

Britain at War

Name



These activities are for you to do at home. You can do all of them or choose the ones that you find most interesting.

Activities

1. Britain and its inhabitants have fought in or endured several significant conflicts throughout history. Use a range of sources to find out about the conflicts listed and Britain's involvement. Record your findings in the table.

| Conflict and dates | Countries or people involved | One major cause of the conflict | One major consequence of the conflict |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Norman Conquest of England _____ _____ | | | |
| Wars of the Roses _____ _____ | | | |

| Conflict and dates | Countries or people involved | One major cause of the conflict | One major consequence of the conflict |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <p>English Civil War</p> <hr/> <hr/> | | | |
| <p>Napoleonic Wars</p> <hr/> <hr/> | | | |
| <p>Crimean War</p> <hr/> <hr/> | | | |

| Conflict and dates | Countries or people involved | One major cause of the conflict | One major consequence of the conflict |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <p>First World War</p> <hr/> <hr/> | | | |
| <p>Second World War</p> <hr/> <hr/> | | | |

2. Discuss with a family member what the words 'conflict' and 'war' mean and look up their meaning in a dictionary. Then use a dictionary to write definitions for the terminology below.

alliance

expansionism

fascism

imperialism

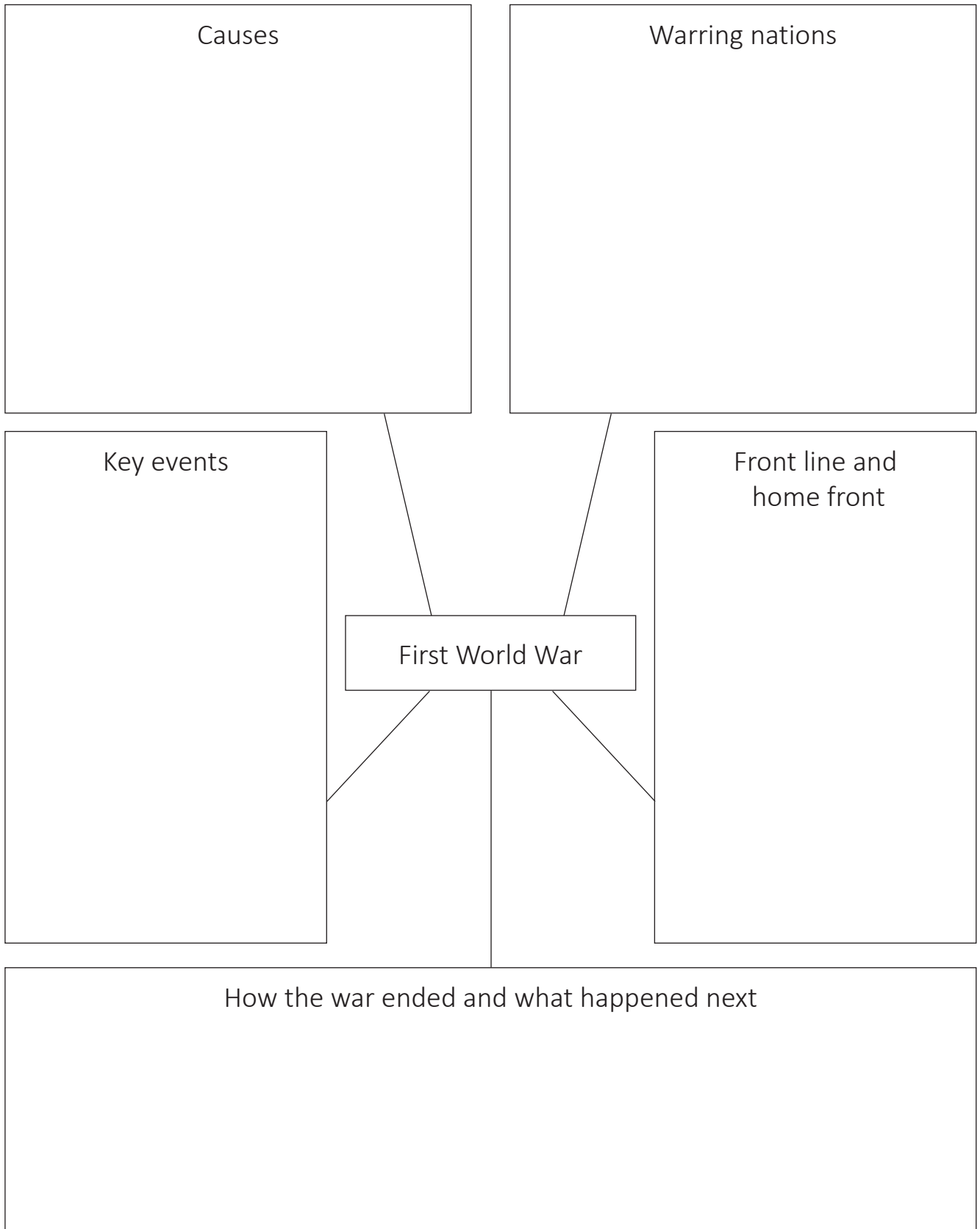
invasion

militarism

nationalism

retaliation

3. Use your existing knowledge and a range of sources to write a report about the First World War. Record your findings on the mind map and use the information to help you write your report. Include a title, an opening paragraph, a timeline of key events, subheadings, detailed facts, precise topic vocabulary and images with captions.



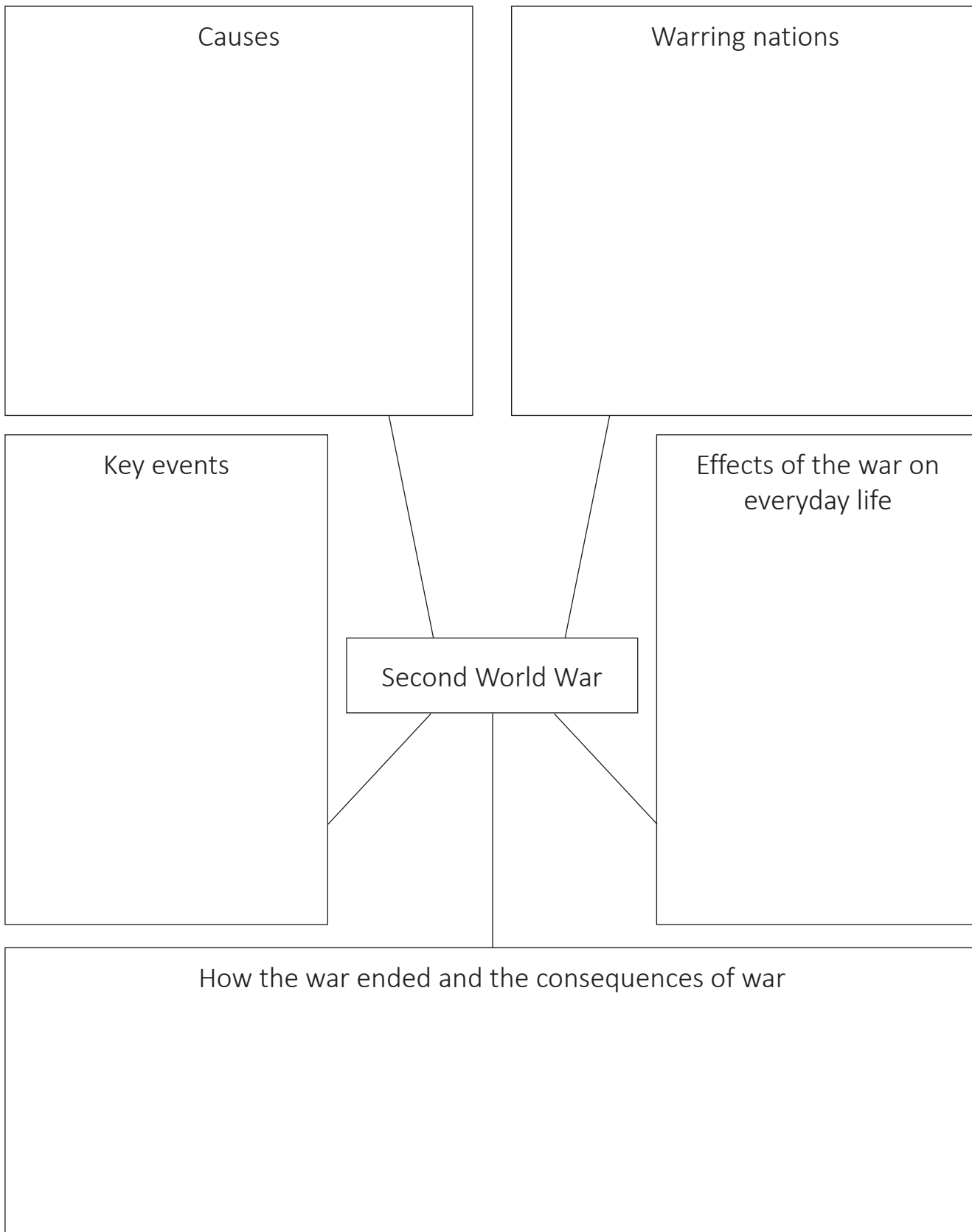
4. Use a range of sources to look at images of First World War trenches. Find out about trench warfare and then answer the questions.

Why were trenches used during the First World War?

What did trench warfare involve?

What was life like for the soldiers in a First World War trench?

5. Use your existing knowledge and a range of sources to write a report about the Second World War. Record your findings on the mind map and use the information to help you write your report. Include a title, an opening paragraph, a timeline of key events, subheadings, detailed facts, precise topic vocabulary and images with captions.



6. Use a range of sources to find out about the important events listed, which involved Britain during the Second World War. Record your findings in the table.

| Event and dates | Key findings |
|---|--------------|
| <p>Battle of Britain</p> <hr/> <hr/> | |
| <p>Blitz</p> <hr/> <hr/> | |
| <p>D-Day</p> <hr/> <hr/> | |

7. The Ministry of Information produced persuasive posters during both the First and Second World Wars to affect people's opinions and actions. Use online sources to learn more about wartime posters and to find examples. Then, answer the questions and complete the table.

What was the purpose of persuasive posters in the First and Second World Wars?

Propaganda was a feature of some wartime posters. What is the definition of the word propaganda?

In what different ways did posters encourage British people to get involved in the war effort during the First World War?

In what different ways did posters encourage British people to get involved in the war effort during the Second World War?




| Poster | Who was it aimed at? | What was it meant to achieve? | How effective do you think it was and why? |
|--|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|
|  <p>BRITONS</p> <p>WANTS YOU</p> <p>JOIN YOUR COUNTRY'S ARMY! GOD SAVE THE KING</p> <p><small>Reproduced by permission of LONDON OPINION</small></p> | | | |
|  <p>LEAVE HITLER TO ME SONNY — YOU OUGHT TO BE OUT OF LONDON</p> <p><small>ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH</small></p> | | | |
|  <p>DIG FOR VICTORY</p> | | | |

Image from: Wikimedia Commons/Public domain Image from: Getty Images/WWM/Getty Images

8. Experts developed different weapons, innovations and technology during the First and Second World Wars to help each side defeat their enemies. Find out about one new weapon and one new innovation or technological advance that you find interesting and complete the table.

| | Weapon | Innovation or technological advance |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Name and date developed | | |
| Printed image or sketch | | |
| Description | | |
| Use | | |

- 9.** Read a historical narrative, poems or age-appropriate real-life stories about either the First or Second World War. There are many suitable and award-winning titles available. Examples include: *Letters from the Lighthouse* by Emma Carroll, *War Horse*, *Private Peaceful* or *Only Remembered* by Michael Morpurgo, *The Skylark’s War* by Hilary McKay, *Poems from the Second World War* by Gaby Morgan, *Archie’s War* by Marcia Williams, *Anne Frank – The Diary of a Young Girl (Abridged for young readers)* by Mirjam Pressler or *Voices from the Second World War* by First News.
- 10.** Finish your home learning by writing a summary of the topic, explaining what you have learned about Britain’s involvement in conflicts throughout history and the First and Second World Wars.

Useful websites

Britannica Kids – Norman Conquest

Britannica Kids – Wars of the Roses

Britannica Kids – English Civil War

DKfindout! – Facts About The Napoleonic Wars

Britannica Kids – Crimean War

BBC Bitesize – World War One – KS2 History

BBC Teach – World War Two

Imperial War Museums – Living in the Trenches

Britannica Kids – Battle of Britain

Britannica Kids – Blitz

Britannica Kids – D-Day

BBC Teach – How propaganda was used during World War Two – History KS2

Imperial War Museums – Second World War Posters

Good reads

| Title | Author | ISBN |
|---|------------------|---------------|
| Usborne History of Britain: The First World War | Henry Brook | 9781409570240 |
| Weapons of World War I | Matt Doeden | 9781474748384 |
| Poppy Field | Michael Morpurgo | 9781407181424 |
| DK Eyewitness: World War II | DK | 9781409343677 |
| Weapons of World War II | Matt Doeden | 9781474748377 |
| When we were Warriors | Emma Carroll | 9780571350407 |