



# World War I

from the Esri GeoInquiries™ collection for U.S. History

Target audience – U.S. History learners

Time required – 15 minutes

<b>Activity</b>	Discover the key fronts of World War I and the impact of the United States' involvement.
<b>Social Studies Standards</b>	<b>C3: D2.His.1.9-12. Evaluate how historical events and developments were shaped by unique circumstances of time and place as well as broader historical contexts.</b> <b>C3: D2.His.2.9-12. Analyze change and continuity in historical eras.</b>
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students will identify the Allied Powers, Central Powers, Western Front, and Eastern Front.</li><li>• Students will identify and explain how U.S. involvement changed the course of World War I.</li></ul>

Map URL: <http://esriurl.com/historygeoinquiry9>

## Ask

### What were the two major alliances during WWI?

- ? Click the URL to launch the map.
- ? What were the two alliances during WWI? [*Allied Powers and Central Powers.*]
- With the Details button underlined, click the button, Show Contents of Map (Content).
- Click the button, Bookmarks. Select Europe, 1916.
- ? What geographic advantages did each alliance have? [*The Central Powers divided the Allies and made transportation between the fronts difficult; the Allied Powers surrounded Germany and Austria-Hungary.*]

## Acquire

### Where was WWI fought?

- Click on Bookmarks and choose the World War I Fronts bookmark.
- Click on Contents button and turn on the WWI Fronts layer.
- Click each front to answer the questions below.
- ? What were the major fronts of WWI? [*Western, Eastern, and Italian.*]
- ? Where was the Eastern Front? [*East of Germany, inside Russia, and from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea.*]
- ? Where was the Western Front? [*West of Germany, in France, and from the North Sea to Switzerland.*]

## Explore

### Why was the Western Front important?

- Choose the Western Front bookmark.
- Turn on the two layers, Western Front and Capital Cities.
- ? How far was the front from Paris & London? (Use the Measure tool.) [*60-70 and 125-150 miles, respectively*]
- ? How far was the front from Berlin? [*400-500 miles*]
- Hover over the layer name, Western Front. Click the button, Show Legend.
- By 1915, WWI had reached a stalemate, and each side dug trenches about 800 yards apart.
- ? In 1916, which countries had Western Front trenches? [*Britain, France, Germany, and Belgium*]
- ? Why were U.S. forces not along the Western Front? [*The U.S. was neutral in 1915.*]
- The U.S. did not declare war on Germany until 1917, after the Zimmermann Telegram. The U.S. began sending troops to Europe in May of 1917. By 1918, more than 2 million U.S. forces were in Europe.

more ►

## How did American forces help end WWI?

- Turn on the Allied Victories layer, and play the animation. Pause at the end, showing all the battles.
- ? What patterns do you notice with the locations of these battles? [*They occurred between Paris and the Western Front and moved from west to east toward Germany.*]
- Show the Allied Victories table, and sort END\_DATE by descending order (see help box, below).
- ? Which battle occurred last? [*The Meuse-Argonne Offensive was the last battle.*]
- ? How long did this offensive last? [*It lasted six weeks, from September to November of 1918.*]
- The Armistice began on the “11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month” of 1918.
- ? How did U.S. involvement help bring WWI to an end? [*The U.S. provided fresh troops and equipment, and helped end the Western Front stalemate.*]
- Close the table.

 Act

## What is the legacy of WWI?

- Turn off the layer, Allied Victories.
- Select the bookmark, Europe, 1916.
- Turn the Europe, 1920 layer off and on to show country boundaries before and after WWI.
- ? Which countries were divided up the most? [*Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia were most divided.*]
- ? What were some of the challenges that Europe faced after WWI? [*Europe faced challenges like rebuilding, having economic recovery, and maintaining peace and order.*]

### MEASURE - DISTANCE

- Click the Measure tool.
- Select Distance, and then choose the unit of measurement.
- Click once to start measuring, click once to change direction, and double-click to stop measuring.

### SHOW TABLE AND SORT

- With the Details button underlined, click the button Show Contents of Map (Content).
- Hover over the layer name. Click the button, Show Table.
- Click the field name (the top row).
- Choose Sort Ascending or Sort Descending.

## Next Steps

### DID YOU KNOW?

ArcGIS Online is a mapping platform freely available to public, private, and home schools. A school subscription provides additional security, privacy, and content features. Learn more about ArcGIS Online and how to get a school subscription at <http://www.esri.com/schools>.

### THEN TRY THIS...

- Create a density map to show the highest density of U.S. casualties along the Western Front.
- Create a 60-mile buffer around the Western Front to visualize how many countries were located within two to three hours of this major front.

 TEXT REFERENCES

This GIS map has been cross-referenced to material in sections of chapters from these texts.

- *American History: A Survey* by Brinkley — Chapter 21
- *The Americans* by McDougal Littell — Chapter 10
- *History Alive! The United States* by TCI — Chapter 19