

# World War I

*The Emergence of Modern  
America (1890–1930)*



Origins and causes

The Great War

The home front

**An imperfect peace**

## Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

**Icons:** For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will learn about the aftermath of World War I and be able to answer these key questions:

- What did each of the powers want?
- What were the terms of the Treaty of Versailles?
- What role did President Wilson play?
- What was the League of Nations and why did it fail?





After the war, the allied powers met at the Palace of Versailles in France to arrange a peace treaty. The powers all had different goals in mind.

Can you match the nations to their primary objectives for the treaty?

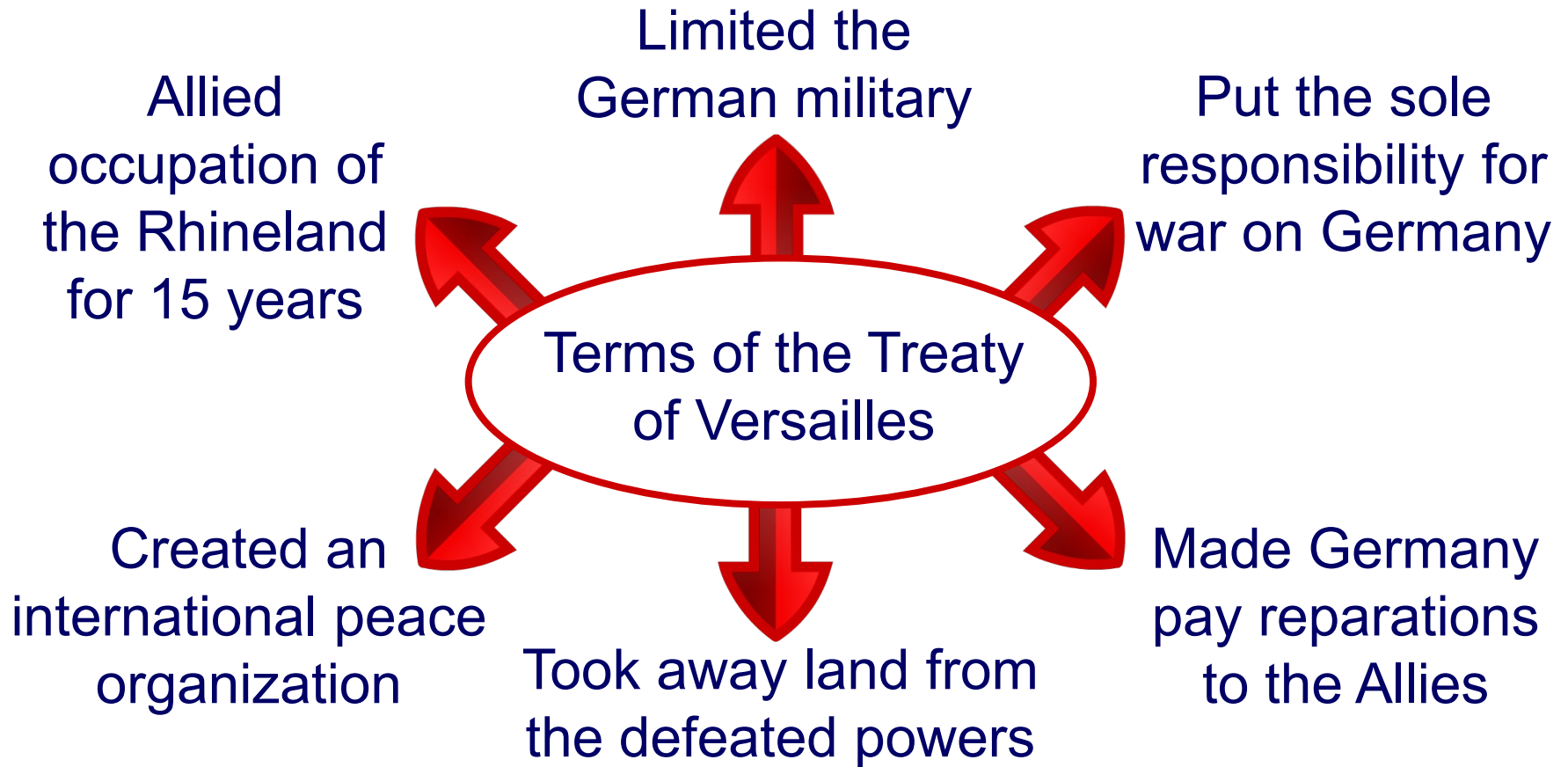
Press **start** to begin.

start





After long arguments, the Great Powers finally came to an agreement. The **Treaty of Versailles** forced the following:



Do you think these terms were fair?





At the end of World War I, Germany lost a lot of territory under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

Can you identify where these territories are and which countries gained them?  
Drag the labels to the correct places.

Press **start** to begin.

start





# Wilson's Fourteen Points



board  
works

Wilson came to Versailles with a program of **Fourteen Points** that he hoped would shape international relations. The points were based upon a number of principles: improving diplomacy, establishing self-determination, disarmament, recovering Germany's territorial gains and removing barriers to free trade. Analyze each point and decide which of Wilson's principles it adheres to.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**



Have any of Wilson's points been adopted today?



The **League of Nations** was Wilson's idea laid out in his Fourteen Points delivered to **Congress** in 1918. He wanted nations of the world to have self-determination, to have guarantees concerning their territory and to be able to choose for themselves the type of government they wanted.

Wilson wanted to ensure world peace and prevent future conflicts.

He felt this would be best achieved via cooperation between countries in the League of Nations.


ORIGIN OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

January 8th, 1918. Fourteen Points laid down by President Wilson as the basis of world peace. (\*)

January 25th, 1919. League accepted in principle.

April 28th, 1919. Covenant adopted.

January 10th, 1920. League came into being; Secretariat established in London.



Woodrow WILSON

January 16th, 1920. First meeting of Council at Paris.

November 1st, 1920. League Headquarters moved from London to Geneva.

November 15th, 1920. First Meeting of Assembly at Geneva.

(\*) THE FOURTEENTH POINT :  
" A General Association of Nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small States alike."





The Treaty of Versailles imposed peace terms on Germany, but it was a compromise agreement due to the conflicting aims of each nation. Germany was punished harshly and was temporarily weakened. However lasting peace seemed unlikely, which made no one happy. Press on the leader of each country to find out how they felt about the terms of the treaty.

Press **start** to begin.

start



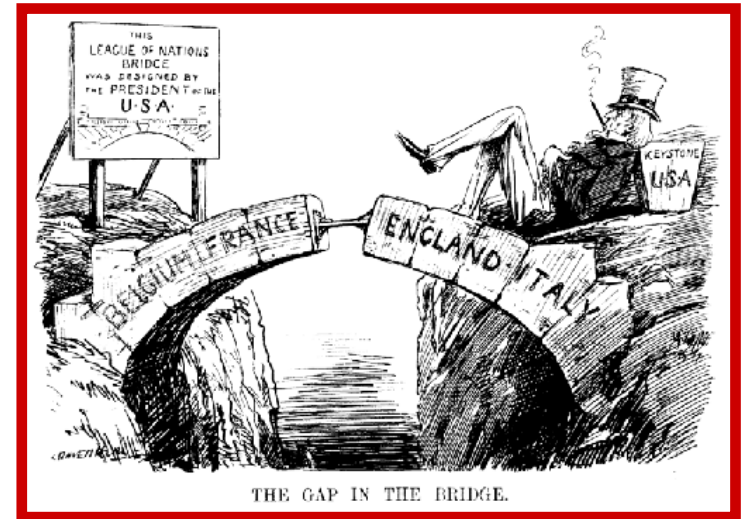
How do you think Germany reacted to the Treaty?



# Wilson brings the Treaty home

Wilson's next task was to get Congress to agree to the League of Nations, but there was a lot of opposition:

- the **isolationists** did not want to be part of European politics
- progressives felt Wilson had compromised too many ideals to get the other powers to join
- immigrants were angry at how their homelands had fared in the deal.



Wilson fought tirelessly for his vision, but in 1919 he suffered a stroke that disabled him for life. The Senate never reached the two-thirds vote needed for the U.S. to join the League.

What do you think the cartoon is trying to say?



# The failure of the League



Despite the U.S. deciding not to join, the League of Nations was formed. However, it proved to be weak and indecisive.



Membership of the League fluctuated. Germany and Russia were initially excluded. Britain and France were the only constant members.

It also had no armed force and was reluctant to intervene. Some countries capitalized on this indecision.



Which countries capitalized on the weaknesses of the League? Was world peace a realistic aim?



Test your knowledge of World War I and America's involvement in it with this quiz. Choose the correct answer to each question to see how much you can remember about World War I.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Test your understanding of World War I  
by recapping key terms and important  
people using this glossary.  
Press on the tabs and then each  
term to see a definition.  
Press **start** to begin.

start

