What was World War 1?

World War 1 was a big conflict that happened from 1914 to 1918. It involved many countries from all around the world, but mainly, it was fought in Europe.

What Caused World War 1?

There were several reasons that led to the war:

- **Nationalism:** Many countries wanted to show how strong and proud they were.
- **Alliances:** Some countries made agreements to help each other in case of war. For example, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy were on one side, and France, Britain, and Russia were on the other.
- **Imperialism:** Countries were competing for colonies and trying to gain more land and resources.
- **The Assassination:** The immediate cause of the war was the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria in June 1914. This event triggered the war.

How Did the War Happen?

After the assassination, countries started to declare war on each other. For example, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, and then, because of alliances, more countries joined in. It quickly became a world war!

What Were the Main Features of the War?

World War 1 was known for:

- **Trench Warfare:** Soldiers lived and fought in deep ditches called trenches to protect themselves from enemy fire.
- **New Weapons:** This war saw the use of machines like tanks, airplanes, and chemical weapons for the first time.

Ending the War

In 1918, after four long years, the war ended. The countries involved signed agreements to stop fighting, and the most important was called the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. This treaty placed heavy penalties on Germany and redrew boundaries for many countries.

The Aftermath

After the war, many people were affected. There were millions of casualties, and the world was changed forever. New countries formed, and there were political changes in many nations. It set the stage for World War 2, which happened later.

Conclusion

World War 1 was a significant event that reshaped the world. It taught us lessons about the importance of peace and understanding among nations.