Why does this year represent a major turning point in WWI and for which side?

The United States helped turn the tide for an Allied victory.

The Main Idea
The United States helped turn the tide for an Allied victory.

Section Focus
- Why did the United States try to stay neutral in the war?
- Which events showed that America was heading into war?
- What contributions did Americans make in Europe?
- How did the war end?
WARM UP:
What was Wilson’s early foreign policy?

President Woodrow Wilson –
Wilson’s Foreign Policy:

“I didn’t raise my boy to be a soldier,
I brought him up to be my pride and joy,
Who dares to put a musket on his shoulder,
To shoot some other mother’s darling boy?
Let nations arbitrate their future troubles,
It’s time to lay the sword and gun away,
There’d be no war today,
If mothers all would say,
I didn’t raise my boy to be a soldier.”

From Neutrality to War

Remaining Neutral
Below, a German U-boat prowls the seas.
President Wilson opposed the use of unrestricted submarine warfare, but he campaigned for re-election in 1916 (right) with promises to keep America out of the war.
The United States Stays Neutral

- Americans thought of World War I as strictly a European conflict.
- President Wilson declared that the U.S. would stay neutral—not support or attack either side.
- Wilson’s decision reflected the U.S.’s longstanding policy of isolationism, or not being involved in foreign affairs.

Privately, Wilson favored the Allied because:
- 1) Germany had aggressive tactics.
- 2) The U.S. also had greater political, cultural, and commercial ties to Great Britain and France than to Germany.
- 3) Financially, the U.S. did more business with the Allies.
  - By 1917 Britain purchased nearly $75 million worth of war goods each week from the U.S.
U.S. neutrality reconsidered—Reasons:
May 7, 1915  *Lusitania*—passenger ship---sunk by German submarines. 1198 of the 1959 passengers and crew die. 128 were Americans.

May 23, 1915 Italy declares war and joins the Allies. U.S begins to reconsider neutrality and favor the Allies.

**German Submarine Warfare**

**U-Boats**
- Germany suffered because of the British blockade, so it developed small submarines called U-boats to strike back at the British.
- U-boats are named after the German for “undersea boat.”
- In February 1915 the German government declared the waters around Great Britain a war zone, threatening to destroy all enemy ships.
- Germany warned the U.S. that neutral ships might be attacked.
- The German plan for unrestricted submarine warfare angered Americans, and Wilson believed it violated the laws of neutrality.
- Wilson held Germany accountable for American losses.

**America’s Involvement**
- In 1915, Germany sank a luxury passenger ship to Great Britain called the *Lusitania*, killing many, including 128 Americans.
- Americans were outraged, and Wilson demanded an end to unrestricted submarine warfare.
- The Germans agreed to attack only supply ships but later sank the French passenger ship *Sussex*, killing 80 people.
- Wilson threatened Germany again, and Germany issued the *Sussex pledge*, promising not to sink merchant vessels “without warning and without saving human lives.”
Activity (Handout): THE U-BOAT WAR IN CARTOONS

• **Introduction:** By the winter of 1914-1915 it became clear to both the Allies and the Central Powers that the war they were engaged in was not going to end with a few quick land campaigns. Germany was aware that it simply could not compete with Britain’s surface navy. In February 1915 the Kaiser proclaimed that merchant ships bound for England could be destroyed without warning.

• Like it or not, a neutral country like the United States would have difficulty conducting trade with either side. In fact, the United States was trading with both sides. British ships were stopping American ships bound for German ports, forcing them to sail to Allied ports, and confiscating their cargoes.

• The nature of the U-boat, however, was such that it could not escort a large merchant ship to port. Rather, U-boats, being vulnerable on the surface, had to sink their quarry or risk their own safety. Consequently a neutral merchant ship engaged by a U-boat might experience loss of crew and passenger lives as well as the cargo it was carrying. It was precisely this difference that ended up drawing the United States into war with Germany.

• **Requirements:** Read the article “Uboat Attack, 1916” and “The Sinking of the Lusitania” from Eyewitnesshistory.com. Analyze the political cartoons that follow and answer the accompanying comprehension questions.

This cartoon refers to the practice taken up by the British of flying a neutral flag (especially American) when in the declared war zone. The artist chose to depict one of the most well known British merchant ships, the Lusitania, to represent the entire merchant navy.

**Question:** What is so ironic about this cartoon, based on historical events?
Is this cartoon pro or anti-German?
What is the purpose of this cartoon?
What is the purpose of propagandist cartoons in times of war?
1917

- February 1, 1917  Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare.
- February 3, 1917  America breaks off diplomatic relations with Germany

- March, 1917  7 American vessels are sunk by German submarines.
- The Zimmermann Telegram is made public, revealing an alleged plot—In return for Mexican support, Germans promised to help Mexico regain Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona from the U.S.

Arthur Zimmerman, German ambassador To Mexico
Short Writing Activity: If you were President Woodrow Wilson’s advisor, would you encourage him to declare war on Germany? Or is there another solution?

- Imagine that it is spring of 1917. The war has been ravaging Europe for three years now, and the U.S. has remained neutral up to this point. You are Wilson’s foreign policy advisor. **In a proposal of 200 words, do the following:**
  - Describe the immediate events leading up to America’s decision to enter the war.
  - Form a position and defend it, either for or against war!
  - Predict the likely effects of America’s decision to declare war or remain neutral.
April 6, 1917 America declares war on Germany, mobilizes and sends troops to France under General "Blackjack" Pershing.
SUMMARY: WHY DID THE US GET INVOLVED IN WWI (1917-1918)?

• 1) Inability to remain neutral
• 2) German “unrestricted submarine warfare” – the sinking of the Lusitania
• 3) U.S. economic and political ties to Great Britain
• 4) “The War to end all wars.”

The Main Idea
The U.S. mobilized a variety of resources to wage World War I.

Section Focus
• How did the government mobilize the economy for the war effort?
• How did workers mobilize on the home front?
• How did the government try to influence public opinion about the war?
The American Army

Raising an Army
- In May 1917, Congress passed the Selective Service Act, requiring men between 21 and 30 to register for a draft.
- Some filed as conscientious objectors, or religious people against fighting, but were rejected.
- In the summer of 1917, new recruits reported for training but found almost nothing ready.
- Soldiers slept in tents until barracks were built, and supplies hadn’t yet arrived.
- New recruits learned military rules with sticks and barrels instead of rifles and horses.

Discrimination
- African American soldiers were segregated and trained in separate camps.
- Many white officers and southern politicians feared African Americans would pose a threat after the war so only trained a few black regiments.
- Latino soldiers faced scorn from other troops and were often assigned menial tasks.
- The federal government did accept non-English-speaking soldiers.
  - The military had programs in New Mexico and Georgia to help Hispanic soldiers learn English.

1917 – Selective Service Act
- 24,000,000 men registered for the draft by the end of 1918.
- 4,800,000 men served in WW1 (2,000,000 saw active combat).
- 400,000 African-Americans served in segregated units.
- 15,000 Native-Americans served as scouts, messengers, and snipers in non-segregated units.
American Military Women

- The majority of Americans who served in the military were men, but some women also signed up to serve overseas.
- During the war, more than **20,000 nurses** served in the U.S. Army in the United States and overseas.
- Women also served in the navy and marines, usually as typists and bookkeepers.
  - Still, some women became radio operators, electricians, or telegraphers.
- The U.S. Army Signal Corps recruited French-speaking American women to serve as switchboard operators. Known as the **Hello Girls**, they served a crucial role in keeping communications open between the front line and the headquarters of the American Expeditionary Forces.

Mobilizing the Economy

- Going to war was extremely expensive, and President Wilson needed to find ways to pay for it.

**Taxes**
- Congress passed the **War Revenue Act of 1917**, which established very high taxes.
- It taxed wealthy Americans up to 77 percent of their incomes.
- It increased federal revenue by 400 percent within two years.

**Loans and Liberty Bonds**
- Wilson sparked an intense campaign to sell **Liberty Bonds**—a form of loan to the government from American people.
- The national debt grew from $1.2 billion to $25.5 billion in three years.

**Regulating Industry**
- Congress created administrative boards to prepare industries for war.
  - The **War Industries Board (WIB)** regulated all war materials.
  - It increased industrial production by 20 percent.
Regulations to Supply U.S. and Allied Troops

Regulating Fuel
- The Fuel Administration was established to set production goals and prices for fuel.
- Harry Garfield, son of former president James A. Garfield, headed the administration.
- Garfield introduced daylight savings time to extend daylight hours for factory workers with long shifts.
- He promoted fuel conservation by encouraging Americans to go without gas and heat on certain days.

Regulating Food
- The Lever Food and Fuel Control Act --let the government set prices and establish production controls.
- Herbert Hoover’s Food Administration promised farmers higher prices for crops.
- He also asked Americans to eat less and to plant food gardens.
- Prohibition also helped the war, as alcohol is made using food crops like grapes and wheat.
- The 1919 Volstead Act – prohibited the sale of alcohol.

Council of National Defense
- War Industries Board – Bernard Baruch
- Food Administration – Herbert Hoover
- Railroad Administration – William McAdoo
- National War Labor Board – W. H. Taft & Frank P. Walsh
U. S. School Garden Army

Follow the Pied Piper
Join the United States School Garden Army.

U. S. Shipping Board

On the Job for Victory
United States Shipping Board
Emergency Fleet Corporation
Results of This New Organization of the Economy?

1. Unemployment virtually disappeared.
2. Expansion of “big government.”
3. Excessive govt. regulations in eco.
4. Some gross mismanagement → overlapping jurisdictions.
5. Close cooperation between public and private sectors.
6. Unprecedented opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

During the war, many major industrial companies profited because they concentrated on meeting the government’s demands for war production.

Stockholders of industries like steel, oil, and chemicals profited.

Factory wages increased, but the rising cost of food and housing meant that workers were not much better off.

Laborers worked long hours in increasingly dangerous conditions in order to produce the needed materials on time and faster than other companies.

These harsher conditions led many workers to join labor unions.

Union membership increased by about 60 percent between 1916 and 1919, and unions boomed as well, with more than 6,000 strikes held during the war.
Challenge!

• What is the meaning and purpose of this WWI poster?

What’s interesting about this photo?
Wartime Workers

National War Labor Board

- Leaders feared strikes would disrupt production for the war effort.
- The Wilson administration created the National War Labor Board (1918)—which judged disputes between workers and management, established an eight-hour workday, sought companies to recognize unions, and urged equal pay for women.

Women’s War Efforts

- As men left their jobs to fight, women moved in to keep the American economy moving.
- Women took many jobs traditionally held by men on the railroads, in factories, and on docks, as well as building ships and airplanes.
- Other women filled more traditional jobs as teachers and nurses, and many volunteered.
- About 1 million women joined the workforce during the war, and women used this as leverage for suffrage movements.

YWCA – The Blue Triangle

Back our girls over there
United War Work Campaign
Munitions Work

The Girls They Left Behind Do Their Bit!
Women Used In Recruitment

Hello, Big Boy!

Even Grandma Buys Liberty Bonds
The Red Cross - Greatest Mother in the World

The Red Cross Nurse
President Wilson used a number of tactics to gain the support of Americans who had favored neutrality in World War I.

**Propaganda**
- The Committee on Public Information (CPI) began a campaign of *propaganda*: posters, news stories, speeches, and other materials to influence opinion.
- Creel hired movie stars to speak, and artists to create patriotic posters and pamphlets.
- One famous poster by James Montgomery Flagg pictures Uncle Sam saying “I Want You for the U.S. Army.”

**Reactions**
- Some Americans began to distrust German things.
- Many schools stopped teaching German, and symphonies stopped playing German music.
- German-sounding names were changed, so sauerkraut became liberty cabbage and hamburgers became liberty steak.
- Reports spread that German secret agents were operating in the U.S., causing some Americans to discriminate against German Americans.
The Committee of Public Information (George Creel)

- America's "Propaganda Minister?"
- Anti-Germanism.
- Selling American Culture.
“Remember Belgium”

The “Mad Brute”
Beat Back the "Hun"

The "Menace of the Seas"
Creel Commission Film

Analyze these posters!

- What purpose did these posters serve?
Analyze these posters!

- What purpose did these posters serve?

Propaganda campaign begins in United States in 1917. What was the purpose of these posters?

“Demonizing” the enemy!

The most famous “Uncle Sam” poster in history!
Uncle Sam—He the Man!

Don’t Mess with the U. S.
“Huns Kill Women and Children!”

Tell that to the Marines!

The “Little Soldier”

Do your duty

You can help Big Brother by buying thrift stamps. Fill your can!
Johnnie get your gun, get your gun, get your gun,
Take it on the run, on the run, on the run,
Hear them calling you and me,
Every son of liberty.
Hurry right away, no delay, go today,
Make your daddy glad to have had such a lad,
Tell your sweetheart not to pine,
To be proud her boy’s in line.

Johnnie get your gun, get your gun, get your gun,
Johnnie show the Hun you’re a son of a gun,
Hoist the flag and let her fly,
Yankee Doodle do or die.
Pack your little kit, show your grit, do your bit,
Yankees to the ranks from the towns and the tanks,
Make your momma proud of you
And the old Red White and Blue.
World War I American “Anthem”
Over there, over there
Send the word, send the word over there
That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming,
The drums rum-tumming everywhere
So prepare, say a prayer
Send the word, send the word to beware
We'll be over, we're coming over.
And we won't come back till it's over, over there!

Assignment: Create Your Own WWI Poster!

- **Directions:** For this assignment, you will create a propaganda war poster, which must contain the following characteristics:
  - 1) “demonization” of the enemy OR a focus on wartime production OR recruitment
  - 2) U.S. patriotism
  - 3) a catchy slogan that conveys a theme or purpose.
  - 4) historical accuracy—illustrations of soldiers, weapons, battles, etc. must LOOK like from WWI.
Influenza Spreads

- Three waves of a influenza, severe flu epidemic broke out between 1918 and 1919 in Europe and in America.
- Of all American troops who died in World War II, half died from influenza.
- On the Western Front, crowded and unsanitary trenches helped flu spread among troops, then to American military camps in Kansas and beyond.
- This strain of influenza was deadly, killing healthy people within days, and during the month of October 1918, influenza killed nearly 200,000 Americans.
- Panicked city leaders halted gatherings, and people accused the Germans of releasing flu germs into the populace.

By the time it passed, over 600,000 Americans lost their lives.

Read & Complete “The Influenza Pandemic of 1918"
Some Americans Speak Out

- Prominent Americans such as pacifist reformer Jane Addams and Senator Robert La Follette spoke out against the war.
- Addams founded the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.
- Wilson's administration tried to limit public speech about the war.

Legislation

- Congress passed the Espionage Act, which punished people for aiding the enemy or refusing military duty.
- The year after, it passed the Sedition Act, making it illegal for Americans to criticize the government, flag, or military in speech or writing.

Opponents

- More than 1,000 opponents of war were jailed under those acts, including Robert Goldstein, who directed a film called The Spirit of '76 and refused to remove scenes of British brutality during the American Revolution.
- Socialist Party leader Eugene Debs was sentenced to 10 years in prison for criticizing the Espionage Act but was released after the war.

Attacks on Civil Liberties
1. **Espionage Act** – 1917
   - forbade actions that obstructed recruitment or efforts to promote insubordination in the military.
   - ordered the Postmaster General to remove Leftist materials from the mail.
   - fines of up to $10,000 and/or up to 20 years in prison.

2. **Sedition Act** – 1918
   - it was a crime to speak against the purchase of war bonds or willfully utter, print, write or publish any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language about this form of US Govt., the US Constitution, or the US armed forces or to willfully urge, incite, or advocate any curtailment of production of things necessary or essential to the prosecution of the war...with intent of such curtailment to cripple or hinder, the US in the prosecution of the war.
3. **Schenck v. US** – 1919

- in ordinary times the mailing of the leaflets would have been protected by the 1st Amendment.
- BUT, every act of speech must be judged acc. to the circumstances in which it was spoken.
- The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man in falsely shouting fire in a theater and causing a panic. [Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes]
- If an act of speech posed a **clear and present danger**, then Congress had the power to restrain such speech.


- majority ruling --> cited Holmes' “Clear and present danger” doctrine.
- Holmes & Brandeis dissented:
  The best test of truth is the power of the thought to get itself accepted in the competition of the market, denying that a “silly leaflet” published by an “unknown man” constituted such a danger.
Government Excess & Threats to the Civil Liberties of Americans

5. Post-war labor unrest:
   - Coal Miners Strike of 1919.
   - Steel Strike of 1919.
   - Boston Police Strike of 1919.

Anti-Labor

"If Capital & Labor Don't Pull Together"
- Chicago Tribune
Consequences of Labor Unrest

“While We Rock the Boat” - Washington Times

Coal Miners’ Strike - 1919

“Keeping Warm” - Los Angeles Times
Steel Strike - 1919

"Coming Out of the Smoke" - New York World

The "Red Scare"

"What a Year Has Brought Forth" - NY World
“Red Scare” – Anti-Bolshevism

“Put Them Out & Keep Them Out” – Philadelphia Inquirer

Boston Police Strike - 1919

“He gives aid & comfort to the enemies of society” – Chicago Tribune
Boston Police Strike - 1919

“Striking Back” – New York Evening World

Government Excess & Threats to the Civil Liberties of Americans


- 1919 - 3rd. International goal --> promote worldwide communism.

- Attorney General, A. Mitchell Palmer (The Case Against the Reds)

- Palmer Raids - 1920
Congressman Victor Berger (WI)

You got nothing out of the war except the flu and Prohibition.

"Red Scare" – Palmer Raids

Police Arrest "Suspected Reds' in Chicago, 1920
"Red Scare" – Palmer Raids

A. Mitchell Palmer's Home Bombed, 1920

Back on the Battlefront...
Arriving in Europe

- Expeditionary Forces (AEF), led by General John J. Pershing, was made of the American Army, National Guard, and volunteer and draft soldiers overseas formed the American.

- The first U.S. troops arrived in France in 1917 through a convey system, in which troop-transport ships were surrounded by destroyers or cruisers for protection, limiting the number of ships sunk and troops lost.

- When America arrived, Germany occupied all of Belgium and part of France, many French soldiers were mutinying, and Russia struggled against famine and civil war.

- If Russia fell, Germans would bring all their troops west, and the Allies needed the Americans to fight immediately.

- General Pershing, however, wanted American troops to train and to fight separately from European regiments.

- Pershing sent his troops to training camps in eastern France instead of to the battlefields.

March-July 1917  

The German Friedensturm

It is designed to destroy the Allies before the American forces arrive in large numbers. The Germans lose 800,000 soldiers in four months. The last German offensive of the war and the first major tank battle takes place.
Allied Setbacks and U.S. Action

Allied Setbacks

- While Americans trained, the Allies suffered a blow when a group called the Bolsheviks took over Russia’s government.
- Bolsheviks were Communists, who seek equal distribution of wealth and no private ownership.
- The new government, led by Vladimir Ilich Lenin, signed a peace treaty with the Central Powers and withdrew its troops.
- Germany was free to focus on the West, and in May 1918 Germany launched a series of offensives against the Allies.
- Germans were backed by a large artillery, and by late May the Germans pushed the Allies back to the Marne River, 70 miles northeast of Paris.

The U.S. Fights

- American troops began fighting 12 months after arriving, digging extensive trenches in the dark to avoid detection.
- In the trenches, troops stood in deep mud with rats as enemies dropped gas and explosives.
- While defending Paris in June 1918, U.S. troops helped the French stop the Germans at Chateau-Thierry.
- In northern France, a division of U.S. Marines recaptured the forest of Belleau Wood and two nearby villages.
- After fierce fighting, the Allies halted the German advance and saved Paris.
Der Schwartze Tag (The black day) August 8, 1918
German forces take heavy losses. The army knows the war is lost.

• August 8-11, 1918 The Battle of Amiens
  Allied offensive that heavily damages the Germans. The Germans are forced to retreat to the Hindenburg Line.
  • Kaiser Wilhelm II tells his advisors that Germany must come to an understanding with the enemy. General Ludendorff states, “The war must be ended.”
  • German morale is completely broken. The Allies realize that they can win in 1918.
The Germans’ Last Offensive

- On July 14, 1918, the Germans launched their last offensive at the Second Battle of the Marne.
- U.S. blew up every bridge the Germans built across the Marne River, and the German army retreated on August 3, after suffering 150,000 casualties.
- The Allies began a counterattack in September 1918 and, fighting as a separate army for the first time, defeated German troops at Mhiel, near the French-German border.

Allies Push Forward

- Allies advanced toward the French city of Sedan on the Belgian border, which held the main German supply railway.
- By November, the Allies had reached and occupied the hills around Sedan.

The Armistice

- By 1918 the war crippled the German economy, causing food strikes and riots, and revolution swept across Austria-Hungary.
- The Central Powers lacked the will to continue and started to surrender.
- Austria-Hungary, and then Germany, surrendered, and the Allies demanded that Germany surrender its weapons and allow Allied occupation of some areas.
Warm Up: “Armistice - The End of World War I, 1918”

- Directions: Read “Armistice” from Eyewitnesshistory.com and then answer the following questions in a well organized, 150-word paragraph. Due in 15 minutes:
  1) Why did the German army begin to collapse in 1918?
  2) Why didn’t the celebrations immediately begin on the battle front when the armistice was signed?
  3) What were the lasting physical and psychological effects of the War upon the soldiers?

November 11, 1918
The Germans sign the Armistice – cease-fire – ending the war.