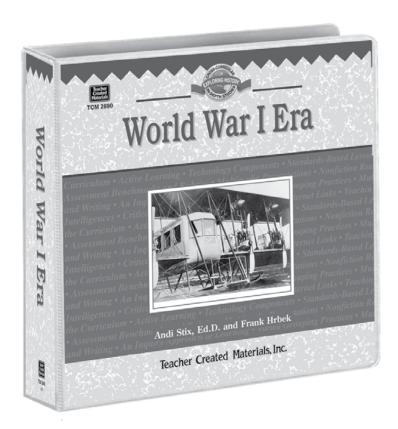
Sample Lesson from Exploring History World War I Era



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World War I

Wilson's Fourteen Points and the Treaty of Versailles: Background

President Woodrow Wilson addressed a joint session of Congress on January 8, 1918. In this address he stated his "Fourteen Points," a plan he considered to offer the best opportunity for peace after World War I. Wilson's speech exemplified his visionary idealism and his practical politics. If taken as a statement of America's war aims, Wilson was letting the world know that the United States would not be a party to a narrow, vengeful peace settlement. He was providing the belligerent nations with a template for an actual peace accord, and he specifically sought to encourage Germany and her allies to end the war and the horrid bloodshed.

By the end of the summer in 1918, Germany and the Central Powers were war-weary and exhausted. Germany's great offensives launched in 1918 did not result in the hoped-for and long-anticipated victory and breakthrough on the western front. German armies were in disarray and in full retreat all along the front. Panic seized the German Military High Command, and it urgently called upon the government to come to terms with the Allies. The Germans asked for an armistice and a peace settlement based on Wilson's "Fourteen Points." The fourteen points are outlined in the student handbook on pages EA-46 through EA-48 and EB-46 through EB-48.

The Treaty of Versailles was totally the work of the Allied governments. At first, most of the work was done by the Committee of Ten, consisting of the diplomats, delegates, and representatives of England, France, Italy, the United States, and Japan. Too many leaks to the press resulted in the work being handled by the great statesmen. What finally emerged as the Treaty of Versailles was the particular creation of the "Big Four"—Lloyd George of England, Georges Clemenceau of France, Vittorio Orlando of Italy, and Woodrow Wilson of the United States. The major powers made the decisions, and various committees that dealt within specified areas were given the task of fashioning the text and language for inclusion in the treaty.

The Germans were not present as the treaty was put together, and there were no negotiations. After several months work, the treaty was presented to the Germans, who were summoned to Versailles to get their first glimpse of the document. Georges Clemenceau, the French premier who was called "The Tiger," addressed the German delegation and referred to the procedure as a settling of accounts. It was exactly that. If the intention was to bring lasting peace to Europe, the great statesmen assembled in Paris missed the mark and instead succeeded in laying the groundwork for the next war, which came 20 years later. The Germans were given the document (actually a small volume) and told to sign or the Allied armies would invade Germany.

The statesmen at Versailles lost sight of their major objective: to fashion a lasting peace settlement that would endure for future generations. Too many secret treaties had been made, binding the Allied partners to fight the war to a finish, and these agreements took precedence over everything else. Woodrow Wilson was the idealist, and he tried to hold the Allies to implementing his Fourteen Points, but his partners were practical realists and adroit politicians. Woodrow Wilson was determined to have his League of Nations, and his allies were just as determined that the promises made in the secret treaties would be kept. Lloyd George had just been reelected, and his political plank had been "Make Germany Pay!"

World War I

Wilson's Fourteen Points and The Treaty of Versailles: Background (cont.)

Georges Clemenceau was determined that France have revenge, and he wanted a Germany that would never again threaten the French nation. He would do everything at the peace conference to secure the borders of France. The Italians and Vittorio Orlando wanted whatever they could get from the Austrians and what had been promised in the secret Treaty of London, namely the lands of Trentino, Istria and Trieste, Dalmatia, Cisalpine Tyrol, and the Dodecanese Islands.

The Allied Powers placed the blame for the war squarely on the Germans. They wanted to make certain that a thorough accounting was made and that Germany paid for the four years of horror. The victors sat down as if at a feast, and they gorged themselves on the spoils of war at the expense of Germany and the other Central Powers.

Other peace settlements were made later between the nations that had waged war against each other. Much could have been accomplished at Versailles, but it remains a lost opportunity.

More than 70 delegates from 27 nations attended the deliberations at Versailles. Everyone wanted something, and by the time the diplomats and delegates were finished they had a blueprint for another world war. Woodrow Wilson's "Fourteen Points" could have been the groundwork for a lasting peace. Instead, the Treaty of Versailles made possible the rise of Adolf Hitler in Germany. The leaders who gathered in Paris to make a peace settlement lost sight of their mission, and in so doing, pawned the lives of a future generation.

II. Time, Continuity, and Change

d. Identify and use processes important to reconstructing and reinterpreting the past, such as using a variety of sources, providing, validating, and weighing evidence for claims, checking credibility of sources, and searching for causality.

IV. Individual Development and Identity

h. Work independently and cooperatively to accomplish goals.

VI. Power, Authority, and Governance

i. Give examples and explain how governments attempt to achieve their stated ideals at home and abroad.

VIII. Science, Technology, and Society

e. Seek reasonable and ethical solutions to problems that arise when scientific advancements and social norms or values come into conflict.

IX. Global Connections

- b. Analyze examples of conflict, cooperation, and interdependence among groups, societies, and nations.
- f. Demonstrate understanding of concerns, standards, issues, and conflicts related to universal human rights.
- g. Identify and describe the roles of international and multinational organizations.

X. Civic Ideals and Practices

- a. Examine the origins and continuing influence of key ideals of the democratic republican form of government, such as individual human dignity, liberty, justice, equality, and the rule of law.
- j. Examine strategies designed to strengthen the "common good," which consider a range of options for citizen action.

World War I

Activity I: Comparison of Wilson's Fourteen Points and the Treaty of Versailles

On the chart that appears on student handbook pages EA-49 and EB-49, have each pair of students in the cooperative group examine Wilson's Fourteen Points and fill in whether or not the Treaty of Versailles followed his suggestions (see answer key on page H-50). Use the student handbook pages EA-46 through EA-48 and EB-46 through EB-48 that give background information and list the punishments placed on Germany and the other Central Powers to fill in the right side of the page. Once they finish their task, the paired students within each cooperative group share the results with one another.

Wilson's Fourteen Points	Treaty of Versailles
#13 Free and independent Poland with access to the sea	Created an independent Poland from German and Polish territory; Danzig was made a "Free City" with a corridor to the sea.

Wilson's Fourteen Points and the Treaty of Versailles

THE
EMBARRASSMENT
OF GERMANY
MADE POSSIBLE
THE RISE OF
ADOLF HITLER.

In a January 8, 1918, address before a joint session of Congress, President Woodrow Wilson outlined "Fourteen Points" that he felt offered the best chance for an end to the fighting and bringing peace to Europe. At the same time, the Fourteen Points were a statement of America's peace goals, that the United States would not plan a peace agreement that only wanted to punish other countries and get revenge. Wilson was making suggestions that could bring peace to the warring nations, and he was encouraging Germany and her allies to end the fighting.

Germany Seeks a Truce

By the end of the summer in 1918, Germany and the Central Powers were exhausted and on the edge of total defeat. The German military attacks of 1918 were all stopped, and everywhere along the front the Allied armies were moving forward. German armies were falling apart, and soldiers were in full retreat back toward Germany's frontiers. Panic seized the German military leaders, and they demanded that their government ask the Allies for a truce and a peace based on Wilson's Fourteen Points.

Germany Settles Its Account

The Treaty of Versailles was totally the work of the Allied governments. Germany was not invited to the peace table, and there would be no talking about compromises. Lloyd George of England, Georges Clemenceau of France, Vittorio Orlando of Italy, and Woodrow Wilson of the United States, helped by special committees, shaped the final peace agreement. The Allies wanted to make Germany pay for the horrible war that took over Europe and the world. It was a way of making the Germans pay for what had happened. The Germans were given the treaty and were told to sign within a few days or the Allied armies, filled with Americans, would invade Germany.

The Result

Many of Wilson's Fourteen Points were forgotten or simply ignored in the course of making the peace agreement. There were simply too many secret agreements, and it was "pay up" time. Woodrow Wilson was the dreamer and wanted a perfect peace; all the others were realistic with their feet planted solidly on the ground. Wilson got his League of Nations, and it became a part of the Treaty of Versailles, but all the rest of his ideas were ignored, and the winners busily re-drew the map of Europe. Some people at the meeting to make peace already knew that the agreement they created at Versailles would lead to another war. The embarrassment of Germany later made it possible for Adolf Hitler to come into power.

Germany's Punishment Under the Treaty of Versailles

Punishments Imposed on Germany Alone

- 1. Germany, by signing the treaty, will say it is responsible for starting the war.
- 2. Germany agrees to turn over the Kaiser and other national leaders as war criminals, to be held for trial.
- 3. The German Army is cut to 100,000 men, with 1,000 officers as staff.
- 4. No Air Force
- 5. No Navy



- 6. The right bank of the Rhine will be a "De-militarized Zone" thirty miles deep.
- 7. Poland is given access to the sea.
- 8. Danzig is made a "Free City," and a strip of land is given to Poland, separating East Prussia from the rest of Germany, placing several hundred thousand Germans in Polish territory.
- 9. In the Rhineland, three Rhine River crossings will be occupied by French/Allied troops; Cologne for five years, Koblenz for ten years, and Mainz for 15 years.
- 10. The Kiel Canal will be opened to all of the nations.



- 11. German rivers will be made international property for any nation to use.
- 12. Germany agrees to pay for all civilian damage suffered by Allied people in the war.
- 13. Civilian damage payments are still being worked out at the time of the signing and were not made final, but by May 1, 1921, a \$5 billion down payment had to be made.
- 14. When the Germans sign the treaty, they are signing a "blank check." (A final bill of \$36 billion is finally worked out but never collected.)
- 15. In the settlement, Germany loses all its colonies in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. Japan gets the Pacific Islands and England gets the African colonies.



- 16. The Saar basin, Germany's richest and major source of coal, is turned over to the control of France, as are the coal mines, for a period of 15 years.
- 17. Germany loses the valuable Silesian coal fields, which are given to Poland.
- 18. Alsace-Lorraine is returned to France.

Germany's Punishment Under the Treaty of Versailles

Punishments Imposed on the Central Powers

- 19. A League of Nations will be created, but Germany will not be allowed to join for nine years.
- 20. Germany will pull out of Russian territory.
- 21. German troops will pull out of Belgium and give back its freedom and independence.
- 22. The Austria-Hungarian Empire will pay the highest price and is totally torn apart. In 1914, the Kingdom of Hungary has 18 million people and a territory that covers 283,000 square kilometers. The Hungarians will lose two-thirds of their land, and ten million citizens will become citizens of other countries.
- 23. Austria will lose all of its seaports on the Adriatic. Large areas of land are to be given up to Italy, including the southern Tyrol (with a quarter million Germans).
- 24. The Slavic populations of the Austria-Hungarian Empire are to be set free. The Czechs and Slovaks, as promised for putting armies in the field and fighting alongside the Allies, will be given their own nation, Czechoslovakia (along with three million Germans and several hundred thousand Hungarians). Serbia, together with Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Macedonia, will become the new Yugoslavia.



- 25. Poland once again will become a nation. But in giving the Poles access to the sea, the Allied Powers will make Danzig a "free city" and create a strip of land that puts hundreds of thousands of Germans under Polish rule. East Prussia will be separated from the rest of Germany.
- 26. Finland will become a separate nation; and Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania will be given independence from Russian rule.
- 27. Romania will be given the most land by getting Transylvania from Bulgaria and Hungary. The Romanians will also occupy and take over Bessarabia.
- 28. The Ottoman Empire will be broken apart. Anatolia will become the homeland of the Turks, and other areas will be given independence—Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, etc.

Comparison Chart: Wilson's Fourteen Points and the Treaty of

Wilson's Fourteen Points	The Treaty of Versailles
No more secret treaties and secret agreements; all discussions and agreements done in the open.	
2. Freedom of the seas for all nations of the world.	
3. Free trade throughout the world and no more trade barriers.	
4. No more arms race; reduce military weapons among the world's nations.	
5. All claims on colonies should be settled fairly and reasonably.	
6. The Germans should pull out of conquered Russian territory; Russia must be allowed to decide its own national future.	
7. Germany should pull out of Belgium. The nation should be free and independent.	
8. Germany should pull out of French territory and return Alsace- Lorraine to France.	
Austria should pull out of Italian land, and frontiers will be decided according to the nationality of the people who live there.	
10. Create self-rule for the Slovak people of Austria-Hungary (Czechs, Slovaks, Croats, Slovenes, Bosnians, etc.).	
 Self-rule to minority people under Turkish rule; free and safe passage through the Dardanelles, an international waterway, for all. 	
13. A free and independent Poland with access to the sea.	
14. The creation of a general friendship of nations, bound by covenants ("agreements"): the League of Nations.	

Appendices Appendix B

Answer Key

Pages EA-49 and EB-49

Pages EA-49 and EB-49														
The Treaty of Versailles		7, 24. Poland and Yugoslavia are given access to the sea. 10. The Kiel Canal is open to all nations.		2,3,4. Germany's army was reduced to 100,000 men, with 1,000 officers as "administrative staff." No Navy. No Air Force.	15. In the settlement, Germany loses all her colonies in Africa, Asia, and Pacific. Japan takes Pacific Islands; England, all African colonies.	20, 26. Russian territory was evacuated; Finland given independence, and the Baltic states—Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia—as well.	21. Once the German troops evacuated Belgium, its former boundaries were restored, as well as its sovereignty.	18. German troops evacuated all French territory; Alsace-Lorraine was returned to France.	23. Italy's frontiers were adjusted in the north; Italy is given Trentino, and the southern Tyrol.	24. Czechoslovakia is created; Slavs, Croats, Slovenes, Bosnians, Montenegrins, Macedonians, join Serbia to form Yugoslavia.	24. Created Yugoslavia, with access to the sea; Romania gets Transylvania & territories at the expense of Bulgaria and Hungary.	28. Turks get Anatolia as a homeland; other Middle Eastern territories are given independence, namely Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, etc.	25. A free and independent Poland is created, with a "corridor" through East Prussia giving the Poles access to the sea.	19. A League of Nations was created, but all of the world's nations were not members—i.e., Germany, Russia, the United States.
Wilson's Fourteen Points	1. No more secret treaties and secret agreements; all negotiations and agreements done in the open.	2. Freedom of the seas for all nations of the world.	3. Free trade throughout the world and removal of trade barriers.	4. No more arms race; reduction of military weapons among the world's nations.	5. All claims on colonies should be settled fairly and reasonably.	6. The Germans should pull out of conquered Russian territory; Russia must be allowed to determine her own national destiny.	7. Germany should pull out of Belgium. The nation should be free and independent.	8. Germany should pull out of French territory and return Alsace-Lorraine to France.	9. Austria should pull out of Italian land, and frontiers will be readjusted according to the nationality of the people who live there.	10. Create self-rule for the Slovak people of Austria-Hungary (Czechs, Slovaks, Croats, Slovenes, Bosnians, etc.).	11. Germany should pull out of Romania, Serbia; Serbia will be given access to the sea.	12. Self-rule to minority people under Turkish rule; free and safe passage through the Dardanelles, an international waterway, for all.	13. A free and independent Poland, with access to the sea.	14. The creation of a general association of nations, bound by covenants ("agreements"): the League of Nations.

World War I Quiz

Part I

- 1. The immediate cause of World War I was the
 - a. sinking of the Lusitania.
 - b. assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria.
 - c. naval blockade of Britain.
 - d. invasion of Belgium.
- 2. The underlying causes of World War I include all of the following except:
 - a. nationalism
 - b. imperialism
 - c. militarism
 - d. the spread of communism
- 3. For three years following the Battle of the Marne in 1914, the war was fought across an elaborate network of deep trenches. Trenches
 - a. provided some protection from flying bullets and artillery shells.
 - b. served as headquarters and first-aid stations.
 - c. served as storage areas.
 - d. all of the above.
- 4. New technology and more deadly weapons accounted for the terrible slaughter during World War I. What were these new weapons?
 - a. improved cannons, machine guns and larger shells for artillery
 - b. poison gas
 - c. armored tanks, airplanes, submarines (known as U-boats)
 - d. all of the above
- 5. The United States remained neutral until 1917. Which president of the United States tried to end the war by negotiating "peace without victory" between the two groups?
 - a. Herbert Hoover
 - b. Woodrow Wilson
 - c. Calvin Coolidge
 - d. Teddy Roosevelt
- 6. The major event that caused the United States to enter World War 1 was:
 - a. the sinking of the Lusitania with a loss of many lives.
 - b. the use of poison gas by Germany in World War 1.
 - c. the use of tanks and heavy artillery shells for the first time in war.
 - d. the final reason was the famous "Zimmerman Note" that asked Mexico to declare war on the U.S.
- 7. In the Zimmermann telegram, German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmermann announced the resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare and
 - a. apologized for the sinking of the Lusitania.
 - b. declared war on France.
 - c. proposed an alliance with Mexico against the United States.
 - d. asked the United States to negotiate a peace treaty.
- 8. The Treaty of Versailles punished Germany by taking away land, reducing the military, and
 - a. installing a communist government.
 - b. helping Austria-Hungary.
 - c. limiting the number of factories it could build.
 - d. making it pay reparations to Allied nations.

World War I Quiz

Part II

Allied and Neutral Ships Lost During the War

	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	Total 1914–1918
To submarines	3	396	964	2,439	1,035	
To surface ships	55	23	32	64	3	
To mines	42	97	161	170	27	
To aircraft	0	0	0	3	1	
Total						

In their efforts to prevent supplies and war materials from reaching the British, the Germans engaged in unrestricted naval warfare. Their targets were not limited to military vessels. In spite of protests by neutral nations, noncombatant passenger and cargo ships became targets. The chart above shows the number of vessels lost by the 28 Allied Powers and neutral nations.

9.	Complete the chart by calculating the total number of vessels lost between 1914 and 1918 to each
	type of enemy action and the overall total of ships lost between 1914 and 1918.
10.	a. In which year were surface ships the greatest threat?
	b. What caused the least number of losses?
	c. What posed the greatest threat to shipping?

answer on the information in the chart.

World War I Quiz

Neutral nations and the Allied powers claimed that Germany violated international law because ships were attacked without warning, and noncombatants did not have an opportunity to seek safety. Based on the information above and what you have learned about the Great War in this unit of study, discuss the role of Germany's U-boats in the war. Were they used defensively or offensively? How did they influence President Wilson's decision to enter the war?	