

From Ships to War

Trace how attacks at sea changed the U.S. role in World War I.

SS5H2.a "Explain how German attacks on U.S. shipping during the war in Europe (1914-1917) ultimately led the U.S. to join the fight against Germany; include the sinking of the Lusitania and concerns over safety of U.S. ships, U.S..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline sentences that show a cause or an effect, then number the underlined ideas in the order they happened. Use your markings to trace how attacks on ships led to later results.

A Neutral Nation Changes Course

- ① In 1914, war began in Europe, but the United States tried to stay neutral. Germany used submarines, called U-boats, to sink ships carrying supplies to Britain. Some ships carried U.S. passengers or goods. In May 1915, a German U-boat sank the Lusitania, a British passenger ship. Of the people killed, 128 were Americans. The sinking shocked many people in the United States.
- ② Germany temporarily limited its submarine attacks after U.S. protests, but it resumed unrestricted submarine warfare in 1917. Under this policy, German submarines could attack ships near Britain without warning. U.S. leaders worried that American ships and citizens were not safe on the Atlantic. In April 1917, President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress for war, and the United States joined the fight against Germany.
- ③ U.S. soldiers sailed to Europe and fought beside Allied armies. The United States sent food, supplies, money, and weapons. These contributions helped the Allies push Germany toward defeat. After the 1918 armistice, the Treaty of Versailles was signed in 1919. It required Germany to accept responsibility for the war, pay reparations, give up land, and reduce its military. The U.S. Senate rejected the treaty, so the United States did not join the League of Nations.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What happened to the Lusitania, and why did its sinking upset many people in the United States?

2 How did Germany's 1917 submarine policy create concerns about the safety of U.S. ships and citizens?

3 Name two ways the United States contributed to the war effort after joining the fight.

4 What were two requirements the Treaty of Versailles placed on Germany, and what did the U.S. Senate do about the treaty?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In exactly four sentences, explain the chain of events from the Lusitania sinking to the impact of the Treaty of Versailles. Include the renewed submarine attacks, one U.S. contribution to the war, and one result of the treaty.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline sentences that show a cause or an effect, then number the underlined ideas in the order they happened. Use your markings to trace how attacks on ships led to later results. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What happened to the Lusitania, and why did its sinking upset many people in the United States?	A German U-boat sank the British passenger ship Lusitania in May 1915. The attack killed 128 Americans and shocked many people in the United States.
2	How did Germany's 1917 submarine policy create concerns about the safety of U.S. ships and citizens?	Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare, so its submarines could attack ships near Britain without warning. U.S. leaders feared that American ships and citizens were not safe on the Atlantic.
3	Name two ways the United States contributed to the war effort after joining the fight.	The United States sent soldiers to fight beside Allied armies and sent food, supplies, money, and weapons.
4	What were two requirements the Treaty of Versailles placed on Germany, and what did the U.S. Senate do about the treaty?	Germany had to accept responsibility for the war, pay reparations, give up land, and reduce its military. The U.S. Senate rejected the treaty.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Lusitania sinking showed Americans that a German submarine attack could kill U.S. citizens. When Germany resumed attacks without warning in 1917, fears for U.S. ships helped lead the United States into war. U.S. soldiers and supplies helped the Allies defeat Germany. The 1919 Treaty of Versailles punished Germany, while the United States stayed out of the League of Nations after the Senate rejected the treaty.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations that accurately connect German submarine attacks, U.S. entry, U.S. aid to the Allies, and the treaty's results. For the open response, accept any accurate four-sentence sequence that includes every required detail.