

How Did the First World War Start?

Introduction

The First World War was an enormous and destructive event in the early 1900s.

Over 17 million people were killed and it affected the whole world.

Why Did the First World War Happen?

The major reason for the start of the First World War was the murder of a man named Archduke Franz Ferdinand. However, there were other events that led to the start of the war.

Main Events

The start of the 1900s in Europe was quite peaceful for many countries. In the 1900s some European countries, mainly France and Britain, owned countries in Asia and Africa. These countries helped Europe to be richer and more powerful. The first major battle was the Battle of the Mons in Belgium.



Archduke Franz Ferdinand

Defence Treaties

- Many countries had treaties with other countries so that if one of them was in a war, the other members had to join the war to help them out.
- **The Triple-Entente** was a pact between Britain, France and Russia.
- **The Central Powers** was a treaty between Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Why Did They Have These Treaties?

- Germany wanted to be more powerful because they didn't own many other countries.
- Germany started to build lots of war ships and create an army.
- Britain realised what Germany were doing and started to build their own war ships.
- Countries decided that if there was a war that they needed to help each other, so they created treaties to protect themselves.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand

- Archduke Franz Ferdinand was meant to become king of Austria-Hungary. On June 28th 1914, he was killed by a man named Gavrilo Princip, who was a member of a Serbian group called The Black Hand, who had planned the killing.
- Due to his murder, Austria-Hungary threatened to go to war with Serbia.
- The defence agreements between the countries meant that Germany was on the side of Austria-Hungary, however Russia sided with Serbia.
- Austria-Hungary declared war with Serbia on July 28th 1914.
- Germany then declared war on Russia, and then, on 3rd August 1914, they declared war on France.
- When Germany marched into France on 4th August, Britain joined the war.

How did the First World War Start **Questions**

1. When did the First World War begin for Britain?

2. Where was the first major battle?

3. What was life like in Europe before the First World War?

4. Where did Britain and France own other countries?

5. What was the name of the treaty between Britain, France and Russia?

6. What was the treaty called between Germany and Austria-Hungary?

7. When was Archduke Franz Ferdinand killed?

8. Why do you think Germany started to build war ships and an army?

9. What do you feel is the main reason Britain entered the First World War?
