

The Century: Peter Jennings Shell Shocked: WWI

1. What happened to the Lusitania? Why was it important?

The Lusitania was sunk by a German submarine in 1915 killing 128 Americans. The sinking fed even more desire for war in the US even though the US did not declare war immediately.

2. What are people's perceptions of war in 1914? What were their expectations?

People thought marching off to war would be fun or romantic so young men signed up without a second thought. Everyone thought it would be over by Christmas since they believed troops would fight in an open field.

3. What were the realities of WWI? Why was this true?

Entirely new weapons were brought to the battlefield; weapons no one had ever seen before and because of this millions of men were killed. Basically since both sides were dug in by trenches men had to rush over an open area being shot at by enemy troops.

4. What is the "Massacre of the Innocence"?

This depicts the beginning of the war in which young men with little to no experience marched off to war only to be slaughtered in the first year of the war.

5. What is America's position at the beginning of the war?

The US was strictly a neutral nation that didn't want to get involved in a foreign conflict.

6. How did the assembly line affect the making of cars?

It helped boost the production level of cars now a factory could create cars ten times faster than before. This also made it so that

normal people could now purchase cars since there were so many available.

7. How do Americans become exposed to the war in Europe?
How is it portrayed?

With Germany constant submarine attacks on ships carrying American goods and people this leads America in war. Germany would attack any ship suspected of carrying supplies and weapons to the Allies.

8. Why was the war in Europe good for Americans in the beginning? What impact does it have on immigration to the U.S.?
The war was good for the US since it brought great wealth to the nation leading to the roaring 20's. Before and during the war millions of immigrants traveled to the US it was not until 1917 that immigration laws were set up to ensure that over population would not occur.

9. What is a war of attrition and how does WWI fit this definition?
A war of attrition is where both sides conduct small-scale actions to wear down the enemy. WW1 was exactly a war of attrition since both sides would send thousands of soldiers again and again to take an enemy trench.

10. Where did WWI soldiers live? Describe the conditions.
Soldiers had to live in the trenches that they dug or they would live in shell holes. Conditions in trenches were appalling; men would have to walk through knee to waist high mud if there were no boards to hold them up, there were always carcasses and explosions around the men driving them insane, and wounded men were eaten alive if they couldn't fight off the rats.

11. What does Peter Jennings mean by "the industrialization of war"?

He said this to state that WW1 would help change warfare forever now that war was based on technology instead of simple manpower.

12. What were some of the new weapons of WWI and what was the result?

Many of these new weapons included machine guns, poison gas, flame-throwers, tanks, airplanes, and barbed wire. Because of these advancements millions of men were killed charging enemy lines.

13. Describe the Battle of the Somme. How does it represent the futility of WWI?

The attack was organized by the British and French to attack the German line across the Somme River in the end over 1,000,000 people were killed all just to gain a few yards. This battle truly shows just how bloody WW1 was for the men who fought.

14. Why was Russia ripe for revolution?

Russia had been ruled by a monarchy for centuries and the people of Russia wanted change but when the Tsar, as they called him, refused to listen it simply stirred the Russian people into an uproar.

15. What was Lenin's message to the Russians? How is he able to come to power? What was the impact on WWI?

Lenin promised food, shelter, and warmth for Russian peasants. He was the leader of a group called the Bolshevik party which overthrew the new government thus giving him the power to pull Russia out of the war.

16. Why did Americans feel that Germany was their enemy in 1917?

Even though Americans hated Germany's massive use of submarines in the Atlantic and capturing American trade ships

they chose not to get involved until President Wilson told Americans that they were fighting to free Europe and bring American ideas overseas. This is what sparked full US involvement.

17. What was the American army's mood, expectations and preparedness like when it arrived in France?

Americans were much like the Europeans were when the war began; they thought it would be fun and exciting to go to war but they had received no training that could prepare them for what was on the battlefield.

18. What did the Germans do in the Spring of 1918? What was the result?

Germany launched a massive attack on the Western front hoping to take Paris and bring the war to an end though at first they were winning the plan soon fell apart and the operation cost them over a million men.

19. What were the results of the Treaty of Versailles?

The treaty cost Germany greatly taking away over 400 billion dollars worth of money from Germany and much of their land to pay for all the damage caused by the war.