

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## America Enters the Great War

The United States did not want to engage in the Great War. The United States included many people of English, French, and German ancestry, so it was difficult to choose sides. The American people had a strong feeling of isolationism, believing that they should not become entangled in foreign wars. Woodrow Wilson was re-elected to the presidency by a narrow victory in 1916 with the slogan, "He Kept Us Out of War," but within months the United States would be drawn into the conflict.



Many Americans were enraged when a German submarine sank the *Lusitania*. More than twelve hundred passengers boarded the British luxury ship sailing from New York to Liverpool, England. The German embassy placed advertisements in New York newspapers warning passengers they were sailing into a war zone, but not a single person cancelled. On May 7, 1915, the Germans sank the *Lusitania*, killing all on

board, including 128 Americans. A later investigation showed the hull of the ship was filled with weapons to be used against Germany. Many Americans urged President Wilson to join the war.

In the spring of 1917, the British decoded a secret message from Arthur Zimmerman, the German Foreign Secretary, to the government of Mexico. The Zimmerman note urged Mexico to declare war on the United States. Once America was defeated, Germany would insist on peace terms that would force the United States to return Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona to Mexico.

President Wilson spoke before a joint session of Congress on April 2, 1917, less than one month after beginning his second term in office. He asked Congress to declare war on Germany to keep the world "safe for democracy." Great Britain and France were democracies, while a Kaiser ruled Germany and an Emperor ruled Austria-Hungary.

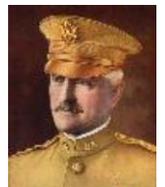


Woodrow Wilson

### Fill in the Blanks

The United S\_\_\_\_\_ hoped to \*a\_\_o\_\_d entering the Great W\_\_\_\_. Many Americans had strong feelings of i\_\_\_\_\_, and A\_\_\_\_\_ included many citizens of F\_\_\_\_\_, English, and G\_\_\_\_\_ ancestry. American P\_\_\_\_\_ Woodrow W\_\_\_\_\_ was n\_\_\_\_\_ re-elected by using the s\_\_\_\_\_, "He K\_\_\_\_\_ Us O\_\_\_\_ of W\_\_\_\_,"

Several events drew A\_\_\_\_\_ into the G\_\_\_\_\_ War. A G\_\_\_\_\_ submarine sunk the B\_\_\_\_\_ luxury liner L\_\_\_\_\_, killing 128 A\_\_\_\_\_. The British d\_\_\_\_\_ a m\_\_\_\_\_ from G\_\_\_\_\_’s Foreign Secretary. The "Z\_\_\_\_\_ Note" urged M\_\_\_\_\_ to declare w\_\_\_\_\_ on the U\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_. On April 2, 1917, President W\_\_\_\_\_ asked C\_\_\_\_\_ to d\_\_\_\_\_ war on Germany. Wilson said he wanted to keep the world "s\_\_\_\_\_ for d\_\_\_\_\_."



Gen. John J. Pershing

\*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.

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**Answer in complete sentences**

1. How did the slogan “He Kept Us Out of War” help President Woodrow Wilson win re-election in 1916?

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\*2. Why do you think many Americans had strong feelings of isolationism in the years leading to the Great War?

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\*3. Did the Germans make the correct decision when they sunk the *Lusitania* in 1915? Defend your answer.

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4. What did the Zimmerman note promise Mexico in return for joining the Great War against the United States?

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\*5. What do you think might have happened if Mexico agreed to the provisions of the Zimmerman note?

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6. What did President Wilson mean when he argued that America should enter the war in order to keep the world “safe for democracy?”

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