First World War

A hundred years might seem like a very long time ago, but it isn't really. Your great-great grandparents were around then, and they would have lived through, and maybe even taken part in, this terrible conflict. When the First World War began that summer, most people thought it would be over by Christmas. Many believed that Britain was so powerful it could win very quickly. In fact, the First World War lasted four terrible years, not four months.

Key Facts	Key Vocabulary	
The first World War took place between 1914 and 1918. This year is the 100-year anniversary.	Allies	In World War I, France, Russia and Britain were known as the Allies.
The war began because of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria. He was heir to throne of Austria-Hungary and his death was the immediate cause of WW1.	Trenches	A ditch in the ground that soldiers used to protect themselves from the enemy.
There were two sides in the war. The Triple Ententes (also known as The Allies) were Britain, France, Ireland and Russia. The Central Powers were Germany and Austria-Hungary.	Timeline	A visual representation of different events of history and the dates in chronological order
World War 1 has many different names. It was called The Great War, the World War, the War to End all Wars, World War 1, WW1, the War of the Nations and more.	Historical enquiry	Investigating questions about the past by using evidence and a range of sources.
Over 8 million soldiers died in World War 1, and another 21 million injured.	No man's land	The space between two trenches which no army controls. This was a dangerous area that troops had to reach the enemy.
Over 12 million letters were delivered to the front line every week.	Armistice	An agreement between countries who are at war to stop fighting.
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The Battle of Somme

The Battle of the Somme was one of the largest battles that occurred during World War I. It took place near the Somme River in France and lasted from July 1 to November 18 in 1916.



Poppies grew in the fields where the fighting had taken place and this is now used as a symbol of remembrance.