WORLD WAR I - THE LUSITANIA

U-Boats, Propaganda and the United States Entrance into the War
Total War vs. Traditional War

- Total war is when a government devotes all of its resources to war.
- The warring Europeans nations started to follow this policy. On the “home front,” or domestic side of a country at war, that meant rationing, and propaganda.
- Rationing controlled how much food the home front consumed in comparison to what was sent to the front lines for the soldiers.
Total War

- Both sides were short on supplies and food. The large amount of young men being sent to war, meant there were few workers on the home front to farm and collect a harvest.

- The type of fighting (trench warfare) had also destroyed a large portion of the farmland on the countryside.

- To fill supplies, the European nations started to trade heavily with the United States, especially on the Allied side. The governments also resorted to using propaganda (one-sided information) to keep the morale up on the “home front.”
The Lusitania

- Sister ship to the Titanic. Was a passenger ship that sailed from New York to Ireland. There were 1,924 passengers on board, including many prominent Americans. On May 7th at 2:10am, 10 miles off the coast of Ireland the German sub U-20 fired at the Lusitania. It sank in 18 minutes, killing 1,119 passengers, 114 of which were American Citizens.
Unrestricted Submarine Warfare
Essential Question

- Is it justifiable for the United States to go to war over the sinking of the Lusitania?

- At your table, individually read the newspaper articles provided. Annotate and make note of anything that is surprising, out of sync with what you already know, or seems inaccurate.

- One source is from the New York Times, the other from the Washington Times. Don’t complain about the font, but instead act as a historian and do your best to understand the source and text.
“The Sinking of the Lusitania”

- Winsor McCay - Sinking of the Lusitania (1918)
  - American Cartoonist and Animator
  - Took two years to create cartoon
  - Required 25,000 drawings