



MacArthur Memorial Education Programs

1914: Identifying Players and Perspectives
A World War I Collaborative Activity

Instructions:

This collaborative activity includes primary source packets for seven groups. Each packet represents a different country: France, England, Germany, Belgium, Russia, Serbia, or Austria-Hungary. Within the packet students will find newspaper headlines, quotes, photos, political cartoons, or posters related to a particular “mystery” country. A blank map of Europe in 1914 is also included in the packet.

Students should examine the sources within their packet to determine which country the sources represent. They should identify the location of that country on the blank map provided and then discuss the role of their country in the outbreak of the war, combining the primary sources, notes, textbook, and information discussed in class. At the end of the activity, students may share information about their country and the role it played in the war with the class. This can be followed by a discussion of which country (or countries) contributed the most to the outbreak of WWI, allowing students to draw conclusions from multiple resources, as well as the information shared by their classmates.

Answer Key: #1 Austria-Hungary, #2 Belgium, #3 France, #4 Germany, #5 Great Britain, #6 Russia, #7 Serbia.

Instructions:

After investigating the primary sources in the packet provided to you, identify the location of the mystery country on this 1914 map of Europe.



Activity Instructions:

Your group has been given a sheet of primary documents that may include items such as newspaper headlines, posters, photographs, speeches, or political cartoons. Each set of documents relates to one country involved in World War I. It is up to your group to use the documents as well as information from class discussions to determine which country is represented by the primary documents. Then answer the questions below.

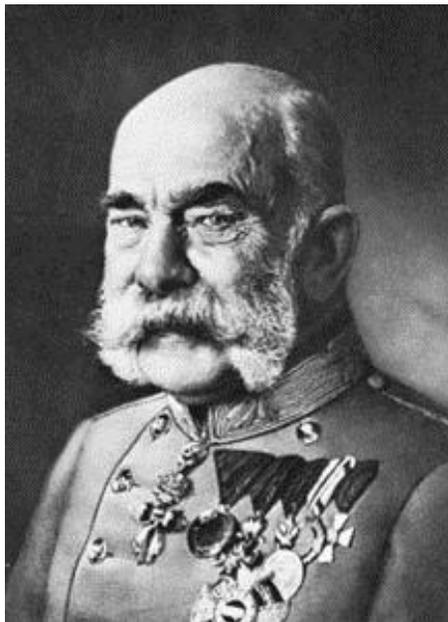
1. Seven countries were involved in World War I from the beginning: Germany, Serbia, France, Russia, Belgium, Austria-Hungary, and England. Based on the documents in your packet, which country do you think is represented?
2. On which side (Central Powers or Allied Powers) is your country aligned?
3. Who are the allies of your country?
4. Locate and label your country on the map provided.
5. How did the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand impact your country?
6. How did the invasion of Belgium impact your country?
7. Who were the key leaders of your country during the war?
8. What role did your country play in the outbreak of World War I?
9. Do you think your country bears responsibility for the outbreak of the war?

Mystery Country #1

Excerpt of a document sent from Mystery Country #1 to the Serbian Government

“It is clear from the statements and confessions of the criminal authors of the assassination of the twenty-eighth of June, that the murder at Sarajevo was conceived at Belgrade, that the murderers received the weapons and the bombs with which they were equipped from Serbian officers and officials who belonged to the Narodna Odbrana, and, finally, that the dispatch of the criminals and of their weapons to Bosnia was arranged and effected under the conduct of Serbian frontier authorities.

The results brought out by the inquiry no longer permit the Imperial and Royal Government to maintain the attitude of patient tolerance which it has observed for years toward those agitations which center at Belgrade and are spread thence into the territories of the Monarchy. Instead, these results impose upon the Imperial and Royal Government the obligation to put an end to those intrigues, which constitute a standing menace to the peace of the Monarchy.”



Emperor of Country #1



Anti-Serbian Riots in Country #1



Poster Announcing a War Bond Drive to Support Country #1

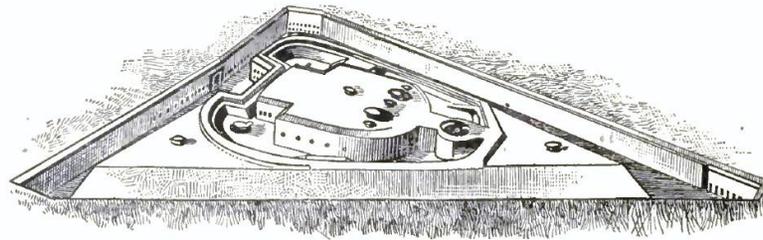
Mystery Country #2

Excerpt of a speech made by the ruler of Mystery Country #2

“If we are forced to resist the invasion of our soil, and to defend our threatened homes, this duty, however hard it may be, will find us armed and resolved upon the greatest sacrifices. Even now, in readiness for any eventuality, our valiant youth is up in arms, firmly resolved...to defend our threatened country...One single vision fills all minds: that of our independence endangered. One single duty imposes itself upon our wills: the duty of stubborn resistance...It is the moment for action...If the foreigner, in defiance of that neutrality whose demands we have always scrupulously observed, violates our territory, he will find...[the citizens of Country #2] gathered about their sovereign, who will never betray his constitutional oath, and their Government, invested with the absolute confidence of the entire nation. I have faith in our destinies; a country which is defending itself conquers the respect of all; such a country does not perish!”



King of Country #2



One of twelve fortresses that made up the Fortified Position of Liège. These fortresses were meant to protect the Eastern border of Country #2.



A British cartoon applauding Country #2 for standing up to a “bully.”

Mystery Country #3

Excerpt of a speech made by the president of Country #3 on August 5, 1914

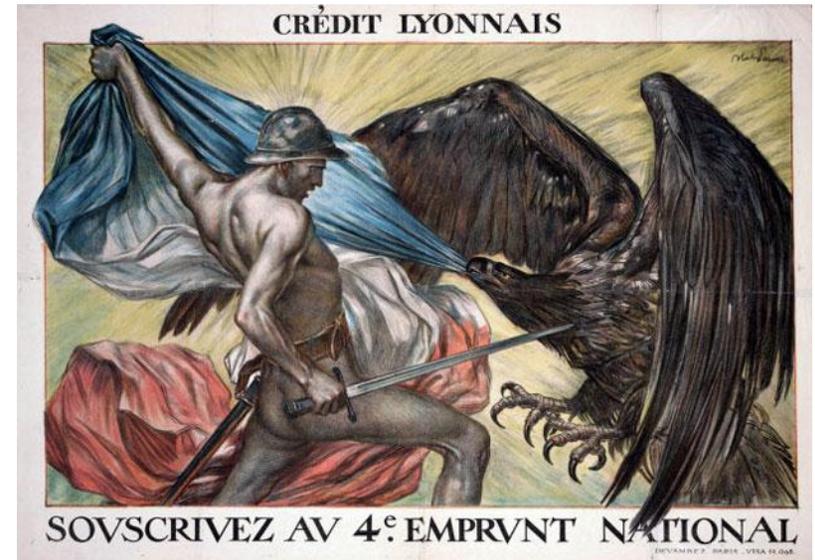
"...[Country #3] has just been the object of a violent and premeditated attack, which is an insolent defiance of the law of nations....For more than forty years the...[citizens of Country #3], in sincere love of peace, have buried at the bottom of their heart the desire for legitimate reparation. They have given to the world the example of a great nation which, definitely raised from defeat by the exercise of will, patience, and labour, has only used its renewed and rejuvenated strength in the interest of progress and for the good of humanity...In the war which is beginning...[Country #3] will have Right on her side, the eternal power of which cannot with impunity be disregarded by nations any more than by individuals...And already from every part of the civilised world sympathy and good wishes are coming to her. For today once again she stands before the universe for Liberty, Justice, and Reason."



President of Country #3

Censorship Prevents Full Details As
To Events "At Front" Reaching
Anxious Public
BANK OF PARIS TO
MOVE TO BORDEAUX
President Poincaire And Cabinet
Arrive At Coast--Germans
Bombard Malines

Headlines from The Virginian-Pilot,
September 1914



War Bond Poster for Country #3
from later in the war

Mystery Country #4

Excerpt from a telegram from the Emperor of Country #4 to Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, July 29, 1914

"I...share your wish that peace should be maintained. But as I told you in my first telegram, I cannot consider Austria's action against Serbia an "ignoble" war. Austria knows by experience that Serbian promises on paper are wholly unreliable...Austria does not want to make any territorial conquests at the expense of Serbia. I therefore suggest that it would be quite possible for Russia to remain a spectator of the Austro-Serbian conflict without involving Europe in the most horrible war she ever witnessed. I think a direct understanding between your Government and Vienna possible and desirable, and as I already telegraphed to you, my Government is continuing its exercises to promote it. Of course military measures on the part of Russia would be looked upon by Austria as a calamity we both wish to avoid and jeopardize my position as mediator which I readily accepted on your appeal to my friendship..."



Emperor of Country #4



Soldiers of Country #4 mobilizing for war



War Loan Poster from Country #4.
"War Loans help the guardian of your happiness."

Mystery Country #5

Excerpt from the August 4, 1914 diary entry of the king of Mystery Country #5

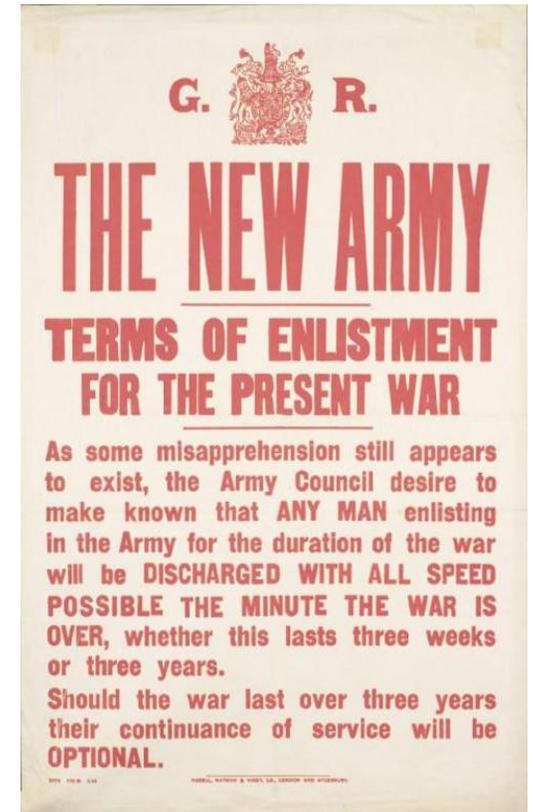
“I held a Council at 10:45 to declare war with Germany. It is a terrible catastrophe but it is not our fault. An enormous crowd collected outside the Palace; we went on to the balcony both before and after dinner. When they heard that war had been declared, the excitement increased...the cheering was terrific. Please God it may soon be over...”



King of Country #5



At the time of World War I, Country #5 was regarded as a great naval power



August 1914 army recruitment poster for Country #5

Mystery Country #6

Excerpt from a telegram from the ruler of Country #6 to Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, July 31, 1914

"I thank you heartily for your mediation which begins to give one hope that all may yet end peacefully. It is technically impossible to stop our military preparations which were obligatory owing to Austria's mobilization. We are far from wishing war. As long as the negotiations with Austria on Serbia's account are taking place my troops shall not make any provocative action. I give you my solemn word for this. I put all my trust in Gods mercy and hope in your successful mediation in Vienna for the welfare of our countries and for the peace of Europe."



Ruler of Country #6



Propaganda poster showing a soldier from Country #6 triumphing over Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, Emperor Franz Josef of Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire

Mystery Country #7

Excerpt from the official response of Country #7 to an ultimatum by the Austro-Hungarian Empire, July 25, 1914

“The Royal Government was therefore painfully surprised by the assertions that citizens of...[Country #7] had participated in the preparations of the outrage in Sarajevo. The Government [of Country #7] expected to be invited to cooperate in the investigation of the crime, and it was ready, in order to prove its complete correctness, to proceed against all persons in regard to whom it would receive information...the Royal Government is prepared to surrender to the court, without regard to position and rank, every...[citizen of Country #7] for whose participation in the crime of Sarajevo it should have received proof.”



Gavrilo Princip - the Bosnian-Serb who assassinated Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand



Austrian cartoon calling for Country #7 to be crushed



King of Country #7