

World War I



Grade Level: 4 – 6

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Classroom Procedure:

1. Ask: Have you ever had an argument with someone and then another person intervened to help?
2. Allow for responses and discussion.
3. Ask: Once that person intervened, did other come in to help the other side?
4. Allow for responses and discussion leading to the issues with the chain reaction from the assassination of Ferdinand to the beginning of WWI.
5. Distribute *World War I* content pages. Read and review the information with the students, discussing the causes of the war, the two sides, and other aspects.
6. Allow for discussion. Save the final question for a closing discussion: If you were a twelve or thirteen year-old during the war, would you lie about your age to fight for your country?
7. Distribute the Activity page, colored pencils, and other needed resources for the map exercise.
8. Encourage students to try and identify the countries first without looking at another map.
9. Allow students access to the Internet or other resources to help them complete the activity.
10. Once the mapping activity is completed, review the information. Stress to students that during the war some of the countries were split between the Allies and Central Powers.
11. Display a large map of Europe so students can see it on a larger scale.
12. You may also show students where the western and eastern fronts are located on the map.
(continued)

Approximate Grade Level: 4 – 6

Objectives:

The students will be able to identify the causes of World War I, the Allied and Central Powers, and explain several facts about the war.

Common Core State Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.5
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.7
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.2
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.7
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.6.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6.4
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6.10

Class Sessions (45 minutes):

At least 2 class sessions

Teaching Materials/Worksheets:

World War I content pages (2), Activity pages (2), Practice page, Homework page

Student Supplies:

colored pencils, dark colored pen/marker, access to Internet/other resources, handouts

Prepare Ahead of Time:

Students will need colored pencils, dark colored pen or marker, access to the Internet or other similar resources. European map for display. Copy handouts.

Additional Resources:

<https://kidskonnnect.com/history/world-war-i/> (Content)

<http://primaryfacts.com/1645/world-war-1-facts-and-information/> (Content)

<http://www.historynet.com/world-war-i> (Content)

http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/World_War_I.aspx (Content)

VIDEOS:

<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i>
(19 videos and Content)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3UjJ5kxiLI> (6 min.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXqppJ-L88U> (7 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEFo4o579G8>
(3 min. – song)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvYlluxh2kY>
(3 min.-Trenches)

Options for Lesson:

Students may work in pairs for the Activity. Use the homework for practice, or practice for homework. The Practice page may be used as a quiz. Assign a different country for each student to research and its involvement in the war, presenting their findings to the class. Give students a list of the new weapons used in the war and have them research their development and use.



Classroom Procedure (continued):

13. Distribute the Practice page and review the answers with students volunteering their responses.
14. Be sure students have an understanding of the causes of the war and the United States entry into the war.
15. Distribute the Homework page puzzle and check and review the next day.
16. In closing, discuss the question: If you were a twelve or thirteen year-old during the war, would you lie about your age to fight for your country?
17. Refer to the opening to the lesson, show how students how things can get out of control on a small scale as well as a large scale if mutual respect is not given between people or countries.
18. Allow for their questions and discussion.

Teacher Notes

World War I is an extensive topic for students to digest, so this lesson covers the most important aspects of the war including some of the major events, places, and people who impacted the war. Many students may not be able to identify the locations of many of the countries throughout the world. The students will need a short geography lesson identifying the countries participating in the war, as well as the locations of battles and other events.

World War I

If a friend you knew was being bullied, you might help protect him, which is great. But then, the bully's friend shows up and wants to help her. Next, another friend of yours wants to help as well, and then more friends of the bully join in, which results in one side against another side. This is similar to what happened at the beginning of World War I.



The First World War, War to End All Wars, the Great War and European War are the names sometimes given to what ultimately became known as World War I. Of course, it was much more serious than one country bullying another, and there were millions of deaths involved, but there did end up being two sides in the war. The title “World War I” only came about, unfortunately, because several years later there was a second world war. World War I or WWI began July 28, 1914 and ended on November 11, 1918.

There were two sides during the war: the **Allied Powers** and the **Central Powers**. The Allied Powers included France, Russia, Britain, and the United States (after it joined in 1917). The Central Powers on the other side included Germany, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Bulgaria. The Ottoman Empire included all or parts of Turkey, Russia, Greece, Italy, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel, and many others.



The War's Beginning

There were several reasons why World War I began, including the following:

- Countries were concerned about other countries having too much military strength
- Some countries were afraid of losing economic or political position in the world
- In some parts of the world, there was an increase in differences between the races
- The French were upset about losing land in a previous war
- The military leaders of the countries were encouraging the conflict

These were the main causes leading to the war, but the event that ignited or started the war was the assassination of **Archduke Franz Ferdinand** by a Serbian named Gavrilo Princip. The Archduke was the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, meaning he was next in line to be the king. Following his death, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

This began a long chain reaction, like dominoes falling, including Russia coming in to defend Serbia. Germany then declared war on Russia to help protect Austria, and then France declared war on Germany to help protect Russia. All of this resulted in Germany invading Belgium in order to get to France, which led to Britain declaring war on Germany. Just like the example above about friends defending each other, these countries quickly took sides. It took only a few days for the Great War to begin in Europe. In all, 30 countries were a part of World War I.



Duke Franz Ferdinand with his wife Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, and their three children

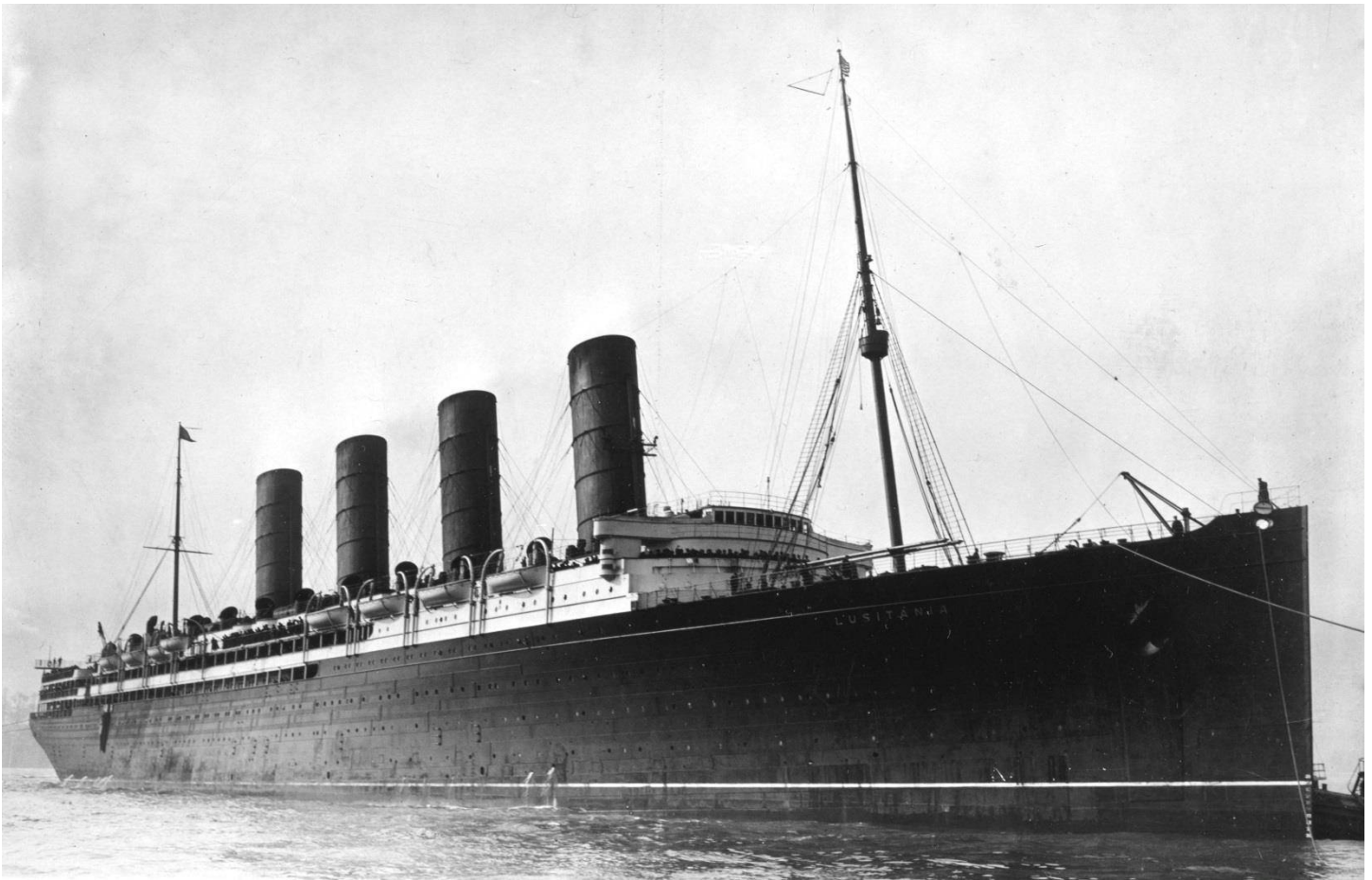
Trench Warfare

Because all of the fighting was between the countries in Europe, World War I was initially considered a European War until the United States entered the war in 1917. The two main areas of fighting took place on the **western front**, where both sides dug long lines of trenches that ran from the coast of Belgium to Switzerland. This fighting, called **Trench Warfare**, helped protect soldiers from enemy fire, but often caused stalemates where neither side gained much ground. Most of the fighting on this western front took place in these trenches in France and Belgium. The other area was called the **eastern front**, which included fighting between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Bulgaria versus Russia and Romania.



Soldiers in trenches waiting for battle.





The Ship Lusitania was sunk by a German submarine, and prompted the U.S. to get involved in the war.

America Joins the War

When a British passenger ship called the **Lusitania** was sunk by a German submarine, it killed all of the passengers including 128 Americans. The people of the United States were upset and put pressure on the government to enter the war. **President Woodrow Wilson** eventually decided America would enter the war with the goal of restoring peace to Europe. Even though the United States entered the war in 1917, no fighting ever took place on American soil.

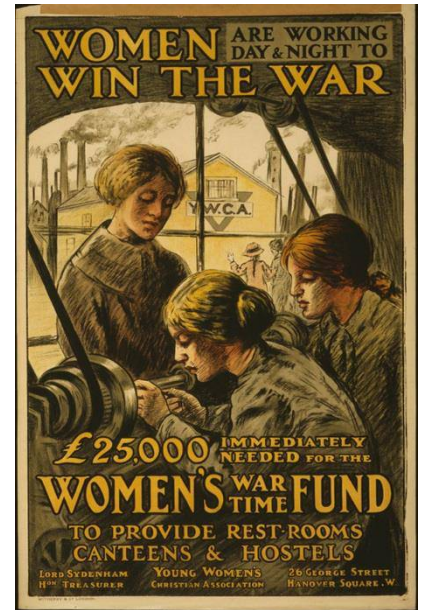
Although the U.S. was involved in World War I for only seven and one-half months, over 116,000 soldiers were killed in the fighting and 204,000 were wounded. When the U.S. entered the war on the side of the Allies, the balance of power immediately the balance of power shifted in favor of the Allies. The Central Powers were not strong enough to defend their positions. There was an Allied operation that became known as the **Hundred Days Offensive** and the enemy was forced back to the border of Germany.

With the United States and the rest of the Allies winning the war, the Central Powers were forced to begin peace negotiations. Ultimately, an agreement was reached called an **armistice** (cease-fire) for all fighting to end at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, which was on November 11, 1918. Following the end of the fighting there were several **treaties** or agreements signed by the countries involved, but the most significant was the **Treaty of Versailles**, which officially ended the war and was signed on July 28, 1919.



Some other interesting facts about the war include:

- Over 11 million soldiers were killed plus about 7 million civilians.
- The large number of deaths was mostly due to the new weapons introduced in the war such as the machine gun, poison gas, flamethrowers, tanks, and various types of aircraft.
- Many news people began reporting from the battlefields risking their lives as the governments tried to control the flow of information.
- Millions of letters were delivered to the soldiers on the frontlines each day.
- Because of the injuries suffered by soldiers, plastic surgery was invented because of WWI, as well as the development of blood banks.
- There were soldiers as young as 12 years-old fighting in the war. Many under-aged boys lied about their ages to defend their countries or to escape poverty during the war.
- Dogs carried messages in capsules attached to their bodies, and about a half-million pigeons were used to drop messages attached to parachutes.



A propaganda poster encouraging women at home to help with the war efforts.

Conclusion

In summary, World War I was a very deadly war, with one of the highest numbers of casualties (deaths, injuries, illness, and missing) that had been seen at that point in the world. During the war, there were many advances in technology that changed the way we fight in modern wars. Unfortunately, it wouldn't be long when Europe and the rest of the world see war again when World War II begins in 1939.



The Sopwith Camel was a type of aircraft used by the Allies.

- *If you were a twelve or thirteen year-old during the war, would you lie about your age to fight for your country?*



Follow the Instructions using the Map. Read ALL Instructions before starting.

1. Identify and label the following countries on the map:

- a. Belgium
- b. Finland
- c. France
- d. Great Britain
- e. Greece
- f. Ireland
- g. Italy
- h. Poland
- i. Portugal
- j. Romania
- k. Russia
- l. Serbia

**Use a dark
pen/marker and
label these
countries the**

2. Shade each of the countries in the same color.

3. Identify and label the following countries on the map:

- a. Austria
- b. Bulgaria
- c. Germany
- d. Hungary
- e. Iran
- f. Iraq
- g. Israel
- h. Libya
- i. Saudi Arabia
- j. Turkey

**Use a dark
pen/marker and
label these
countries**

4. Shade each of the countries using a second color.

5. Identify and label the following countries on the map:

- a. Albania
- b. Denmark
- c. Iceland
- d. Netherlands
- e. Norway
- f. Spain
- g. Sweden
- h. Switzerland

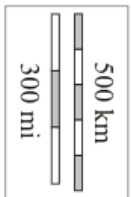
**Use a dark
pen/marker and
label these
countries**

6. Shade each of the countries a third color.

7. If you cannot fit the entire name of the country on the map, use an abbreviation.

8. Use the Internet or other resources to check your work.





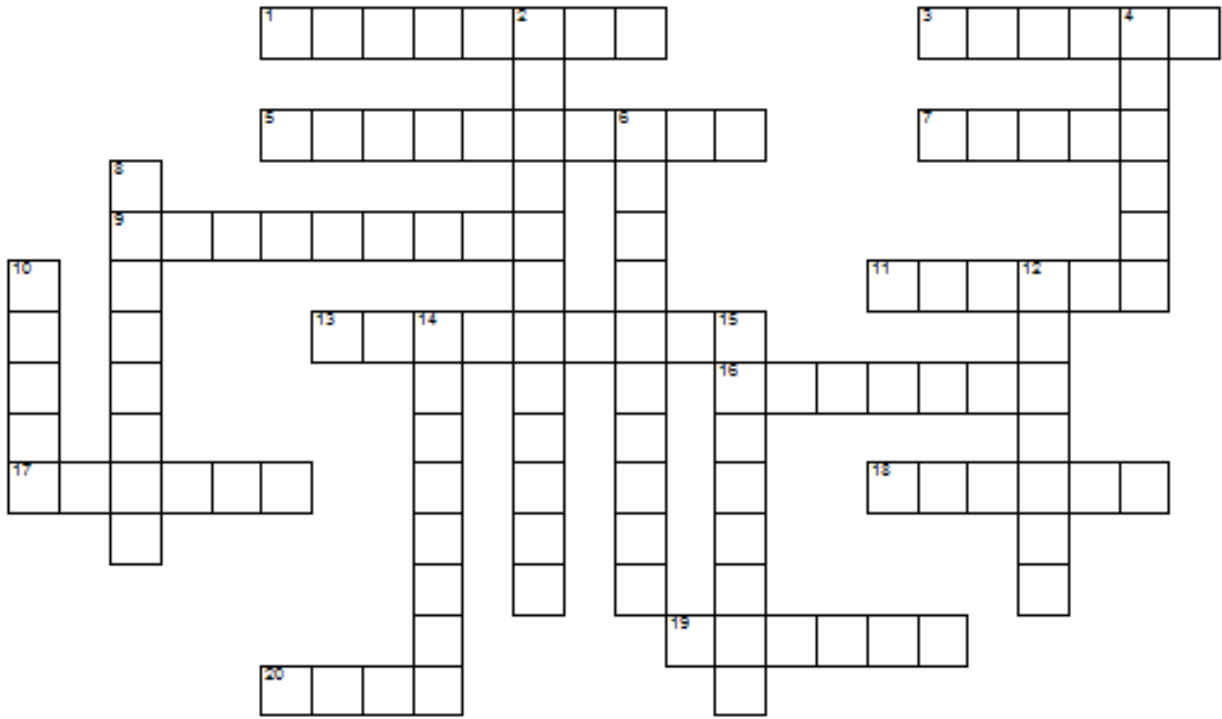
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Answer each question.

1. Name four other names used for World War I: _____

2. Name three countries of the Allied Powers: _____
3. Name three countries of the Central Powers: _____
4. Which country was upset about losing a previous war? _____
5. Who was the future king assassinated that ignited WWI? _____
6. Which country declared war on Russia? _____
7. Which country declared war on Germany? _____
8. Name the two fronts where most of the fighting took place: _____
9. What was the name of the British passenger ship sunk by Germany? _____
10. Who was the President of the U.S. when they entered the war? _____
11. What was it called when the enemy was pushed back to the German border? _____
12. What does the word armistice mean? _____
13. What is another word for a treaty? _____
14. What was signed on July 28, 1919? _____
15. What was the date of the end of fighting in WWI? _____
16. How many soldiers in all were killed in WWI? _____
17. How many U.S. soldiers were killed during WWI? _____
18. How many civilians in all were killed during WWI? _____
19. What were dogs and pigeons used for during the war? _____
20. How many countries in all were involved in WWI? _____



Across

- 1. World War I began on ___ 28, 1914.
- 3. World War I ended on ___ 11, 1918
- 5. France, Russia, and Britain were ___ Powers.
- 7. Germany and the Ottoman Empire were ___ Powers .
- 9. One cause of WWI was a countries concern of other countries ___ strength.
- 11. One cause of the war included a countries concern for loss of ___ position.
- 13. A differences between ___ was one case of tech war in some countries .
- 16. ___ Franz Ferdinand was assassinated which triggered tech start of WWI .
- 17. When Ferdinand was assassinated his country declared war on ___.
- 18. Which country came in to defend Serbia against Austria-Hungary?
- 19. Germany invaded ___ to try and get to France.
- 20. It took only a few days for the ___ War to begin in Europe.

Down

- 2. The ___ entered the war in 1917.
- 4. President ___ of the U.S. wanted to restore peace to Europe.
- 6. The Hundred Days ___ was an Allied Forces operation.
- 8. The agreement to stop the fighting was called an ___.
- 10. The Treaty of ___ officially ended the war and was signed July 28, 1918.
- 12. A German submarine sunk the ___, a British passenger ship.
- 14. What is another term for a treaty?
- 15. The Ottoman ___ included all or parts of Turkey, Russia, Greece, and other countries.



ANSWER KEY

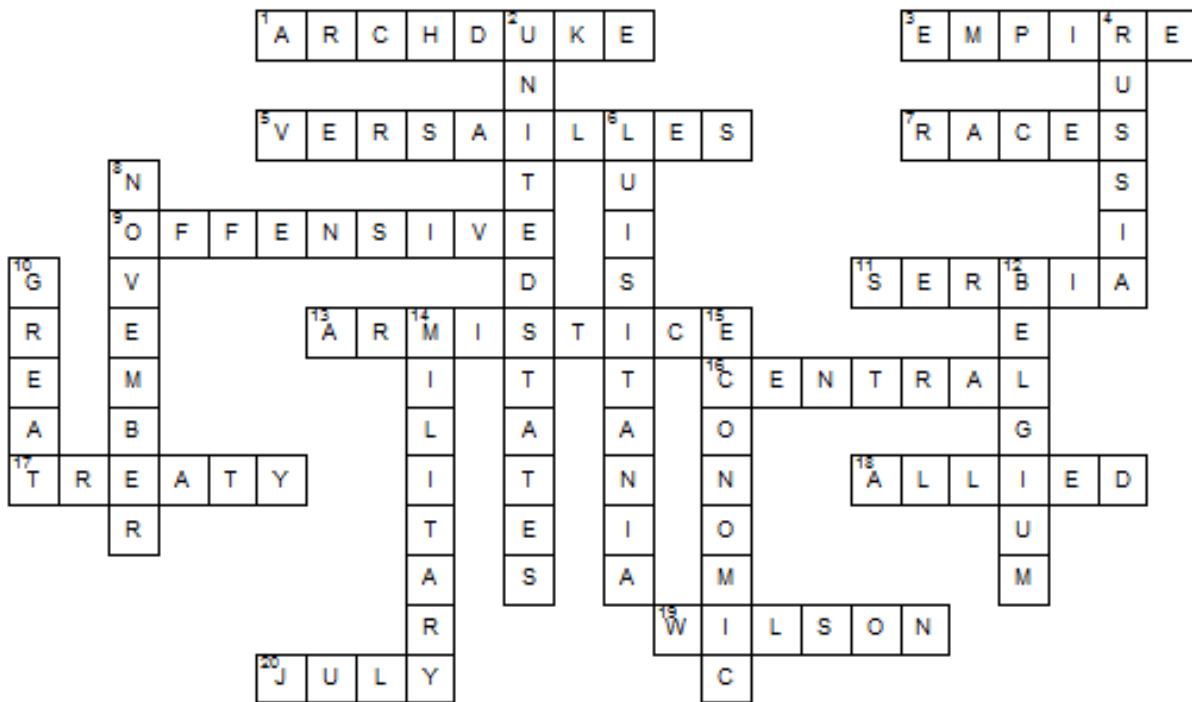
Practice **Name** _____ **Date** _____

Answer each question.

1. Name four other names used for World War I: **First World War, War to End All Wars, the Great War and the European War**
2. Name three countries of the Allied Powers: **France, Russia, Britain, U.S., others**
3. Name three countries of the Central Powers: **Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, others**
4. Which country was upset about losing a previous war? **France**
5. Who was the future king assassinated that ignited WWI? **Archduke Franz Ferdinand**
6. Which country declared war on Russia? **Germany**
7. Which country declared war on Germany? **Britain**
8. Name the two fronts where most of the fighting took place: **eastern and western**
9. What was the name of the British passenger ship sunk by Germany? **Lusitania**
10. Who was the President of the U.S. when they entered the war? **Woodrow Wilson**
11. What was it called when the enemy was pushed back to the German border? **Hundred Days Offensive**
12. What does the word armistice mean? **Cease-fire**
13. What is another word for a treaty? **agreement**
14. What was signed on July 28, 1919? **Treaty of Versailles**
15. What was the date of the end of fighting in WWI? **November 11, 1918**
16. How many soldiers in all were killed in WWI? **9 million**
17. How many U.S. soldiers were killed during WWI? **116,000**
18. How many civilians in all were killed during WWI? **7 million**
19. What were dogs and pigeons used for during the war? **Carry messages**
20. How many countries in all were involved in WWI? **30**

ANSWER KEY

Homework Name _____ **Date** _____



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