WORLD WAR I - WEAPONRY

“Our knowledge of life is limited to death”
New Technology - Guns

The Machine Gun

- It was used by both sides, hundreds of rounds a minute could be shot by one person.
- Combined with barbed wire, was most effective at bringing assaults to a swift conclusion, hence a stalemate and necessity of trenches.
Both sides dug long trenches that faced each other. The trenches ran for miles.

From time to time, one side would attempt to cross the “No-Man’s Land” the area in between the trenches.

Trench warfare made WWI extend from a few months of fighting to four years of fighting.

Though history has heavily criticized them militaristically, trenches were complex and highly strategic.
Trench Diagram

- **Trench**: 3 to 5 ft in width
- **Parados**: 4 to 6 ft
- **Parapet Fire Step**: 2.5 ft
- **Traverse**: 8 ft
- **Sandbagged Top**
Zigzag Aerial of Trenches
Trench Foot

- First noted by Napoleon's army in 1812
- Caused by prolonged exposure to damp and swampy conditions, without proper waterproof protection.
- Can begin in as little as 16 hours and will cause feet to become numb, change color and eventually decay. This will lead to gangrene which can result in amputation or death. If caught early, a full recovery can occur but will result in extreme pain as feeling returns.
Mani’s and Pedi’s
Trench Foot - WWI
Technology: Chemical Weapons

- WWI was the first major war to use chemical weapons

- Mustard Gas and Chlorine Gas were the two most popular weapons: They caused suffocation, blindness, and death
Soldiers would protect themselves using Gas Masks
Technology:
The U-boat (Submarine)

- Germany’s secret weapon during the war
- Responsible for the sinking of the Lusitania
- Sank dozens of British ships, controlled the oceans.
U534, Birkenhead Dock, England
U-Boat Pens, Saint-Nazaire France
Survivors of a sunk German U-Boat
The Sinking of the Lusitania - Painting 1915
Technology:
Airpower

- Both sides used aircraft for observation, limited bombing, and air battles
- Airplanes were slow, clumsy, and unreliable,
- The most famous German pilot was Baron von Richthofen (The Red Baron)
  - Credited with 80 confirmed kills
The Red Baron and his Fokker Dr. 1, the tri-plane with which he is most associated.
Technology:
Tanks
Technology:
Tanks
Technology:
Flame Throwers
Battle of Verdun

- In France along the Western Front
- Surprise attack by the Germans on the French, 1916
- Use of heavy German guns scattered French forces
- War of attrition: 300,000 dead and 750,000 wounded
- City was protected in underground forts
- Considered by many to be the most demanding battle in history
Battle of Verdun Map

http://www.pbs.org/greatwar/maps/maps_verdun.html
Battle of Verdun-
Painting by Felix Vallotton
Battle of Verdun-
The Battlefield Today
Battle of Verdun Memorial - opened in 1967 to honor fallen soldiers and civilians
Battle of Gallipoli

- Allies launch an amphibious attack upon the Gallipoli Peninsula
- Total disaster due to poor intelligence and underestimation of forces
- Stalemate ensues for next nine months before Allies withdraw
- 46,000 dead
Graphic of the Dardanelles - 1915
Battle of Gallipoli

Anzac Cove Landing. Battleships are red and destroyers orange
Battle of Gallipoli-
French Landing
Battle of Gallipoli -
Ottoman Gunners
Battle of Gallipoli
Battle of the Somme

- 125 miles NW of Verdun at Somme River
- British General Douglas Haig orders a week-long assault and bombardment
- Could be heard across the English Channel
- 30 miles of front, 2 million men involved and 750,000 casualties
- Despite the devastation, many argue it turned the tide of the war in favor of the Allies by weakening German forces
Artillery Bombardment
British artillery shells following bombardment, prior to troop advance
“Going Over the Top” British Attacking Troops
Who Won the First Day of the Battle of the Somme?

- Read Document A and fill out the graphic organizer
  - Discuss as a class

- Read Documents B & C and fill out the graphic organizer
  - Discuss as a class

- Who won the first day of the Battle of the Somme? Write a paragraph