



The causation of World War 1

How did 2 bullets fired in Sarajevo cause a war in 1914?

Teacher Material

Activity plan with teacher notes

Student Material

Cards for breaking news in Sarajevo activity

Steps to war and map of alliances worksheets

Sources and charts for the political situation in 1914

Acknowledgements

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This activity makes use of sources from the collections of the Imperial War Museum, London and the Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

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More information about the sources is included in the material for teachers.

This learning activity focuses on enabling students to understand the complex causation of World War 1. It is a large enquiry, but it can be broken down into four sections, each with their own enquiry question. By tackling the four smaller enquiry sections, students should be able to address the big question: "How did 2 bullets fired in Sarajevo cause a war in 1914?"



The four sections are:

- What happened in Sarajevo?
- How did the Sarajevo assassination result in the major European powers going to war?
- What was the political situation in Europe in the early 20th century?
- But why did my country get involved in (or stay out of) World War One?
- Students will need access to textbooks or online resources in order to research.

Learning outcomes

14-16 years



6-8 hours for the total enquiry

Students will

- Learn about the chronology of historical events, the people and conditions that existed in Europe before and during 1914.
- Identify the different causes of the outbreak of war in 1914.
- Investigate the reasons for the existence of these causes.
- Be able to describe the changes that took place in Europe before and during 1914.
- Be able to explain and analyse how these causes interconnect to cause war.
- Be able to reach their own judgements about the relative importance of the causes of the war.