

## World History

### Measurement Topic 3: The Causes and Effects of WW1

#### Learning Target # 3: What decisions did the major leaders make after the WW1?

##### Directions:

1st- Number the paragraphs

2nd - Independently read the passage, and circle words you don't know. Predict the meaning of the words.

3rd- Read the passage a second time with a partner, highlight information and write side notes.

4th- Answer the questions on the back in complete sentences.

Once Russia left the war, Germany was able to turn all its focus to the western front, taking out Italy and France. It seemed as if Germany and its allies would be taking over all of Europe until the United States joined the war. The United States brought fresh troops, supplies and ideas. By November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 am, 1918 Germany pronounced an end to the war.

The major leaders involved in World War 1 soon had to meet to determine the final details of peace. The peace negotiations took place in Paris, France in 1919. The meeting was called the Paris Peace Conference. **Woodrow Wilson** president of the **United States** came with the **idea that peace** would and should occur. The United States had only fought for one year in the war, which is why the death toll was very small for the United States. Also no fighting occurred on United States soil, there for the cost of the war damages to the United States was very low, so peace really was the only thing the United States was looking for when President Woodrow Wilson attended the Paris peace conference. **David Lloyd George of Great Britain** came with the idea that Germany should **pay them back** for all the destruction that they had inflicted. The cities of England had suffered a lot of destruction due to the constant bombing by the German air attacks. The English navy had also sustained great losses in numbers of ships, which was why England wanted the Germans to pay high fines to them for the cost of the war. **Georges Clemenceau of France** wanted **revenge** against Germany since France had been invaded twice in the last 20 years by Germany, which also led France to want security measures put into place to prevent Germany from invading France again. France had also lost the most men due to the constant fighting that took place on the western front in French territory. Italy was at the meeting but not considered important, Germany was not invited, and Russia was busy with its Bolshevik revolution.

**Woodrow Wilson** gave a speech to congress prior to leaving to the Paris. His speech, known as the **fourteen points**, showed congress what Woodrow Wilson wanted at the peace conference. Wilson and the USA wanted: lasting peace, no secret treaties, Germany to reduce the number of its army, free trade and freedom of the seas for all nations as well as a peace keeping organization created from all the nations to keep world peace known as the **League of Nation**. Woodrow Wilson was confident that his ideas would be favorable taken at the Paris Peace conference. Unfortunately after the Peace Conference was held, the American people and Congress did not want the USA involved in any of Europe's issues so the USA did not join the League of Nations. Without the support of the USA, the League of Nations had very little power, and was unable to keep the nations at peace.



One of the final treaties, known as the **Treaty of Versailles**, held very little of Wilson's fourteen points. The other leaders from England, and France had more of an influence on the final details. The treaty required that Germany admit total guilt for starting the war, limit its armies, hand over all their colonies, and pay \$442 billion. Another blow to Germany was that all the land it had gained over the years that was part of Germany would also be taken away to create new nations. (see your map)

Germany was treated extremely harshly at the Paris Peace Treaty. Their pride took a hit with Germany having to admit guilt. Their national security was in jeopardy since they had to reduce their army. Money and prestige was lost when they were stripped of their overseas colonies. Germany also faced a bad economic depression and high unemployment following WW1 which left Germany nearly penniless since they had to pay back \$442 billion. Germany also shrank in size when they lost territory to create new nations. When Germany had a hard time paying back the money, Russia confiscated/took Germany's factories, tanks, ships and anything else of value. All this was done to not only punish Germany in an attempt at revenge but also in an attempt to keep Germany from seeking to start another war.

Even though all these pieces were put in place, to keep Germany from gaining too much power again, the lack of a strong peace keeping organization (the League of Nations) and the lack of a plan to rebuild the battle damaged nations, would fail to stop Hitler from rising to power which would soon lead to another war.

**Answer the following questions in complete questions.**

1. Where was the peace conference located and what was the name of one of the treaties?
2. Who were the major leaders involved in the peace treaty **and** what was the goal for each leader?
3. What were key parts to Woodrow Wilson's 14 points speech?
4. What was the League of Nations **AND** why didn't the USA not join?
5. What were the conditions of the Treaty of Versailles?
6. How did the conditions of the Treaty affect Germany?