**SS6H7 the student will describe major developments in Europe during the 20th century.**

**At the start of the 20th century, the countries of Europe were increasingly hostile to each other. Britain, France, and Germany competed for trade and influence overseas, while Austria-Hungary and Russia both tried to dominate the Balkan states of southeast Europe. Military tension between Germany and Austria-Hungary on the one hand and Russia and France on the other led to the formation of powerful military alliances. A naval arms race added to the tension.**

**The Victoria Connection**

**To help you understand the significance of the European countries fight in WWI, you must first understand how the different monarchs were related. Queen Victoria of Great Britain and her husband, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha (who was her cousin!!!) had nine children. Because of the Queens desire to have peace in Europe, she began to make “alliances” with other countries by marrying her children off to other European countries. Thanks to Queen Victoria, most of the royal families of Europe were related to each other.**

1. **Victoria, the Princess Royal, married Crown Prince Frederick of Prussia, later Emperor Frederick of Germany. She was the mother of Kaiser Wilhelm II.**
2. **Edward VII married Princess Alexandra of Denmark. Her sister Dagmar (Marie) married Tsar Alexander II of Russia and her other sister Thyra, married the Crown Prince of Hanover (Duke of Cumberland).**
3. **Alice married Prince Louis of Hesse (a German principality) and was the mother of Princess Alix who later married Russian Czar Nicholas II.**
4. **Alfred married Grand Duchess Marie of Russia (the sister of Alexander II). Their daughter Princess Marie married Crown Prince Ferdinand of Romania, later the King of Romania.**
5. **Helena married Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein**
6. **Louise entered into a morganatic marriage with English nobleman Marquis of Lorne, later the Duke of Argyle.**
7. **Arthur married Princess Louise of Prussia.**
8. **Leopold married Princess Helena of Waldeck-Pyrmont**
9. **Beatrice married Prince Henry of Battenberg**

**Journal Prompt (5 min):** 50 WORD RESPONSE… **write in space provided. What sacrifices does a person have to make when their country is at war?**

Vocabulary

Militarism-Stockpiling of military arms so that each country is stronger than its enemy.

Alliances-A group of allies who have agreed to act in cooperation. Countries siding with other countries for military strength.

Imperialism-Expanding the empire by adding colonies from other continents

Nationalism-Sense of extreme pride or loyalty to a nation

Balkans- An area in Southeast Europe that was a hotbed of political turmoil

**World War I (the Great War) was the bloodiest war to date. 15 million people died, however, 80% of the people who died were civilians who died of disease, starvation, and exposure to the elements. The total cost of the war was $350 billion.**

**There were four underlying causes of WWI: Nationalism, Imperialism, Militarism, and the Alliance System. There was also the Balkan situation adding to the problem.**

**Review questions:**

1. **Who competed for trade?**
2. **How many people died in WWI?**
3. **What did they die of?**
4. **How much did the war cost?**
5. **What were the underlying causes of the war?**

**On June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary and his morganatic wife Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg were shot and killed by a Serbian nationalist named Gavrilo Princip. Princip was a member of the secret society known as the “Black Hand” whose goal was to unite all Serbs under one government. Austria-Hungary was not happy about the assassination. Before they could do anything official, they wanted to make sure they had Germany as an ally.**

**-On July 5, 1914, Germany agreed to be allies with Austria-Hungary and give full support.**

**-On July 23, 1914, Austria-Hungary sent an ultimatum to Serbia. It said: 1) Serbia must stop all anti Austria-Hungary feelings, and 2) Austrian officials will handle the trials of the people responsible for the deaths of the heir and his wife. Serbia was given 48 hrs to respond. Serbia, knowing they had the backing of Russia said “maybe”. Austria now was in a bad position. It could either 1) declare war on Serbia, or 2) work things out with Serbia.**

**In addition to her children, five of Queen Victoria’s granddaughter’s became Queen Consorts in Europe: Princess Victoria Eugenie (Ena) of Battenberg married King Alphonso of Spain; Princess Sophie of Germany married King Constantine of Greece; Princess Marie of Edinburgh married King Ferdinand of Romania; Princess Alix of Hesse married Tsar Nicholas of Russia; and Princess Maud of Wales married King Haakan of Norway.**

**As you can see, most of the royal families of Europe were intricately woven together with cousin marrying cousin…sometimes even first cousins marrying each other. Thanks to very detailed letters written to and from Queen Victoria by her family members, we are able to understand the closeness of the descendants of Queen Victoria to each other.**

**When WWI broke out, many royal families were torn apart and found themselves fighting against the country of their birth. Cousins were fighting cousins and brothers and sisters were at odds! Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany went for YEARS without speaking to his sister, Queen Sophie of Greece (Greece fought against Germany in the war). Queen Marie of Romania was pro allied power while her husband was pro axis power. Queen Ena of Spain was also pro allied power while her husband was pro axis power. In both cases, the wives convinced their husbands to fight on the side of the allies.**

**Adding to this was the fact that the King of Great Britain, the Czar and Czaritsa of Russia, the Kaiser of Germany, the King of Denmark, the Queen of Romania, the Queen of Greece, and the Queen of Norway were all first cousins.**

**Luckily for Queen Victoria, she never lived to see the fighting that went on between her descendants since she died in 1901. Her son, King Edward VII, known as “the uncle of Europe”, was also spared as he died in 1910.**

**TRENCH WARFARE**

**By 1915, the war on the western front had settled into “trench warfare”. This is a system of elaborate tunnels where the men would fight, eat, sleep, and die. The trenches stretched from the English Channel to the Swiss borders. The area between the trenches was known as “no man’s land” and contained rolls and rolls of barbed wire.**

**Methods of fighting in the trenches:**

1. **Stand on the firestep and shoot their machine guns at the enemy’s trench.**
2. **Climb out of the trench and run toward the enemy trench until they are shot.**

**These methods were not very effective. There was very little movement between the lines.**

**Conditions in the trenches:**

**The trenches were very wet, damp, and dirty. The food was not fresh. The trenches had 6 major problems:**

1. **weather- rain and mud**
2. **trench foot**
3. **corpses**
4. **Black rats**
5. **Lice**
6. **Flies**

**Review questions:**

1. **How far did the trenches stretch?**
2. **What was in “no man’s land”?**
3. **What was wrong with the trenches?**
4. **How was the food?**
5. **What were some problems with the trenches?**

**-On July 28, 1914, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.**

**-On July 30, 1914, Russia mobilized their army toward the Austrian-Hungarian and German borders.**

**-On August 1, 1914, Germany declared war on France for being allies of Russia.**

**-On August 4, 1914, Germany marched through the neutral country of Belgium to attack France. This upset Great Britain, so they declared war on Germany.**

**The Central Powers were Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Germany, and the Ottoman Empire (Turkey).**

**The Allied Powers in Europe were Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, and Great Britain.**

**Most Generals thought the war would only last 6 months because of technological advances.**

**Germany had planned to attack France quickly, and then, with combined armies, attack and defeat Russia. This did not work because Russia mobilized its army too quickly. On September 12, 1914, the German army began its retreat from Paris. Germany was now facing a 2 front war with France and Russia.**

**On Christmas day 1914, the soldiers on both sides stopped fighting and player soccer. They even took pictures.**

1. **Who was killed on June 28, 1914?**
2. **Who did Germany agree to be allies with?**
3. **Why did Austria-Hungary declare war on Serbia?**
4. **Why did Great Britain declare war on Germany?**
5. **Who was fighting a 2 front war?**
6. **What happened on Christmas day 1914?**
   1. **What were airplanes originally used for?**
   2. **What % of French pilots was killed?**
   3. **What were “untersee boots”?**

**Important Dates:**

* **March 1918- Russia signs the Treaty of Brest Litovski that ends fighting between Russia and Germany.**
* **Late March 1918- Germany is stopped from taking over France.**
* **August 1918- the Battle of Amiens occurred. This is a very decisive battle where the allies smashed the German lines.**
* **At this time, Bulgarians and Turks are defeated. Austria-Hungary begins to go through a revolution of its own.**
* **November 1918 Austria-Hungary signs an armistice which stops the fighting. Germany continues to fight alone even though many soldiers and sailors desert their stations.**
* **November 3, 1918 mutiny broke out at the German naval base of Kiel.**
* **November 9, 1918 Kaiser Wilhelm abdicated the German throne and fled to the Netherlands.**
* **November 11, 1918- The Great War (WWI) ends on the 11th day of the 11th month of the 11th hour.**
  + **When was the Battle of Amiens?**
  + **When did Austria-Hungary sign an armistice?**
  + **When did mutiny break out in Kiel?**
  + **When did Kaiser Wilhelm abdicate the throne of Germany?**
  + **When did WWI end?**

**Enrichment Activity:**

**Write a descriptive narrative about life in the trenches. This narrative should be at least 2 paragraphs and at least 6-7 sentences per paragraph.**

**New inventions of the time:**

1. **Automatic machine gun- slowed down the advancement of troops.**
2. **Cannons- “Big Bertha” could throw an 1800 lbs. shell a distance of 9 miles**
3. **Poison gas: 2 forms**
   1. **Chlorine gas- the gas would suffocate its victims.**
   2. **Mustard gas- this gas would burn the skin and blind its victims.**

**Gas masks did not always work.**

1. **Tanks: steel monsters. These were not effective until 1917. The Germans used flame throwers to fight the tanks.**
2. **Airplanes: they were first used mainly for photographs and scouting purposes. They became more important toward the end. The average life expectancy of a new pilot in WWI was 3-6 weeks. 77% of French pilots were killed. Airplanes were called “flaming coffins”**
3. **U-boats: German submarines. “Untersee boots” was the German word for submarine.**

**Vocabulary**

* 1. **What was “Big Bertha”?**
  2. **What were the two forms of gas?**

**Losses:**

* **France lost 20% of its men between the ages of 20-44**
* **Germany lost 15% of its men between the ages of 20-44**
* **Almost every family in Europe lost a son, a husband, a father, or a brother in the Great War.**
* **Russia- 2 million killed**
* **Germany- 1.8 million killed**
* **Austria-Hungary- 1.3 million killed**
* **France- 1.3 million killed**
* **Italy- 700,000 killed**
* **Serbia- 370,000 killed**
* **Great Britain- 900,000 killed**

**The Great War was the bloodiest war to date. Altogether, over 10 million troops and 5 million civilians died as a result of the war.**

**Review Questions**

1. **How many people died in Serbia?**
2. **How many people died in Germany?**
3. **How many people died in France?**
4. **How many people died in Great Britain?**
5. **How many troops and civilians died?**