



NAME THE CAUSES OF WORLD WAR I

Learning Objectives: The students will...

1. Understand the causes of World War I.
2. Interpret scenarios and visuals to identify the cause of World War I that is being depicted.

TEKS: US 4C

Materials Needed: NAME the Causes of World War I PowerPoint presentation, copies of the World War I Scenarios and Visuals worksheet for each student.

Teaching Strategy:

1. Show the PowerPoint presentation on the causes of World War I uses the acronym **NAME** to help the students remember the causes.
2. Use questions such as the ones selected below to check and deepen students' understanding of the four major causes.
 - a. How is nationalism different from patriotism? How can uncontrolled nationalism be dangerous?
 - b. What would you have done if you had been the leader of a smaller European nation faced with the growing strength of such nations as Great Britain and Germany?
 - c. Do you agree or disagree that peace can be maintained by a show of military strength?
 - d. What are the advantages of expansionism to the European nations? What are the disadvantages? Advantages to the area being colonized? Disadvantages?
 - e. How was the outbreak of World War I like a huge line of dominos lined up close together and then starting a chain reaction when the first one is pushed over?
3. After the students have shown they have an understanding of the concepts, hand out the scenarios and visuals to be used as a formative assessment.

Suggested Answer Key: (Allow alternate answers if students can adequately defend their choice)

Scenarios

1. Nationalism; 2. Alliances; 3. Expansionism; 4. Alliances; 5. Militarism; 6. Militarism; 7. Expansionism; 8. Nationalism; 9. Nationalism; 10. Militarism

Visuals

1. Nationalism; 2. Militarism; 3. Expansionism; 4. Expansionism; 5. Alliances; 6. Militarism

World War I Scenarios and Visuals

Part 1—Using the four causes of World War I (Nationalism, Alliances, Militarism, Expansionism), identify which one is described in each of the following scenarios.

1. _____ The heir to the Austrian throne, Franz Ferdinand, is assassinated by the Black Hand, a Serbian secret society committed to ridding Serbia of Austrian rule.
2. _____ Bismarck, the Chancellor of Germany, tries to isolate France with a treaty with Austria-Hungary.
3. _____ 14 European countries meet at the Berlin Conference in 1884-85 to devise rules to divide Africa amongst themselves.
4. _____ Germany secretly gives Austria-Hungary assurance that they would come to their aid no matter what if attacked. This is called the “blank check.”
5. _____ Kaiser Wilhelm II, the ruler of Germany, declares, “I and the army were born for one another.”
6. _____ Between 1870 and 1914, European nations increase their spending 400 percent to build up military strength in the arms race.
7. _____ There is a growing need for raw materials and markets to sell the goods being produced in factories.
8. _____ France has never gotten over losing Alsace-Lorraine to Germany in the 1870 Franco-Prussian War.
9. _____ Italy and Germany states unify under a central government after centuries of being a collection of small independent ones.
10. _____ European nations develop mobilization plans for the military to be ready quickly, as many felt war was coming.

Part 2—View the visuals below to determine which cause (NAME) is BEST being depicted.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

