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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 30/04/14

Who started World War One?

Who started World War One? There are many answers to this. Your answer may depend on your nationality!

The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife Sophie on the 28th June 1914 in Sarajevo is said to have triggered the start of World War One (WWI) or Great War, as it became known.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was heir to the throne in Austro-Hungary. While visiting Sarajevo both were shot dead by Bosnian Serb Gavrilo Princip, who was one of six assassins.

The objective of the assassination was 'to break off Austro-Hungary's south-Slav provinces so they could be combined to make a Greater Serbia or a Yugoslavia.'

Other causes that started WWI include imperialism, alliances, nationalism, and militarism. Another important cause of the start of the Great War was the disastrous decisions taken by the statesmen and generals following the assassination of the Archduke and his wife.

Tensions had been high across Europe, especially in the Balkans, in the previous months and years following the First Balkan War in 1912-13 and the Second Balkan War in 1913.

There was also the growth of nationalism across Europe. In Austro-Hungary alone there were around eleven different nationalities.

There were also territorial disputes and all sorts of intricate alliances. There was an arms race. The Imperial powers were conquering the world. There was also a diplomatic crisis before WWI; including misconceptions of intent, as well as delays and misunderstandings in diplomatic communications.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about World War One. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What happened in 1912-13?
- 2) Who was assassinated and where in 1914?
- 3) Who was the assassin?
- 4) Explain the diplomatic crisis.
- 5) What does 'imperialism' mean?

Student B questions

- 1) What does 'militarism' mean?
- 2) What was 'Austro-Hungary'?
- 3) What did the assassin want?
- 4) Who made some disastrous decisions?
- 5) Where were the Balkan Wars?

**Category: History / World War One / Causes
Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

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WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**World War One**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – From the article choose five things about what led to the start of World War One. Write them below. Talk about them.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

What do these things tell us? Could the Great War have been averted? Could it happen again? What does history tell us?

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – On the board list seven great empires that existed in the period of 1914. Briefly talk about each of them. Maybe draw a map or Google a map of these empires. *5 mins.*

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What do you know about Archduke Franz Ferdinand?
- 3) What do you know about Gavrilo Princip?
- 4) Why do you think tensions were high across Europe in 1914?
- 5) What do you know about the two Balkan wars in 1912/1913?
- 6) What do you know about Austro-Hungary?
- 7) Why did the generals and statesmen do what they did in 1914?
- 8) Would you like to have lived in Europe in 1912-1914?
- 9) Will we see new countries or indeed former empires be recreated in Europe in the future?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. There are up to four guests. You are in the BBC News studio in London. Today's interview is: *World War One. 10 mins.*

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs - *Student A* is a young student who wants to find out about World War One. *Student B* is an older person who can tell them some stories about their grandparents' experiences of world War One. (Imagine!) *5 mins.*

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

What empires exist in the world today? How do they compare with the empires of 100 years ago? What does history tell us will happen to them?

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Who started World War One?

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) How did WWI start?
- 3) If Austro-Hungary hadn't annexed Bosnia-Herzegovina would history have been entirely different?
- 4) If WWI hadn't happened would Austro-Hungary and Germany have broken up?
- 5) Would all these empires eventually have collapsed as nationalities living in them demanded their own country?
- 6) How does the EU Empire today compare with the Austro-Hungarian Empire of 1914?
- 7) How did the Kaiser in Germany influence the start of WWI?
- 8) What do you know about the intricate alliances pre-WWI?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Who started World War One?

Who started World War One? There are many answers to this. Your (1)___ may depend on your nationality!

The (2)___ of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife Sophie on the 28th June 1914 in Sarajevo is said to have triggered the start of World War One (WWI) or Great War, as it became known.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was (3)___ to the (4)___ in Austro-Hungary. While visiting Sarajevo both were shot dead by Bosnian Serb Gavrilo Princip, who was one of six (5)___.

The objective of the assassination was 'to break off Austro-Hungary's south-Slav (6)___ so they could be combined to make a Greater Serbia or a Yugoslavia.'

Other causes that started WWI include imperialism, alliances, (7)___, and (8)___.

throne / militarism / nationalism / assassins / assassination / provinces / answer / heir

Another important (1)___ of the start of the Great War was the disastrous decisions taken by the statesmen and generals following the assassination of the Archduke and his wife.

(2)___ had been high across Europe, especially in the Balkans, in the (3)___ months and years following the First Balkan War in 1912-13 and the Second Balkan War in 1913.

There was also the growth of nationalism across Europe. In Austro-Hungary (4)___ there were around eleven (5)___ nationalities.

There were also territorial disputes and all sorts of intricate alliances. There was an arms race. The Imperial powers were conquering the world. There was also a diplomatic (6)___ before WWI; including misconceptions of (7)___, as well as delays and (8)___ in diplomatic communications.

crisis / tensions / intent / cause / alone / misunderstandings / different / previous

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Who started World War One?

Who started World War One? There are (1)___ answers to this. (2)___ answer (3)___ depend on (4)___ nationality!

The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife Sophie on the 28th June 1914 in Sarajevo is said to have triggered the start of World War One (WWI) or Great War, as it became known.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was heir to the throne in Austro-Hungary. (5)___ visiting Sarajevo both were shot dead by Bosnian Serb Gavrilo Princip, who was one of six assassins.

The objective of the assassination was 'to break off Austro-Hungary's south-Slav provinces so they (6)___ be combined to make a Greater Serbia or a Yugoslavia.'

(7)___ causes (8)___ started WWI include imperialism, alliances, nationalism, and militarism.

could / many / your / that / other / may / while / your

Another important cause of the start of the Great War was the disastrous decisions taken (1)___ the statesmen and generals following the assassination of the Archduke and (2)___ wife.

Tensions had been high across Europe, especially in the Balkans, in the previous months and years following the First Balkan War in 1912-13 and the Second Balkan War in 1913.

There was also (3)___ growth of nationalism across Europe. In Austro-Hungary alone there were around eleven different nationalities.

There were also territorial disputes and all sorts (4)___ intricate alliances. There was (5)___ arms race. The Imperial powers were conquering the world. There was also (6)___ diplomatic crisis before WWI; including misconceptions of intent, as well as delays (7)___ misunderstandings (8)___ diplomatic communications.

in / of / by / an / his / and / the / a

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Who started World War One?

Who started World War One? There are many answers to this. Your answer may depend _____!

The assassination of _____ of Austria and his wife Sophie on the 28th June 1914 in Sarajevo is said to have triggered the start of World War One (WWI) or Great War, as it became known.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was heir to the throne in Austro-Hungary. _____ While visiting Sarajevo both were shot dead by Bosnian Serb Gavrilo Princip, who was one of six assassins.

The objective of the assassination was 'to break off Austro-Hungary's south-Slav provinces so they could be combined to make _____ a Yugoslavia.' Other causes that started WWI include imperialism, _____ alliances, _____, _____ militarism.

Another important cause of the start of the Great War was the _____ taken by the statesmen and generals following the assassination of the Archduke and his wife.

Tensions had been high across Europe, especially in the Balkans, in _____ and years following the First Balkan War in 1912-13 and the Second Balkan War in 1913.

There was also the growth of nationalism across Europe. In _____ there were around eleven different nationalities.

There were also _____ and all sorts of intricate alliances. There was an arms race. The Imperial powers were conquering the world. There was also a diplomatic crisis before WWI; including misconceptions of intent, as well as delays and misunderstandings in _____.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs, as a class - write down 20 things you know about World War One. 5-10 mins.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The Great War _____
- 2) Archduke _____
- 3) The assassin _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Who started World War One?** Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) vary
- 2) assassination
- 3) heir
- 4) throne
- 5) assassins
- 6) provinces
- 7) nationalism
- 8) militarism

ANSWERS

- 1) cause
- 2) tensions
- 3) previous
- 4) alone
- 5) different
- 6) crisis
- 7) intent
- 8) misunderstandings

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) nationalities
- 2) territorial
- 3) intricate
- 4) alliances
- 5) Imperial
- 6) Diplomatic
- 7) conquering
- 8) misconceptions
- 9) communications
- 10) assassination

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) vary
- 12) triggered
- 13) while
- 14) assassins
- 15) different
- 16) provinces
- 17) could
- 18) nationalism
- 19) disastrous
- 20) especially

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