# Navigators - Wars of the World
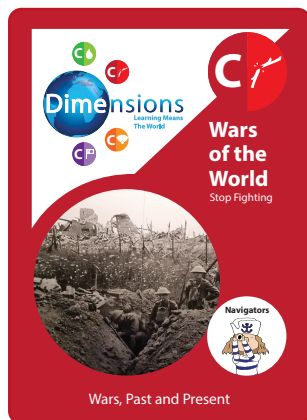
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Stop Fighting

Navigators

Wars, Past and Present

## Overview

"Wars of the World" is a thematic unit, based on conflicts past and present, with a key focus on History and Geography. We will learn about the root causes of war and have an understanding of its impact, focusing on the two World Wars in particular. We will also learn about civil wars and look at examples, before focusing on present day warfare. Pacifism and the importance of peace will also form part of the theme.

## Main Causes of War

**Wars happen mainly because of power and greed.**
There were four major causes of WW1 (Use the acronym **M-A-I-N** to help you remember!)
**Militarism:** Because Britain had a large navy, Germany wanted a large navy, too. Germany and France competed to build larger armies and other nations felt they had to do the same. It was an "arms race".
**Alliances:** It was thought the alliances would promote peace because each country would be protected by others in case of war, making it foolish for one country to invade another. The danger was that an argument between two countries could draw all their allies into a fight. This is just what happened, when a conflict between Austria-Hungary and Serbia led to World War I.
**Imperialism:** European nations ruled smaller countries, called colonies, and competed with each other to amass more colonies. This caused confrontations and conflicts in many places.
**Nationalism:** The belief that one's own nation or culture is superior to all others

## World War 2

WW2 was fought in Europe, Russia, North Africa and Asia (particularly Japan).
**3rd September 1939**: War is declared (by Britain because of Hitler's unprovoked attack on Poland)
**7th December 1941**: Japan bombed the US Base Pearl Harbour and the USA became involved in the war.
**8th May 1945**: **VE Day** - Victory in Europe Day, when Nazi Germany surrendered and the war in Europe ended. **15th August 1945: VJ Day** Victory over Japan Day – Japan surrenders and the war in Asia ends.
**The Axis Powers** were Germany, Italy and Japan.
**The Allies** included Britain, France, Soviet Union, Australia, Canada, USA, New Zealand and India. The USA joined the war when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour.

## Key Dates

WW1: 1914 – 1918
WW2: 1939 - 1945
American Civil War: 1861 – 1865

## Civil Wars

Current civil wars are being fought in **Syria, Mynamar, Sudan and Yemen**, to name but a few. There are many causes of civil war, ranging from political unrest to issues like oppression and corruption.
One of the most famous civil wars in history, the American Civil War, was about slavery, where the Northern Armies (the Union) fought and defeated the South (the Confederacy).

# Navigators - Wars of the World

## Vocabulary

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| **Alliance** | a group of countries, political parties, or people who have agreed to work together |
| **Allies** | people, organisations or countries who help each other in a particular activity |
| **Civil war** | a war between people in the same country |
| **Conflict** | a serious argument / disagreement |
| **Imperialism** | extending a country's power and influence through taking over other countries |
| **Invasion** | when an army or country uses force to take control of another country |
| **Mutiny** | an occasion when a group of people, especially soldiers or sailors, refuse to obey orders |
| **Pacifism** | the belief that war and violence are unjustifiable and that all disputes should be settled by peaceful means |
| **Terrorism** | behaviour involving physical force intended to hurt or damage, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political, religious or social aims |

## Concept Flow

- To know and understand why wars occur
- To learn about the two world wars and understand their impact
- To understand what a civil war is and have some knowledge of famous civil wars
- To know where current wars are taking place in the world
- To learn about pacifism and the concept of peace



## My Notes / Questions