

# War of the Worlds

What impact did WWI and WW2 have on the family?

## When and why did WW1 begin?

- Began in 1914 after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.
- The Triple Entente were: Great Britain, France and Russia.
- The Triple Alliance were: Germany, Austria-Hungary and their allies.

#### What effect did propaganda posters have on the role of the family?

- Propaganda posters were a mode of communication aimed at influencing the community.
- Propaganda posters were put up for different reasons:
- recruit men to join the army
- recruit women to work in the factories and in the Women's Land Army
- encourage people to save food and not to waste
- to keep morale high and encourage people to buy government bonds.

#### How did the Treaty of Versailles lead to WW2?

- This was a peace treaty between the six nations:
   France, Germany, Britain, Austria-Hungary, Japan and the United
   States after World War I.
- Germany had the choice between signing it or facing the occupation of Germany by Allied troops: this angered the German people as they believed that they did not start the war.
- Germany had to abide by certain rules which they deemed harsh and unfair.
- Germany did not accept these rules.
- The chancellor of Germany (Hitler) invaded Poland in September 1939 which drove Great Britain and France to declare war on Germany.

### **Key Vocabulary**

**assassination** the act of killing someone.

**trench** long, deep ditches dug as protective defences—are most often associated with World War I, and the results of trench warfare in that conflict were hellish indeed.

**conflict** a serious disagreement or argument.

resolution a firm decision not to do something.

**ration** a fixed amount of a commodity officially allowed to each person during a time of shortage, as in wartime.

## How did trench warfare change how wars were fought?

- Trench warfare was a defensive military tactic used by both sides.
- The trenches had poor conditions for the soldiers, due to a lack of hygiene, pest infestations (such as rats and lice), frequent labour, and mud and water building up on the earth.
- Soldiers must carry out daily duties, such as filling sandbags, digging trenches further, or defending from or carrying out attacks.
- The little time soldiers had was used to write letters to friends and families, sleeping or very
  occasionally, playing cards in the trenches. Dogs were utilised in trenches, to carry messages,
  supplies, to warn of incoming danger or attacks.
- There were often diseases due to the mud and water (Trench Foot).
  - If soldiers were at incredible risk of attacks from gas, rifles or artillery, many gadgets were used to prepare for this (such as a periscope).

#### How did WW2 affect the lives of the family?

- Life changed for everybody. For most, the war years were a time of family separation.
- Many children had to look after themselves and younger siblings while their mothers worked.
- To make the British weak, the Germans tried to cut off supplies of food and other goods therefore ration books were produced.
- Nearly two million children were evacuated from their homes at the start of World War Two. They were evacuated to the countryside to escape the bombing.
- Children lived in fear from the constant threat of air raids. They spent some nights living in air raid shelters (Anderson or Morrison) just in case German planes dropped bombs on their houses.



Applying Past Knowledge: This learning links with using primary and secondary sources to find out information about a time period. This learning builds on your understanding of chronology e.g. Year 2: Florence Nightingale; Year 4: Suffragettes; Year 5: The Maya period.



