



# World War I

On 4 August 1914, Britain declared war on Germany. It became known as The Great War because it affected people all over the world. The war was fought between:

- The Triple Alliance: Germany, Austria-Hungary and their allies.
- The Triple Entente: Great Britain, France and Russia.

Each of the countries got their troops ready to fight. Troops were groups that fought together, including the army (people who fight on land) and the navy (people who fight on the seas).



The map above illustrates the alliances and their empires before the outbreak of war in 1914. Great Britain, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia all ruled many countries (colonies) across the world. They wanted to keep their empires strong and saw other countries taking over new territories as a threat. When Germany and Austria-Hungary took control of small countries like Bosnia and Morocco, the rest of the world thought they were being aggressive.

Many countries had made alliances with one another. They agreed to protect each other. If one was attacked, the others would defend them. On 28 June 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, was shot and killed by a Serbian man who thought Serbia should control Bosnia instead of Austria. As its leader had been shot, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. As a result:

- Russia got involved because Russia had an alliance with Serbia.
- Germany then declared war on Russia because Germany had an alliance with Austria-Hungary.
- Britain declared war on Germany because of its invasion of neutral Belgium. Britain had agreements to protect both Belgium and France.



Franz Ferdinand was murdered while visiting Sarajevo in Bosnia.

**YOUR TASK:** Can you write an information sheet about the events that led to the start of World War One. Use the fact sheet above to help you. You can create your factsheet on the template below or in your jotter.



### Empires & Allegiances

Before the conflict of 1914, what was the world like and who had allegiances with who?

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### Conflict

Why did the conflict begin?

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Who was Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand?

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