



World War I

Causes of World War I

Talking It Out

An international forum is being held on 31 July, 1914, to discuss the international situation. It has been convened to try and stop the world from descending into war. As a class, come together to organise, conduct and participate in the forum. Some people will represent countries while others will be an organising committee.

If you are selected as a country representative, follow the instructions in 1 below. If you are selected for the organising committee, follow the instructions in 2 below. After the forum, discuss the outcome according to the instructions in 3 below.

1. Country representatives: Select people or groups to represent each of the following countries to participate in the forum.

- Great Britain
- France
- Russia
- Germany
- Austria-Hungary
- Italy
- Ottoman Empire
- Serbia
- The Netherlands
- Belgium

Research the history, aims, obligations and restrictions for the country you are representing in 1914. Some questions have been provided as a guide; use these as a starting point for your research and come up with some questions of your own as well.

Country name: _____

What pre-existing military alliances, if any, does this country have?

Where is this country situated geographically and who are its nearest neighbours?





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What are this country's greatest strengths and weaknesses?

What disputes or clashes has this country had with others in the past?

Question:

Question:

Question:

Question:

Question:





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2. Organisers: Select an organising committee to organise and run the forum.

a) Before the forum, develop an agenda for the forum using the template on the following page. As part of this, you will need to decide on a neutral country as a venue agreeable to all participating countries. Provide a copy of the agenda items to all of the country representatives.

b) During the forum, ensure that the forum runs smoothly. As part of this, you will need to select people to act as facilitators, who will make sure that each country's viewpoint is heard and that the forum is conducted politely; timekeepers, who will limit each country's length of time to speak; and notetakers, who will record what is said and any recommendations made.

3. All participants: After the forum, as a class or individually, reflect on how it went.

a) At any point, did the forum become something other than a dialogue? How did the class handle this?

b) Were people listening and building on others' ideas? Give an example.

c) How has your understanding of WWI been affected by this forum?

d) What parts did you find most interesting? Which were least engaging?

e) What would you do differently next time?





Date: _____

Venue: _____

Facilitator(s): _____

Timekeeper(s): _____

Notetaker(s): _____

Item 1: _____

Item 2: _____

Item 3: _____

Item 4:

Item 5:

[illegible]