

# Why Did the First World War Start?



# When Was the First World War?

The first World War began on July 28<sup>th</sup> 1914.

It ended on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918.

**What makes November 11<sup>th</sup> still special today?**

We celebrate the end of the First World War every year with an observed silence on 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11am.

This is a time to remember all those who fought in the war and the millions of people who lost their lives.





# Why Did the First World War Start?

This is Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

In 1914, he was due to become the king of Austria-Hungary.

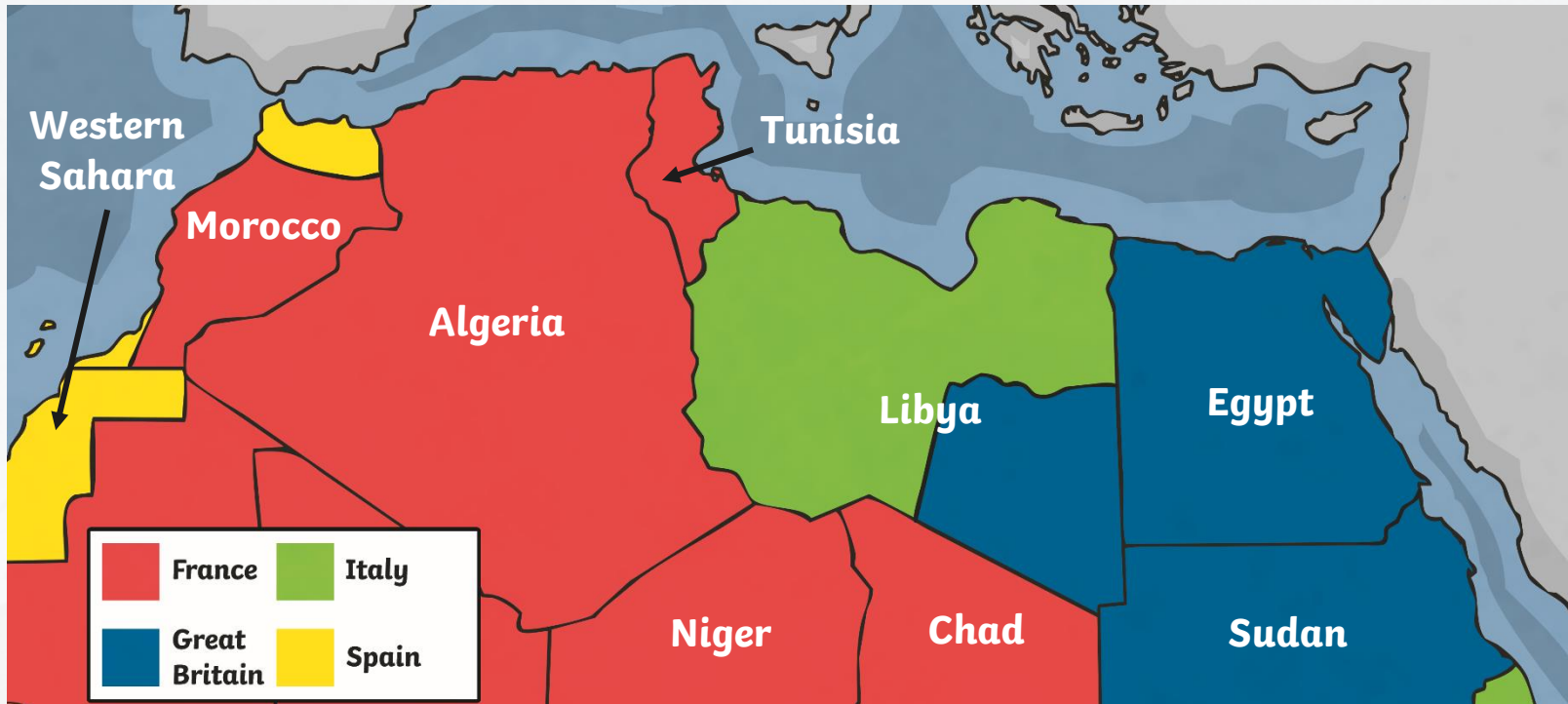
However, before he was able to take the throne, he was assassinated by a Serbian group called The Black Hand.

This event was seen as the main cause of the First World War.

However, there were several other events that led to the battle.



# The Colonisation of Africa



The early 1900s in Europe was a relatively peaceful time, with lots of countries growing in wealth. Many European countries colonised countries in Africa, as shown on the map above. Only Ethiopia and Liberia were free from European control.

# The Early 1900s in Europe

Britain and France were considered very powerful because they owned lots of countries in other parts of the world, which were mainly in Asia and Africa.

At this time, Germany did not own any other countries and were not considered as powerful as Britain and France.

They wanted to become more powerful so began building large warships and creating a strong army.

This led lots of other countries to do the same.

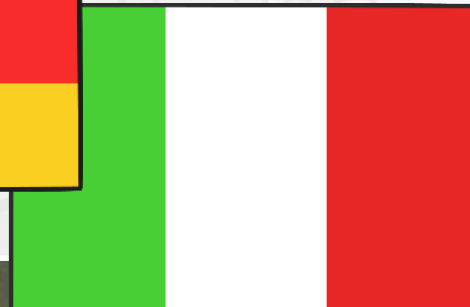
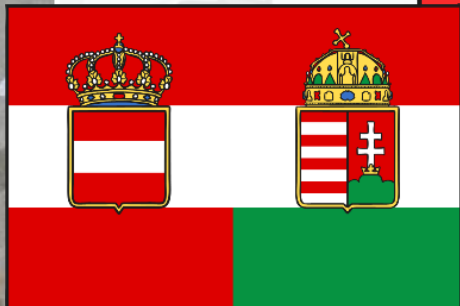
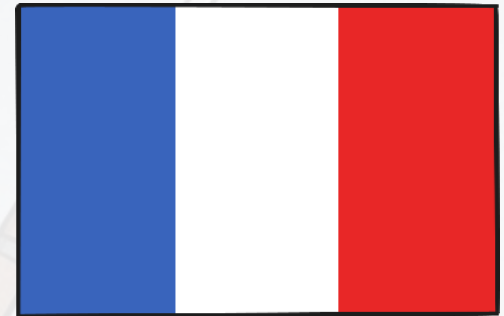
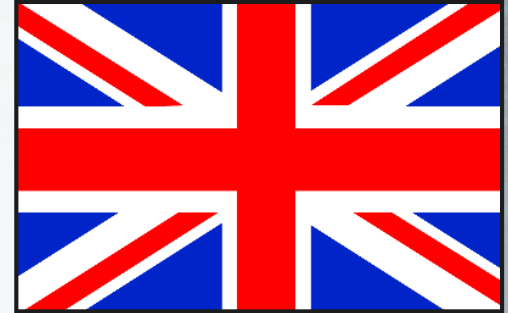
# Alliances Between Countries

Many countries began to set up alliances with each other. This meant that the countries would support one another and defend each other in case of war.

There were two main alliances:

**The Triple Entente:** This was an agreement between Britain, France and Russia.

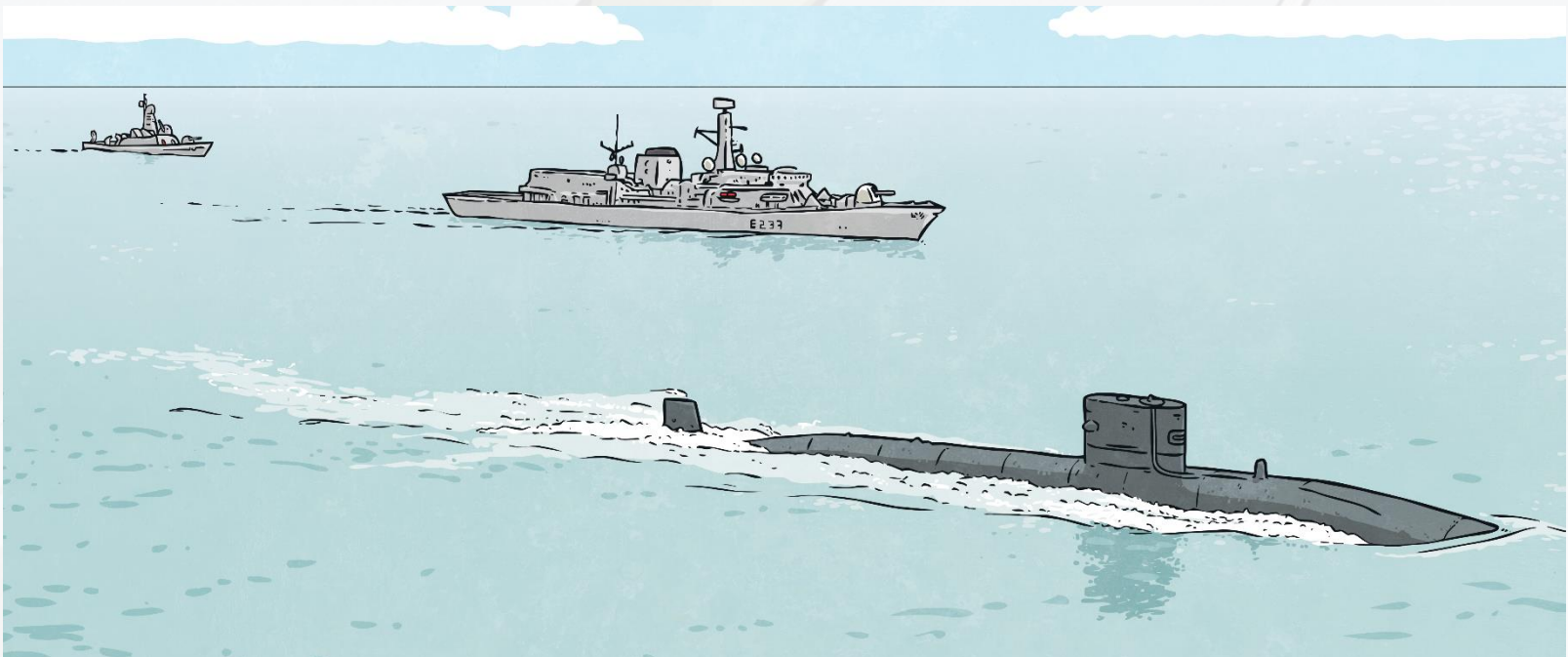
**The Central Powers** - This was an agreement between Germany and Austria-Hungary.





# The Early 1900s in Europe

- Some countries grew nervous of the larger armies and warships that others had available to them, and they decided they needed to defend each other if there ever was a war.
- If one of the countries was attacked, the others in the alliance would have to go in to conflict to help them.



# Archduke Franz Ferdinand

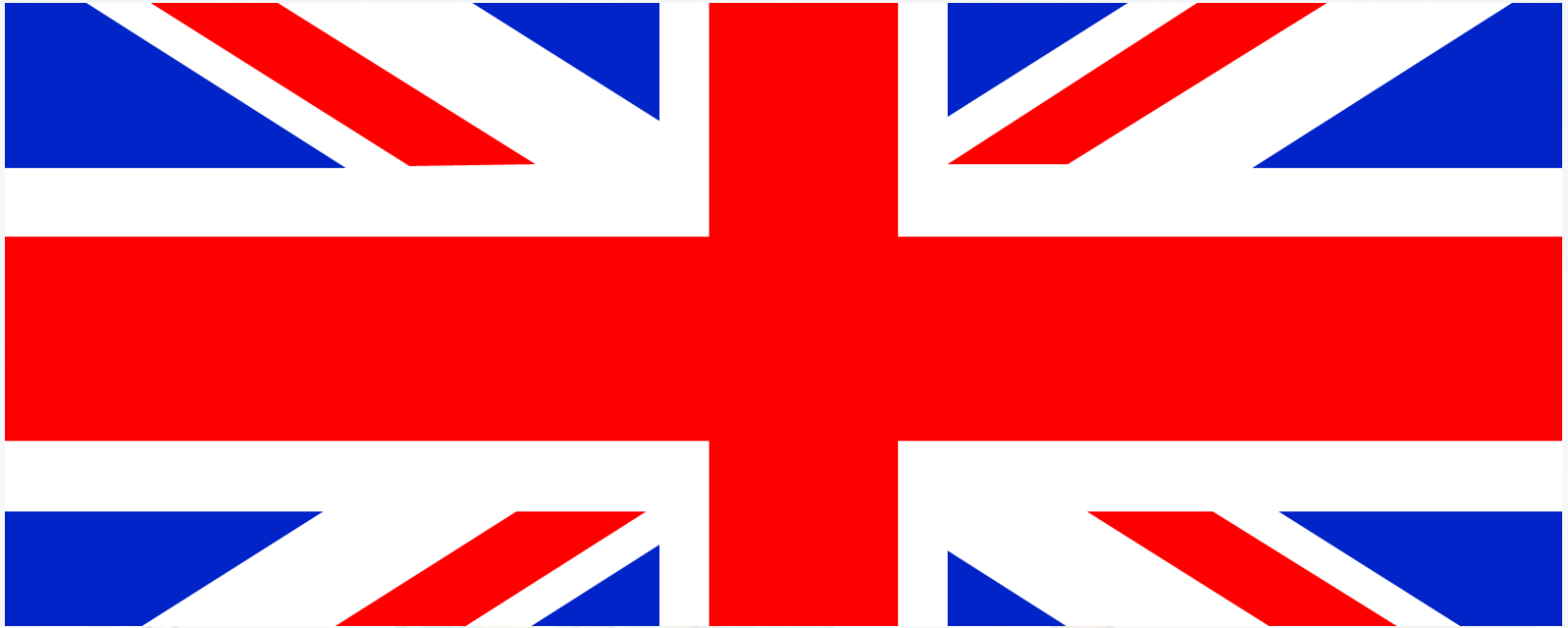


Archduke Franz Ferdinand was visiting armies in Serbia in June 1914 when a Serbian group called The Black Hand assassinated him during his visit.

After a number of attempts from members of Black Hand, Gavrilo Princip finally shot and killed the Archduke.



# Why Did Britain Enter the War?



Because of the Triple-Entente Alliance between Britain, France and Russia, Britain had to enter the war when France was invaded by the German army.

The war began for Britain at the Battle of the Mons in Belgium in August 1914.



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