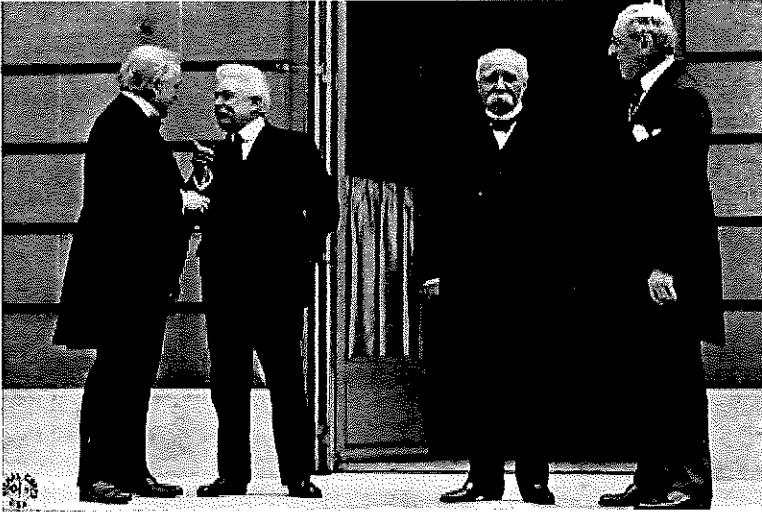


# Treaty of Versailles



World War One ended at 11am on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918. In 1919, Lloyd George of England, Orlando of Italy, Clemenceau of France and Woodrow Wilson from the US met to discuss how Germany was to be made to pay for the damage world war one had caused.

Wilson had devised a 14-point plan that he believed would bring stability to Europe.

**Open Diplomacy** - There should be no secret treaties between powers

**Freedom of Navigation** - Seas should be free in both peace and war

**Free Trade** - The barriers to trade between countries such as custom duties should be removed

**Multilateral Disarmament** - All countries should reduce their armed forces to the lowest possible levels

**Colonies** – People in European colonies should have a say in their future

**Russia** - Russia should be allowed to operate whatever government it wanted and that government should be accepted, supported and welcomed.

**Belgium** – Belgium should be evacuated and restored to the situation before the war.

**France** - should have Alsace-Lorraine and any lands taken away during the war restored.

**Italy** – The Italian border should be readjusted according to nationality

**National Self – Determination** - The national groups in Europe should, wherever possible, be given their independence.

**Romania, Montenegro and Serbia** – Should be evacuated and Serbia should have an outlet to the sea

**Turkey** – The people of Turkey should have a say in their future

**Poland** – Poland should become an independent state with an outlet to the sea.

**League of Nations** – An assembly of all nations should be formed to protect world peace in the future.

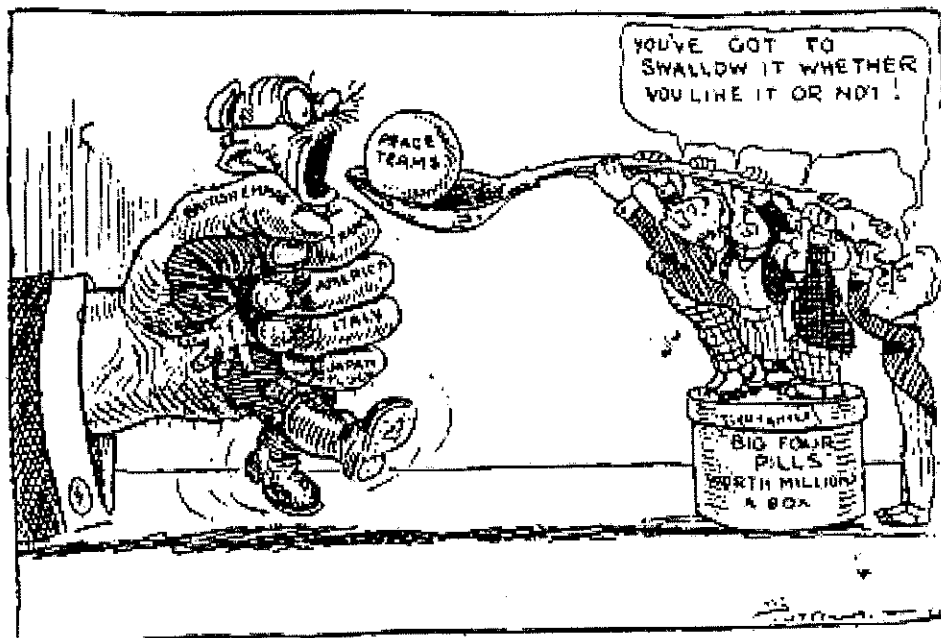
Germany expected a treaty based on these fourteen points. However, negotiations between the 'big four' Lloyd George of England, Orlando of Italy, Clemenceau of France and Woodrow Wilson of America did not go smoothly. Wilson believed that his fourteen points was the only way to secure everlasting peace. The French however, wanted the defeated nations to be punished severely and believed Wilson's plan too lenient. Privately Lloyd George sided with Wilson although he was concerned about the threat from Communism, however, the British public, like Clemenceau, wanted Germany punished severely. Lloyd George knew that if he sided with Wilson he would lose the next election.



After prolonged discussion agreement was eventually reached and the Germans were summoned to Versailles to sign the treaty.

The final treaty bore little resemblance to Wilson's fourteen points:

Although Germany was not happy with the Treaty they had little choice but to sign. This cartoon clearly shows the situation Germany was in.



## Terms of the Treaty of Versailles

There were a total of 440 clauses in the final treaty. The first 26 clauses dealt with the establishment of the League of Nations. The remaining 414 clauses spelled out Germany's punishment.

### General Clauses

The establishment of the **League of Nations**

**War Guilt clause** – Germany to accept blame for starting the war.

### Financial Clauses

**Reparations** – Germany was to pay for the damage caused by the war. The figure of £6,600 million was set some time after the signing of the treaty.

### Military Clauses

**Army** – was to be reduced to 100,000 men and no tanks were allowed

**Navy** – Germany was only allowed 6 ships and no submarines

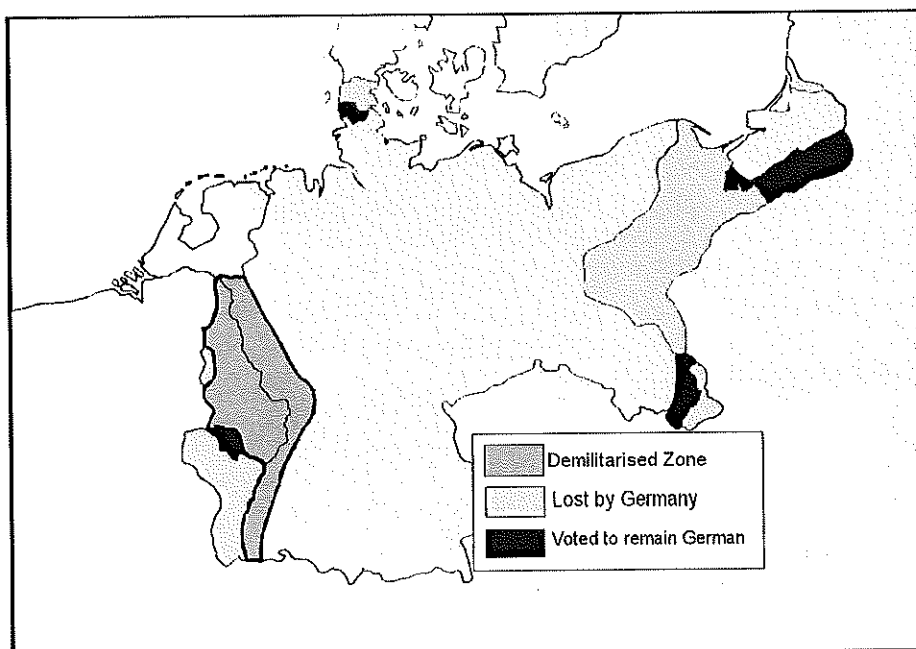
**Airforce** – Germany was not allowed an airforce

**Rhineland** – The Rhineland area was to be kept free of German military personnel and weapons

### Territorial Clauses

**Anschluss** – Germany was not allowed to unite with Austria.

**Land** – Germany lost land to a number of other countries. Alsace-Lorraine was returned to France, Eupen and Malmedy were given to Belgium, North Schleswig was given to Denmark. Land was also taken from Germany and given to Czechoslovakia and Poland. The League of Nations took control of Germany's colonies.



This map shows the areas that Germany lost following the Treaty of Versailles

## The Other Defeated Nations

The Treaty of Versailles determined the punishment that Germany should face. Other treaties determined the fate of those countries that had fought with Germany - Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey. Austria and Hungary were divided and therefore signed separate treaties.

### **Austria - The Treaty of St Germain 10<sup>th</sup> September 1919**

**Land** - Austria lost land to Italy, Czechoslovakia and Serbia.

**Army** – Was to be reduced to 30,000 men.

**Anschluss** – Union with Germany was forbidden

**Reparations** – Austria was to pay reparations but went bankrupt before the rate could be set.

### **Hungary – The Treaty of Trianon 4<sup>th</sup> June 1920**

**Land** – Hungary lost land to Czechoslovakia, Romania and Serbia reducing its size from 283,000 sq km to less than 93,000 sq km. Population was reduced from 18.2 million to 7.6 million.

**Army** - To be reduced to 35,000 men

**Reparations** - Hungary was to pay reparations but the amount was never set.

### **Bulgaria – The Treaty of Neuilly 27<sup>th</sup> November 1919**

**Land** – Bulgaria lost land to Greece, Romania and Yugoslavia.

**Reparations** – Bulgaria had to pay £90 million in reparations

**Army** - restrictions were made on the size of Bulgaria's army

### **Turkey – The Treaty of Sevres 20<sup>th</sup> August 1920**

**Land** – Turkey lost land to Greece. The League of Nations took control of Turkey's colonies.

**What did the Treaty of Versailles mean for Germany and for Europe?**

	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Europe</b>
War Guilt Clause		
Reparations		
Military		
Land		
Peace Keeping		

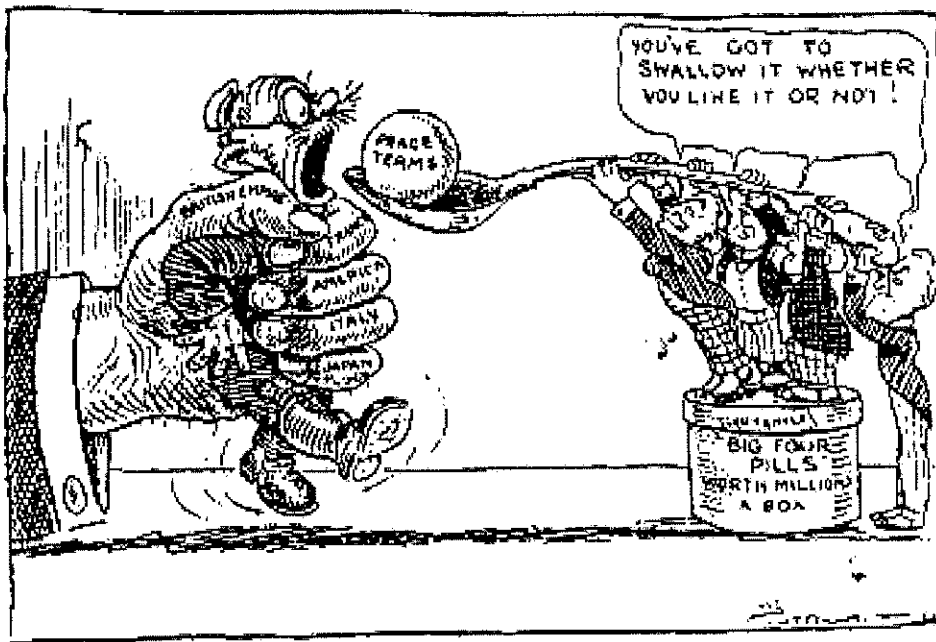
## Activities

### Curriculum Level 4

1. Explain what Wilson, Lloyd George and Clemenceau wanted from the Treaty of Versailles.
2. Explain whether or not each man got what he wanted from the treaty.
3. How do you think each man would have felt if Wilson's fourteen points had been used instead.

### Curriculum Level 5 + 6

1. Explain why the Treaty of Versailles was so different from Wilson's fourteen-point plan.
2. Explain how this cartoon shows Germany's position in 1919



3. It has been said that the Treaty of Versailles was responsible for World War Two. How could the terms of the treaty lead to another war?