

“MAIN” CAUSES OF WAR

Purpose

Deepen your understanding of the causes of World War I by evaluating the MAIN acronym. Reviewing this acronym against images from this time period will help you build a stronger understanding of the many different causes of the war.

Key information

An acronym is a word made from the first letters of a group of words, like NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) or ASAP (as soon as possible).

Process

1. Consider the MAIN acronym as a useful tool for summing up the causes of World War I. In the table below, briefly explain how each term represents a cause of World War I.

Term	Explanation
Militarism	
Alliances	
Imperialism	
Nationalism	

2. Review the World War I image sources (your teacher will either give you printed copies to sort or have you [view the images](#)). Categorize each source by deciding if it fits the M, A, I, or N heading best.

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Image #	M, A, I or N?	Explain your choice

3. Does MAIN really cover all the causes of World War I that you’re aware of so far? Are there any outliers, or causes that don’t fit neatly into these categories?

4. If you had to come up with a different acronym for the causes of World War I, what would it be? Explain why you chose the letters that make up your acronym. Remember that an acronym is an abbreviation using the initial letters of other words that can be pronounced as a word.

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