

Did you know?

- The First World War is also known as 'World War One' and the 'Great War'.
- The war was triggered on 28th June 1914 by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife, Sophie.
- Dogs, as well as horses, were used in the war effort. They were used to carry messages in capsules attached to their body. They also carried and placed telegraph wires in important areas.
- On Christmas Eve in 1914, both sides declared an unofficial truce and sang Christmas carols to each other. On Christmas Day, they played football matches in no man's land, the area between German and British trenches, and exchanged food and souvenirs.
- Cannons and artillery were often extremely loud. In 1917, the explosives used to destroy a bridge in France were reportedly heard over 130 miles away in London.
- Most trenches were approximately 3 metres deep and 1–2 metres wide. They were dug in a zig zag pattern instead of straight lines.
- We wear poppies on Remembrance Day because they were one of the first flowers to bloom on the battlefields of Flanders during the war. Their bright red colour symbolised the bloodshed, but also the hope of new life.
- Tanks were initially called 'landships'. However, to disguise them as water storage tanks rather than as weapons, the British gave them the code name 'tanks'.
- Tear gas, mustard gas and chlorine gas were all used in the First World War. This was the first known use of chemical weapons.
- 80,000 British troops suffered from shell shock, a psychological reaction to the trauma endured by soldiers serving on the war's key battle fronts.



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