World War I

What was it?

World War I lasted from 1914 to 1918. It was known at first as the Great War and the War to End All Wars. It was the largest war that the world had seen up to that time. Most of the battles took place in Europe and the Middle East. More than 8 million soldiers and sailors died, and more than 20 million were injured. The war was so bad that many people thought no one would ever start another war. However, the results of World War I helped to cause World War II, which broke out in 1939.

How did it start?

Although there were a number of causes for the war, the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the main catalyst for starting the war. After the assassination, Austria declared war on Serbia. Then Russia prepared to defend its ally Serbia. Next, Germany declared war on Russia to protect Austria. This caused France to declare war on Germany to protect its ally Russia. Germany invaded Belgium to get to France which caused Britain to declare war on Germany. This all happened in just a few days.

Who fought in World War I?

World War I was fought between the Allied Powers and the Central Powers. The main members of the Allied Powers were France, Russia, and Britain. The United States also fought on the side of the Allies after 1917. The main members of the Central Powers were Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria.

When was peace achieved?

In January 1919 the leaders of the Allies met in Paris, France, to create a peace treaty. The treaty allowed Germany to keep only a small army and navy. Germany was also forced to pay a large amount of money to the Allies. In addition, the treaty started the League of Nations, an organization that was supposed to prevent future wars.

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Questions

1. **What was the time period of World War I?**

   _____

2. **The assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was the main catalyst for starting the war.**

   True / False

3. **Who were the main members that World War I was fought between?**

   _____

   _____

4. **Where did most battles of WWI take place?**

   _____

5. **World War One was known at first as the Great War and the War to End All Wars.**   **True / False**

6. **How many people were killed and injured during the Great War?**

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