



Historical Context - United States and World War 1

Building Context

Objective

What were the circumstances of World War 1?

Recall & Re-activate Prior Knowledge: World War 1 | *Directions:*

Part 1 - Chart - Causes of World War 1

Directions: Under each term, explain what the term means and how it contributed to the start of World War 1.

M: Militarism

A: Alliances

N: Nationalism


I: Imperialism

A: Assassination

Part 2 - Map - Alliances

Directions: Use the map to answer the two analysis questions that follow.



 *European Alliances on the Eve of World War I. Alliance systems divided Europe into two great blocs with few countries remaining neutral.*

Analysis Questions:

- 1) The United States entered on the side of the ALLIED powers. Which nations were they fighting the war alongside?
- 2) The United States fought against the CENTRAL powers. Which nations were the United States fighting against?

Part 3 - Video Clip

Directions: Watch the short clip linked below. To help you analyze the information in the clip, answer the questions that follow the link. *Read the questions before watching the clip.*



[US & World War 1 - History Channel Short Clip](#)

Analysis Questions:

- 1) How long did the United States *watch* World War 1 from afar?
- 2) Why did immigrants come to the United States? How could this have influenced America to stay neutral in the war?
- 3) In your opinion, what is the difference between *neutrality*, *indifference*, and *empathy*? Which one of these words best describes the position of the United States during the early years of World War 1?
- 4) What was President Woodrow Wilson's campaign slogan? Why is this ironic?
- 5) What was the triggering event for the United States to join World War 1?
- 6) What did Germany promise Mexico in return for aiding in the war?
- 7) As America entered the war, who else dropped out?
- 8) What three things did the United States contribute to the war?