire and machine guns made attacks deadly, trapping soldiers in trenches for years. Across the wider war, mounting losses and shortages weakened Russia's government and helped the Bolsheviks gain support with promises of peace and bread. The Bolsheviks seized power in 1917 and withdrew Russia from the war in 1918. In 1922, their new state became the Soviet Union, committed to shared ownership of major industries in the name of workers.

Accept other accurate five-sentence chains, including one that ends with a boundary change under the Treaty of Versailles. Each link should explain a cause and an effect, not merely name events.