

World War I



Archduke Franz
Ferdinand

Before World War I started many countries had deals to help keep each other safe. This man (left) was killed in 1914 by someone from another country. These two countries went to war. Because of the deals more countries were pulled in.



Troops dug trenches to keep themselves safe from the enemy. They had to be fixed over and over. When it rained the soldiers had to stand in water and mud. They used a tool called a periscope to see over the top. Living in a trench was miserable.

Things You Might Have Seen



This Britain Mark IV tank was a large machine with guns to use against the enemy. It uses tracks instead of tires. Would you like to ride inside this piece of metal?



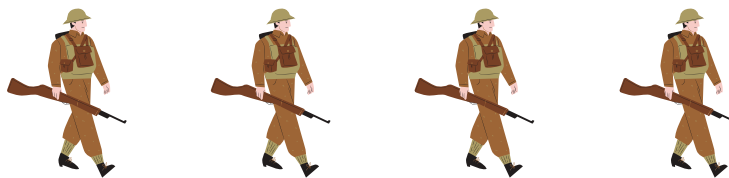
During this war there were different kinds of gases used as weapons. This mask helped keep it out of eyes, face and lungs.



This British battleship was one of the fastest of its kind. It had 20 guns and better armor than the others in the war.



The Germans made a new weapon known as the flame thrower. It was very dangerous in the trenches.



Animals Served !



Dogs were trained to carry messages. They also could carry supplies.



Cats were trained to kill the rats in the trenches. Rats carry diseases that could make soldiers sick.



Horses were used to move supplies, guns, food and more.

United States Enters the War

At first the U.S. did not want to enter the war but three events pushed them to the decision to join the Allies. The allies included the British and French Empires.

When 128 U.S. citizens died in the 1915 sinking of the Lusitania many American people began to think badly of Germany.

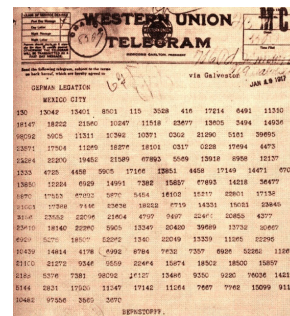


In 1916 four German agents caused an explosion at Black Tom Pier where army supplies were being stored. The blast even damaged the Statue of Liberty torch!



This coded telegram snatched by Britain proved to the U.S. that Germany was trying to make a deal with Mexico. They promised they would help Mexico get back Texas land they had lost to the U.S. if they would help Germany in the war.

Three months later the U.S. declared war on Germany.



In the War



Clarence H. Smith was a man from Lecompton who served in the war. He was a teacher and coach in Lecompton before the war began. Before he left some of the young school kids threw a party for him. There was also a party thrown by the town basketball team. The next day he left for the army.

In World War I many types of gases were used as weapons. This gas mask protected Clarence's face and lungs from some of them. Gas could cause damage to the skin, eyes, and lungs. The gas could also cause death. He brought this home to Kansas when the war was over.



This helmet helped to protect Mr. Smith's head from flying shrapnel. Shrapnel were pieces of bombs, shells or other objects thrown out by an explosion. Unfortunately he did end up with a piece of shrapnel in his leg which injured it. After the war he walked with a limp.

Activity

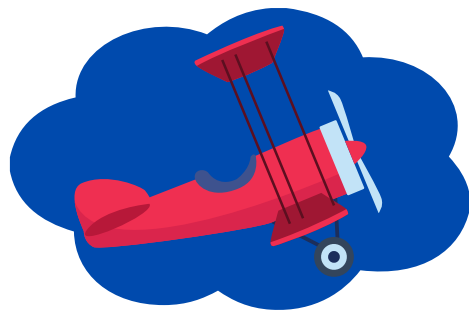
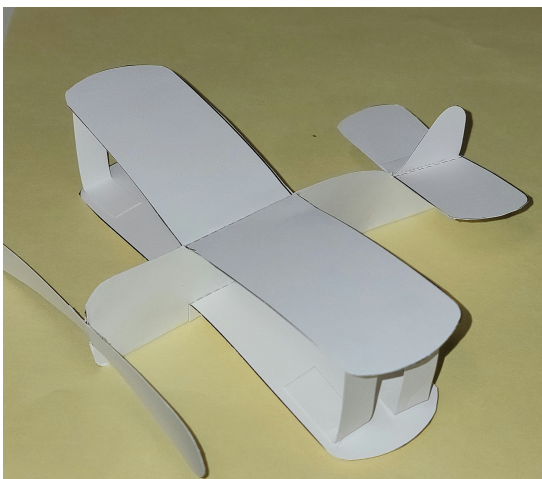
World War I was the first war in which aircraft was used widely. Biplanes were used most often. Manfred Richthofen, also known as the Red Baron, was one of the most famous pilots. He fought for Germany and won many awards from his country. Your activity is to make a paper biplane. Follow the directions. When you are finished bring your plane to the museum and get your small prize and get entered into the raffle for the end of summer bigger prizes.

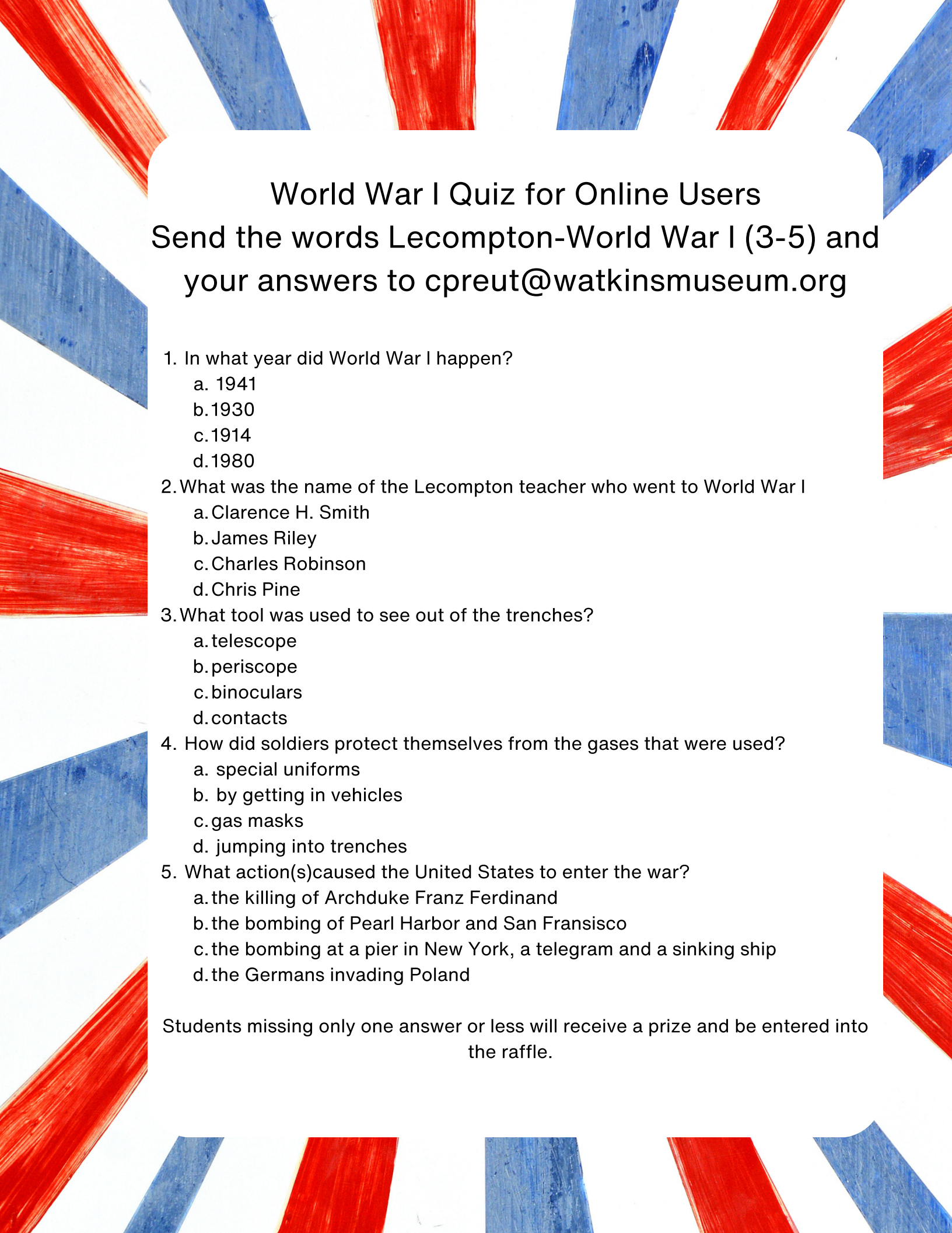
Cut out all the pieces. Color all pieces on both sides. Fold all the pieces on the fold lines. Be careful not to lose any pieces!

Glue together the main body of the plane. Glue on the tail fin. Glue on the propeller. You may want to trim the tabs at the front of the propeller so they don't hang over.

Now glue the struts between the two wings. You might need some help with this part.

Now your biplane is finished. Pretend to chase the Red Baron! But be careful since you have to bring your plane to the museum!





World War I Quiz for Online Users

Send the words Lecompton-World War I (3-5) and
your answers to cpreut@watkinsmuseum.org

1. In what year did World War I happen?
 - a. 1941
 - b. 1930
 - c. 1914
 - d. 1980
2. What was the name of the Lecompton teacher who went to World War I?
 - a. Clarence H. Smith
 - b. James Riley
 - c. Charles Robinson
 - d. Chris Pine
3. What tool was used to see out of the trenches?
 - a. telescope
 - b. periscope
 - c. binoculars
 - d. contacts
4. How did soldiers protect themselves from the gases that were used?
 - a. special uniforms
 - b. by getting in vehicles
 - c. gas masks
 - d. jumping into trenches
5. What action(s) caused the United States to enter the war?
 - a. the killing of Archduke Franz Ferdinand
 - b. the bombing of Pearl Harbor and San Francisco
 - c. the bombing at a pier in New York, a telegram and a sinking ship
 - d. the Germans invading Poland

Students missing only one answer or less will receive a prize and be entered into the raffle.