

Topic: History of World War 1

Next week we will be investigating the end of WW1 and what happened after.

When did World War One end?

World War One ended at 11am on 11 November 1918.

This became known as **Armistice Day** - the day Germany signed an armistice (an agreement for peace) which caused the fighting to stop.

People in Britain, France and the countries that supported them celebrated.

Image gallery [Skip image gallery](#)



- Image caption,
- **'How London hailed the end of war'**
- A front-page headline taken from The Daily Mirror on 12 November 1918.

What happened at the end of the war?

At the start of **1918**, Germany was in a strong position. Russia had already left the year before which made Germany even stronger.

A few events turned things around:

- Britain and France counterattacked after Germany's *Michael Offensive* in March 1918.
- The German Navy was on strike.
- In April 1917 the United States joined the war against Germany.

Germany and her allies realised it was no longer possible to win the war.

The leaders of the German army told the government to stop. **Kaiser Wilhelm**, Germany's ruler, stepped down on **9 November 1918**.



Image caption,
Postcard with illustration of flags promoting freedom (circa 1917).

What did the Treaty of Versailles do to Germany?

The leaders of the **USA, Great Britain and France** met in **Versailles** to decide what should happen next.

Germany, Austria and Hungary were not invited.

The agreement was called the **Treaty of Versailles**.

Germany was shocked by it because:

- They had to accept total blame for starting the war.
- They could not join the new **League of Nations**, where countries worked together for peace.
- Some places Germany used to own, like **Alsace-Lorraine**, were taken from them.
- They were banned from having an army of more than **100,000 men** and from having any **submarines** or an **air force**.

People in Germany were angry. The country had to pay **132 billion gold marks** (their currency before the Euro) to repair the damages of war. They became poor because of this.

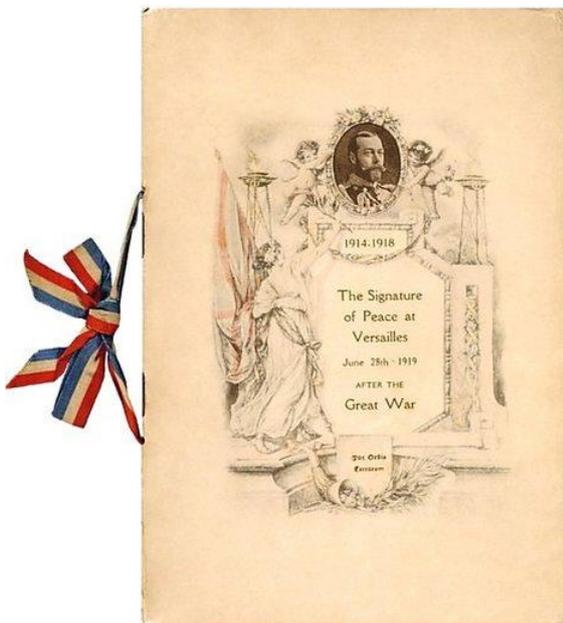


Image caption,
Original booklet from the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.



Image caption,
1919: Germans take a tank apart outside Berlin, as ordered by the Treaty of Versailles. This tank is in fact a British tank, which the Germans had captured and used during the war.

What happened to soldiers after the war?

Many former soldiers still suffered from shell shock or were disabled. It was difficult to forget about the horrors of the war.

Back in Britain, training centres were set up to support ex-servicemen and retrain them in new jobs, such as cobblers, electricians and jewellers.

Their lives were never the same again.



What time did the war end on 11th November 1918?

- 1) 11am
- 2) 10am
- 3) 9am
- 4) 1/5

What is the day the war ended known as?

- 1) Peace Day
- 2) Armistice Day
- 3) Stop Fighting Day

In what year did the United States join the war against Germany?

- 1) 1918
- 2) 1917
- 3) 1916

Where did the allies sign the peace agreement?

- 1) Versailles
- 2) Verona
- 3) Verdun

How much money did Germany have to pay to repair the damages of war?

- 1) 123 billion gold marks
- 2) 132 million gold marks
- 3) 132 billion gold marks