

WWI - A War of Many Firsts

WebQuest Description: You will take up the role of a modern historian examining the first uses of a number of types of weaponry and technology during World War One. Many new types of technology and weaponry saw their first use during WWI, you will be asked to research 2 of the following; Tanks, Chemical Warfare, Airplanes, Machine guns, Artillery, Barbed Wire, Steel Helmets, Flamethrowers, the interrupter gear, Submarines, and depth charges. Then you will describe what each item the researched is, what it was used for, who/what nation invented it, the difference it made on the battlefield, the consequences it had in regards to warfare overall and how it influenced future technology/warfare. Use the information you have gathered from the following sites, and others you have found on your own, to put together a PowerPoint Presentation with pictures about the two things they researched to present for the class.

Research Links:

Submarines - https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/submarines_and_submarine_warfare

Artillery - <https://www.militaryfactory.com/armor/ww1-artillery.asp>

Tanks - <https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/world-war-one/the-western-front-in-world-war-one/tanks-and-world-war-one/>

Chemical Weapons - <https://www.livescience.com/58569-chemical-weapons-world-war-one.html>

Aircraft - <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2014/04/world-war-i-in-photos-aerial-warfare/507326/> (Photos),

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-29612707>

Machine guns - <http://www.firstworldwar.com/weaponry/machineguns.htm>

Steel Helmets - <https://eandt.theiet.org/content/articles/2014/06/ww1-combat-helmet-technology-the-brodie-steel-helmet/>

Flamethrowers - https://www.realcleardefense.com/articles/2014/10/30/the_horrific_effectiveness_of_flamethrowers_107520.html

Interrupter Gear - <http://www.firstworldwar.com/atoz/interruptergear.htm>

Depth Charges - https://uboat.net/allies/technical/depth_charges.htm

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Curriculum: Social Studies

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Introduction

You will take up the role of a modern historian examining the first uses of a number of types of weaponry and technology during World War One. Many new types of technology and weaponry saw their first use during WWI, you will be asked to research 2 of the following; Tanks, Chemical Warfare, Airplanes, Machine guns, Artillery, Barbed Wire, Steel Helmets, Flamethrowers, the interrupter gear, Submarines, and depth charges.

Tasks

1) Select two pieces of technology from the previous list 2) Conduct research on them focusing on what it was used for, who/what nation invented it, the difference it made on the battlefield, the consequences it had in regards to warfare overall and how it influenced future technology/warfare. I have provided a link for information on each of the different types of technology, but you should try to find at least two more sources to ensure that your research is both accurate and descriptive. 3) Use your research to put together a presentation for the class

Process

1) Select your two pieces of technology from the list 2) Begin your research with links that were provided and use this information as a basis, then conduct further research on your own, be sure to record your sources 3) Take organized notes on your pieces to help you learn as much as possible about the topic, the goal is to become an expert on the technologies you've chosen 4) Put together a presentation about your two pieces of technology using either a chart, slideshow presentation or essay

Evaluation

1) Chart - 2 separate charts (one for each piece of technology) with columns for each category, 5 in total, must be organized and detailed, each column should contain 2 to 3 sentences about each aspect of the piece of technology. 2) Slideshow presentation - Must include both pieces of technology, minimum of 10 slides (5 per piece), must include the 5 categories, pictures of each type of technology required. 3) Essay - Approximately 2 pages, explains each of the categories explained previously, explores each in detail, cited properly. *Those who choose to complete the chart and slideshow must complete a small written essay (about 2 paragraphs) summarizing the main points of their research

Category and Score					Score
				Total Score	

Conclusion

WWI saw the first uses of a plethora of new forms of technology from vehicles to weapons to armor, after completing this webquest you now have a much better idea as to why this war was such a devastating one for everyone involved. Studying all of these new types of weaponry and technology that had previously never been truly tested in combat and operated essentially unregulated gives you a better understanding of why this war crippled Europe and caused unthinkable bloodshed. It was because of this technology, and the fierce fighting in which it was used, that WWI was dubbed "the war to end all wars." The lasting scar from the devastation that this technology brought about will be a very important theme as we move forward.

Teacher Page

This webquest is designed to get the students to really delve into what warfare really looked like during WWI. Many students are not very familiar with WWI as it is not discussed as much as other more modern and American-centric wars like WWII and the Vietnam War, therefore a lot of the factors leading up to WWII are typically harder for them to understand. WWI was the main driving force behind the outbreak of WWII and the technology and devastation caused by it was one of the largest contributing factors to this. It was because of the horrors of WWI that most of Europe was terrified of another costly war like the one they had just fought, giving way to the conditions that allowed WWII to come into fruition. Likewise, WWI was the first "modern" war and it is important for the students to understand this so that they understand where the things they are learning about down the road (i.e. the Atomic bomb, Jet bombers, and ICBM's that characterize the Cold War) originated and what these things really meant. The students will enjoy this webquest because they are getting a first-hand look at the types of technology that, quite literally, shaped history. The students are often taught that WWII happened because of so many countries being afraid a war on the scale of WWI, and without understanding the technology that was used, the students will have a more difficult time understanding why this war was such an atrocity.

Standards

NJ Social Studies Content Standard: 6.1.12.C.7.a Determine how technological advancements affected the nature of World War I on land, on water, and in the air.

Credits

Other

This webquest could be changed to be used in a number of grade levels. It was designed for a typical US History II class, (11th grade) but can easily be made more detailed for higher grades (12th, Honors, A.P.) or simplified for use in lower grade levels even down to the middle school level.