

# 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WORLD WAR I



THE UNITED STATES  
WORLD WAR ONE  
CENTENNIAL COMMISSION SM



**HISTORY** commemorates the *100th anniversary of World War I* with special programming, online videos, original articles and curriculum offerings. Throughout the 2014-2019 commemoration period, **HISTORY** will join with our partners in sharing resources that help history enthusiasts, educators and students learn more about The Great War. This transformative conflict shaped our world immeasurably. By exploring the causes and consequences of World War I we can reflect on the many ways it changed our world by ushering in new technologies, transforming relations between nations and also leaving behind enormous casualties in this “war to end all wars.”

# WORLD WAR I: 100TH ANNIVERSARY

## KEY TERMS TO DEFINE

trench	tactical
stalemate	zeppelin
artillery	reconnaissance
ballistic	armistice
neutrality	isolationist
propaganda	fortifications

**HISTORY** is pleased to share some of our resources to explore World War I and its legacy in our world today.



[The World Wars™: Video Clips](#)  
[The World Wars™: Education guide](#)



[World War I: The First Modern War](#)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

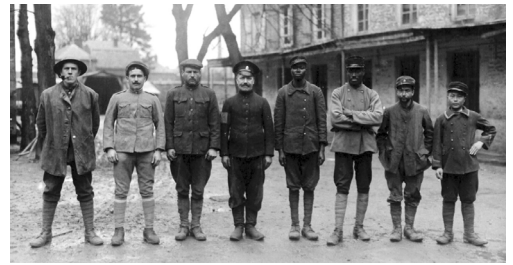
- 1. World War I: Background.** Visit [World War I: Background](#) to read a short background article about World War I. Students can supplement this article with their own research and answer the following questions: Who were the Central and Allied powers during World War I? What was the main source of the conflict? What were some of the major battles of the war? How and when did the war finally end? What do you think were some of the most important outcomes and legacies of the war? Students can also find many other articles on this site for essays, research projects, and further reading.
- 2. World War I: Short video analysis.** Visit [history.com/wwi](http://history.com/wwi) to find over a dozen short videos on World War I topics. Students can choose one of these videos to watch. While watching, ask students to write down a list of terms to define and a list of 3-5 things they learned from watching the video segment. Students can also write a short essay about the topic(s) explored in the video, supplementing what they learned with their own research.
- 3. World War I: Diverse Voices.** World War I was a transformative conflict for people from all walks of life. Encourage students to learn about the roles of women, African Americans, Native Americans, and other groups during the war. For example, [History.com](#) features a video segment about the Harlem Hellfighters, an African American unit that became one of the most highly decorated World War I fighting forces, despite tremendous discrimination. Visit [Harlem Hellfighters](#) to learn about the Harlem Hellfighters. Students can also explore the excellent graphic novel by Max Brooks about the Harlem Hellfighters (See Brooks, Max. *The Harlem Hellfighters*. Broadway Books, 2014). Additional resources for exploring the diverse participants in World War I are included throughout this guide.





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4. **World War I By the Numbers.** HISTORY created an infographic to visually depict key World War I statistics. View this infographic at: [World War I By the Numbers](#). What statistics are most interesting? Which are most surprising? Students can choose one of these statistics and create a visual presentation, or they can choose their own set of statistics related to the conflict that they can depict visually via PowerPoint or another format.
5. **World War I Poetry.** Among the rich works of artistic expression created during the World War I era are many poems that captured this cataclysmic era, including John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields." Students can read and analyze this poem at [John McCrae In Flanders Field](#) and can find additional WWI poetry at the [First World War Poetry Digital Archive](#).
6. **Mapping World War I.** Students can review this [animated map](#) of key World War I events and maneuvers.



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## THE UNITED STATES WORLD WAR ONE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION: COMMEMORATING THE GREAT WAR

"It must be a peace without victory...Victory would mean peace forced upon the loser a victor's terms imposed upon the vanquished. It would be accepted in humiliation, under duress, at an intolerable sacrifice, and would leave a sting, a resentment, a bitter memory upon which terms of peace would rest, not permanently, but only as upon quicksand. Only a peace between equals can last."

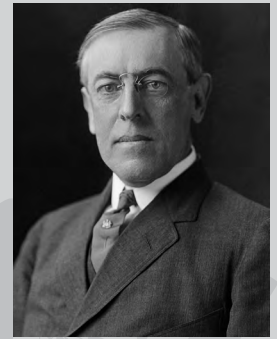
President Woodrow Wilson, 22 January 1917



Dwight D. Eisenhower

From 2013 to 2019, the World War One Centennial Commission and its partners will commemorate the centennial of the Great War, when more than 4,000,000 men and women from the United States served in uniform during World War One, among them 2 future presidents, Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Two million individuals from the United States served overseas during World War One, including 200,000 naval personnel who served on the seas. The United States suffered 375,000 casualties during World War One, including 116,516 deaths. The centennial of World War One offers an opportunity for people in the United States to learn about and commemorate the sacrifices of their predecessors, and to understand how the events of 100 years ago have affected our nation, its people, and the world ever since.

Visit [World War Centennial](http://www.worldwar1centennial.org) to learn about the Centennial commission and stay up to date on the commemoration offerings.



Harry S. Truman

## NATIONAL HISTORY DAY: TEACHING WORLD WAR I IN THE 21ST CENTURY

National History Day has created excellent new resources that bring the events of World War I into a modern context through relevant essays, lesson plans, online resources, and classroom materials. Find ways of teaching WWI from multiple perspectives and links to amazing primary sources such as photographs, propaganda posters, and many more.

Visit [National History Day](http://www.nhd.org) to view and start using these resources today!



## RESOURCES

History.com: [www.history.com/wwi](http://www.history.com/wwi)

World War One Centennial Commission: <http://www.worldwar-1centennial.org>

National History Day Resources: <http://www.nhd.org/WWI.htm>

National World War I Museum: <http://www.worldwar-1centennial.org>

From Flanders Fields project: <http://www.fromflandersfields.org>

BBC World War One: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/0/ww1>

