Helping your children choose books they will love

I reading

Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website created for parents and children to make choosing books easy and fun

An extract from

First World War Sticker Book

Published by

Usborne Publishing Ltd

All Text is Copyright © of the Author and/or Illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.

Lovereading4kids.co.uk

USBORNE



FIRST WORLD WAR STICKER BOOK



Struan Reid

Illustrated by Ian McNee

Designed by Tom Lalonde and Samantha Barrett

Edited by Jane Chisholm

Consultant: Victoria Kingston, Historian, Imperial War Museum

Contents

2 The First World War
4 A call to arms
6 Fighter planes
8 Bombers
10 Tanks and guns
12 Army vehicles
14 Ships and submarines
16 The Somme
18 War art
20 War leaders
22 Famous people





With thanks to Madeleine James

Published in association with Imperial War Museums

The First World War

The First World War broke out in 1914 and quickly engulfed the whole of Europe and beyond, with fighting on such a huge scale it was known as the 'Great War'. New weapons such as tanks and planes were used for the first time. By the end, in 1918, more than 16 million people had been killed.

1. The fuse is lit

On June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, was shot dead in the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, by an assassin recruited by a Serbian terrorist group. One month later, on July 28, Austria declared war on Serbia. Germany backed Austria and then declared war against Russia and France.





2. The Central Powers and Allies

German forces marched into Belgium on August 4, 1914, on their way to attack Paris. Britain had signed a treaty to protect Belgium, and so declared war on Germany. The major European nations fell into two camps: the Central Powers – Germany and Austria-Hungary, and later Turkey and Bulgaria – and the Entente Powers or Allies – France, Russia and Britain, and later Italy and the USA.

Many people back home believed that the fighting would all be over by Christmas.



3. Gallipoli campaign

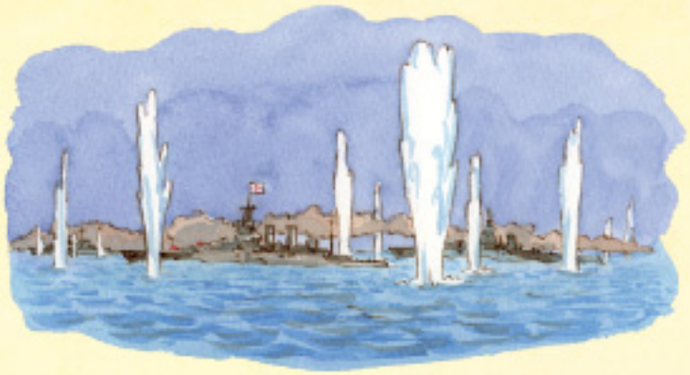
On April 25, 1915, the Allies began a campaign to capture the Gallipoli peninsula in Turkey and then attack the capital city of Constantinople. This turned into a disaster, and eight months later the Allies were forced to withdraw. About 44,000 Allied soldiers had been killed, and about 110,000 were evacuated because of disease.

4. The longest battle

The Battle of Verdun in France, fought between the French and Germans, began on February 21, 1916 and lasted until December 18. At least 260,000 soldiers were killed and half a million wounded. The Germans had hoped to bleed France to death through the enormous number of casualties, but neither side was victorious.



By the end of the fighting, the medieval city of Verdun lay in ruins.



5. Fighting at sea

After two years of light skirmishes in the North Sea, the British and German navies finally confronted each other at the Battle of Jutland off the coast of Denmark in 1916. It was the only major battle of the War to be fought at sea. By the end, 15 British and 11 German ships had been sunk, but there was no clear winner and the German navy never came out to do battle again.

6. The Somme Offensive

On July 1, 1916 British and French troops advanced on German positions near the River Somme in northern France. They were hoping to sweep through the German lines, but were met by fierce resistance. Fighting continued until November 19. At the end, neither side could claim victory and nearly 1.5 million soldiers had been killed or wounded, making it one of the bloodiest battles in history.



Fighting at the Somme

7. USA enters the War

The United States declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, after months of German provocation. The first US forces landed in France on June 25, 1917.



The first US soldiers arrive in Europe.

8. Russia drops out

Following the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II a year earlier, on March 3, 1918 the new Russian Communist government signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with the Central Powers and withdrew from the War. This enabled the Germans to move extra forces to the Western Front and launch a new offensive against the Allies.



9. The tide turns

The Battle of Amiens began on August 8, 1918. Morale among German forces was now very low, and over a few days the Allies succeeded in pushing deep into German-held territory. This was a major turning point in the War and marked the beginning of a 95-day offensive that would lead to Allied victory.



The Signing of Peace in the Hall of Mirrors, Versailles, painted by William Orpen.

10. The end of the War

On October 30, 1918, Turkey surrendered and on November 10 Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany went into exile in the Netherlands. At 11 o'clock on November 11, the eleventh month of 1918, a ceasefire came into force when Germany and the Allies signed the Armistice.

A total of 37 million people – military and civilian – had been killed or wounded during the four-year conflict. On June 28, 1919, the Germans reluctantly signed the Treaty of Versailles, officially bringing the War to an end. Most Germans considered the terms of the treaty were too severe and, 20 years later, war would break out again.



A call to arms

During the First World War, televisions hadn't been invented and few people owned radios. Governments used posters and magazines with powerful images to encourage men to join up, and to remind people that they were fighting for survival.

This poster, showing the face of Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, British Secretary of State for War, is one of the most famous of the entire War. He appeals directly to all the able bodied men of Britain to enlist as soldiers.

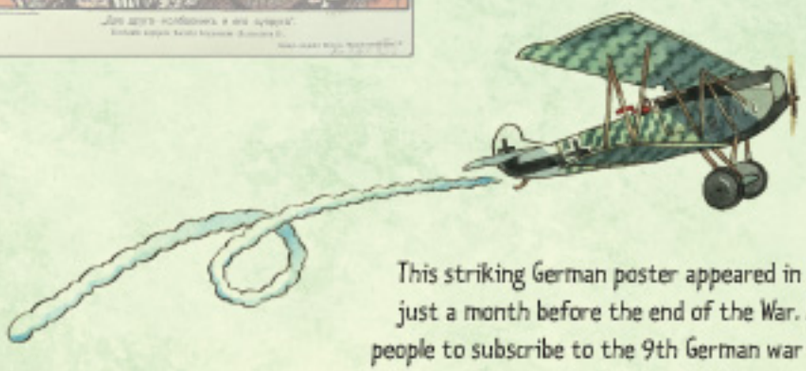


Kitchener organized the largest volunteer army that Britain had ever seen. More than 750,000 signed up in less than a month.





This Russian poster shows the German ruler, Kaiser Wilhelm. Behind him looms his *alter ego*, the skeletal figure of Death carrying a scythe to cut down the Russian soldiers. The message to the people back home is to support their army against the German killing machine.



This striking German poster appeared in October 1918, just a month before the end of the War. It encourages people to subscribe to the 9th German war loan, to raise extra money to finance the increasingly desperate war effort.



Fighter planes

The First World War was the first major conflict in which planes were used. The pilots who flew the fighter planes were some of the most dashing figures of the War.

British Bristol F.2B



Firepower: 2 machine guns
Flight crew: 2
Top speed: 198kph (123mph)

Even though it was larger and heavier than many other fighters, the Bristol was quick and agile in the air. With a high top speed, it could compete against smaller and lighter planes. Solid and reliable, a number of Bristols served in the British and Polish air forces well into the 1930s.

The round symbol was placed on the top and bottom of the wings.

This was the symbol displayed on the wings of planes of the British Royal Flying Corps, the original name for the Royal Air Force.

British Sopwith Pup

Firepower: 1 machine gun
Flight crew: 1
Top speed: 180kph (112mph)

The Pup first entered service in 1916 with the Royal Naval Air Service and Royal Flying Corps. Light and agile, it soon proved itself superior to German planes. Used on the Western Front and in the defence of Britain, in 1917 it was superseded by even better fighter planes, such as the Sopwith Camel.





Among the Pup's main targets in the skies over Britain were the lumbering Zeppelin airships that came to bomb London.