**Solution - How much do you know about the causes of World War I?**

1. Identify a significant event for each of the following dates:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 28 June 1914 | **Gavrilo Princip assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand** |
| 28 July 1914 | **Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia** |
| 25 April 1915 | **Gallipoli Landing** |
| 1 July 1916 | **Battle of the Somme begins** |
| 19-20 July 1916 | **Battle of Fromelles** |
| April 1917 | **USA enters the war** |
| 11 Nov 1918 | **Armistice Day ceasefire, WWI ends** |
| 28 June 1919 | **Paris Treaty (Treaty of Versailles) signed** |

1. Complete the table on the causes of WWI and how each element contributed to it:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **M - Military** | **Britain had the biggest navy and was spending huge amounts of money on weapons and ships. Germany had a large army and wanted to establish itself as a world power. The Kaiser poured huge amounts of resources into strengthening the German armed forces. Even though leaders of Europe were talking about peace, they were preparing for war.** |
| **A - Alliances** | **A key factor that led to a total European war was the alliance system because each participating nation promised to provide military support if one of its members were attacked. Alliances were supposed to prevent war but instead, increased tensions between the Allied and Central powers leading to WWI.** |
| **I - Imperalism** | **Imperalism led to tensions between European countries in the lead up to WWI. Imperialism relates to a country extending its territories to create an empire. Much of the world was already colonized except for Germany which had only recently been unified. The Kaiser wanted to add to the German colonies and tried to take control of French Colonies in North Africa but was blocked by Britain and France.** |
| **N - Nationalism** | **Nationalism played an important role in the lead up to WWI. Nationalism encouraged cooperation between A-H and Germany because they shared similar languages and culture. Bosnia-Herzegovina was under Austro-Hungary control, but wanted to join Serbia and form their own nation. Russia supported B-H desire to become independent and unite with Serbia, so after the assassination of the Archduke, Russia became drawn into the conflict which followed.** |

1. Name the two Alliances and the countries which belonged to each of them.

**Triple Entente – Britain, France, Russia**

**Triple Alliance – Germany, Austro-Hungary, Italy**

1. Explain the objective of the Schlieffen Plan and its assumptions.  
     
   **Objective was to invade France by going through Belgium which Germany didn’t think would put up resistance. Assumptions were that: Russia would take 6 weeks to mobilise its forces, France could be defeated in six weeks, Belgium would not resist any German attack and Britain would remain neutral.**
2. Explain how did Britain get drawn into WWI?

**Britain was drawn into the conflict because it signed a Treaty with Belgium guaranteeing it military support if another country invaded its borders.**

1. Identify reasons why young Australian men were keen to enlist.

* **Saw war as a big adventure, glorious, exciting, leave home see the world**
* **Hadn’t experienced a war as yet and had no understanding of it, Australia only recently federated**
* **Thought it would be all over by Christmas**
* **Thought it was their duty being a dominion of Britain**
* **Desire to show what a new nation could contribute to world conflict**
* **Wanted to show support for Britain, in case Australia should need Britain’s help at some stage in the future**
* **Women liked men in uniform and encouraged their menfolk to enlist**
* **Promise of a job and income**
* **Hatred of the enemy after hearing about German atrocities**
* **Men signed up in their sporting teams**

1. Name two different groups of people who objected to Australia’s involvement in the war. Give reasons for their objections.

**Pacifists – these people didn’t think the violence of war was a solution to European problems.**

**Conscientious Objectors – people who oppose war and believe they would be betraying their principles enlisting or fighting or by supporting a war.**