

Name _____

Watch These Flicks Together as a Class!

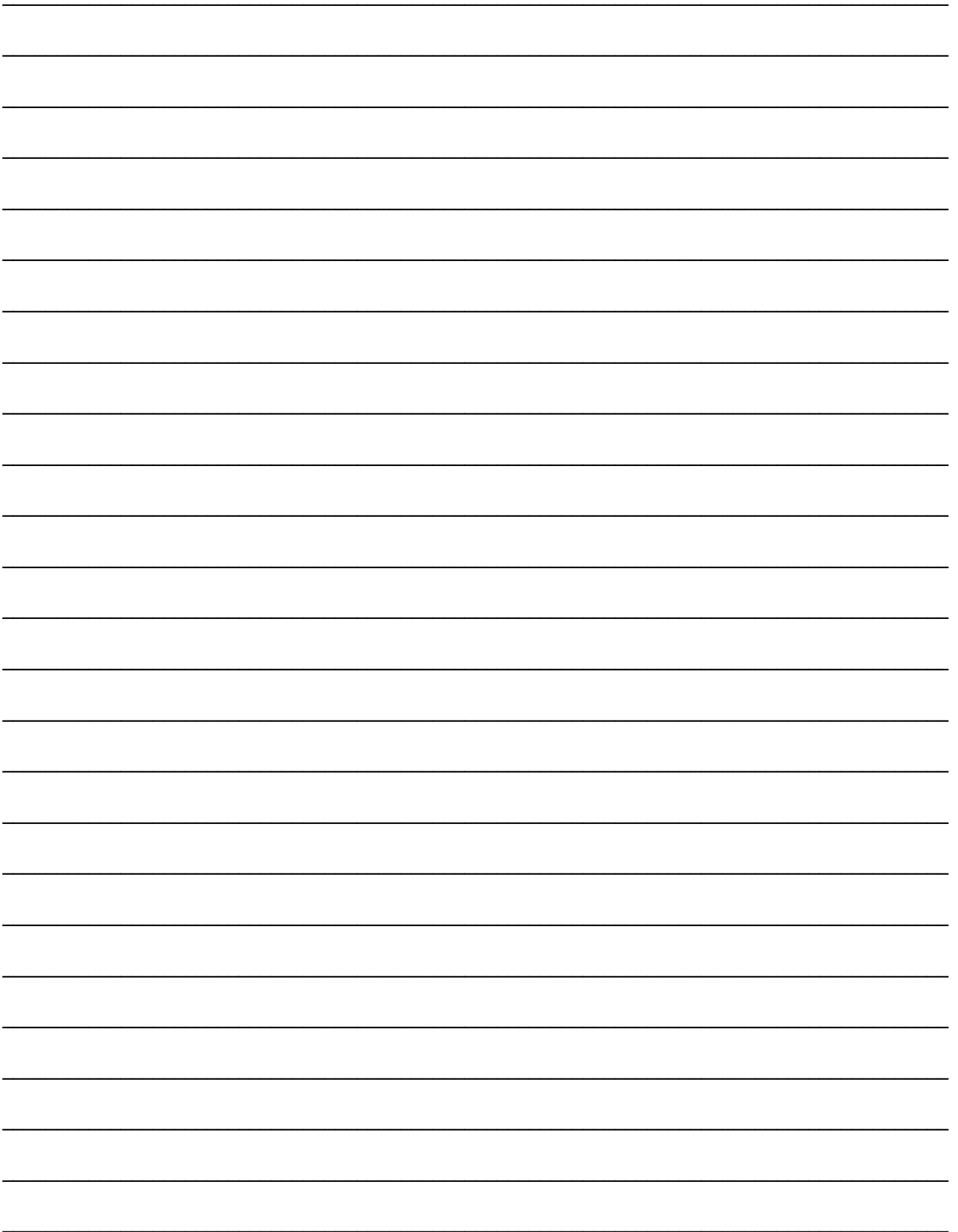
They Shall Not Grow Old Movie Trailer

History Channel: World War I Tech

Quiz Grade: After watching the short movies – *They Shall Not Grow Old* & *World War I Technology* together as a class, examining the images included in this reading, and reading the content below explain the technology used during World War I and provide **three** examples in your own words of how the following statement is true:

“Soldiers rode in on horses and left in airplanes...”

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



When the Great War first started, young boys from Europe rushed off to sign up. This was considered a moment in their time where they felt they could get involved in a great cause for their country, maybe see some action in battle, fire a gun or two, earn a medal, and come home as heroes! The youth of Europe felt nationalistic and patriotic and hoped that they would contribute to their nation's victory!

The youth is often naive when it comes to war. Many of these young boys (18-25 year olds) were farmers, or factory workers, or young men who knew *nothing* about war, or how to march as a soldier, or even fire a gun! These men knew nothing of the technological advancements that would lead to millions of deaths. Millions of deaths. Little did these ignorant young men know that the type of warfare they would engage in would be the most *horrific* in world history. The technology of the war would be absolutely incredible and deadly compared to war tactics and techniques just twenty years ago.



These boys would be haunted for the rest of their lives of the trauma they endured, and especially at a young age. Men would dig trenches in the mud using shovels and tin cups where they lived day in and day out. They lived underground - for years - without advancing more than 100 yards at a time.

Imagine the following while stuck in a cold, muddy trench...

- The noises of the bombs both near and far deafening the ears and at times, blinding you...
- Seeing the gas enter the trenches and watching others suffocate before you
- Seeing bodies burned alive with flamethrowers
- Seeing tanks – something you've never seen in your life – a metal horse moving at almost 20 mph towards you that was practically impenetrable
- Seeing guns shoot miles...yes...miles from where you fired the gun
- Planes overhead, making war 3-dimensional
- Underwater boats that you could not see, but could fire at you & sink ships in the blink of an eye
- Coming out of the trenches to see bodies lying dead on barbed wire, sometimes missing limbs..

These were the new horrible realities of war never seen before in all of human history...

Trench Warfare: Trenches were long, deep ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived and fought. This was a major feature of World War I, and it was a response to the development of powerful weapons that made it difficult for armies to advance easily. Ever heard of “no man’s land?” This term comes from World War I. Because the trenches were so far apart from each other, and because it was difficult to go across the fields to attack the enemy, the land between the trenches was nicknamed “no man’s land” for no man could cross that field without certain death.



While not high-tech, barbed wire was a simple yet effective technology that played a key role in the trench warfare of World War I.

It was used to create obstacles and barriers, making it difficult for infantry to advance. Often, men laid dead over barbed wire fences in no man’s land, only to stay there for days, sometimes weeks..

Machine Guns: Machine guns were rapid-firing weapons that could shoot a lot of bullets in a short amount of time. They played a big role in trench-warfare, making it challenging for soldiers to advance across open fields. No longer did men simply run across empty fields. They were mowed down by these guns, which left many soldiers stuck in the trenches for fear of getting shot at from hundreds of yards away.

Artillery: Large guns and cannons were used for long-range bombardment. They could fire explosive shells over great distances and were used to soften up enemy positions before an attack. Big Bertha, a German gun, could fire a heavy artillery shell nine miles. Now, soldiers and weapons did not need to be close to the battlefield.

Poison Gas: Both sides used poisonous gasses, like mustard gas, as a weapon. These gasses could cause severe injuries or death, and soldiers had to wear gas masks for protection. Chlorine, phosgene, and mustard gas were among the substances used. Gas attacks had a significant psychological impact and led to the widespread adoption of gas masks. Without the mask, a soldier could expect to die within minutes of inhaling the fumes. Suffocation and skin burns were often guaranteed on exposed skin and in the lungs if not prepared.

Tanks: Tanks made their debut in World War I in 1916. Tanks were designed to break through enemy lines and overcome the challenges of trench warfare. Nearly impenetrable at first, they were designed to travel across any terrain and be minimally damaged. While they were slow and unreliable at first, tanks became a critical component of modern armored warfare. They were heavily armored and armed with guns, providing mobile firepower.

Airplanes: World War I saw the first significant use of airplanes in warfare. Initially used for spying on the enemy by flying overhead enemy territory, planes then had machine guns mounted on them and were loaded

with bombs on board. With this incredible invention, warfare was now 3-dimensional. No longer were trenches, soldiers, forts, buildings, or anything safe from aerial attack. Warfare was now everywhere!

Submarines: Submarines played a crucial role in naval warfare. German U-boats, or submarines, were particularly effective in attacking enemy ships, and they could be used to protect massive steel ships while traveling across the ocean waters. Submarine attacks on enemy shipping, including unrestricted submarine warfare by Germany, significantly influenced the course of the conflict. No longer was any boat safe at sea.

Communication Technology: Advances in communication technology, such as the use of telephones and radios, improved the coordination of military operations. Commanders could relay orders and information more efficiently across large distances. One of the challenges, however, was the possibility of intercepting Morse Code messages or other types of radio broadcasts. Both sides needed to develop a “bullet proof” method of technologically communicating with each other. One of the many benefits was the ability to communicate of exceptionally long distances with ease.

