

## Task

Read the information about each country carefully. Complete the table (page 4) with the strengths and weaknesses of each country and any possible allies.

### Great Britain

- 975,000 soldiers.
- 29 Dreadnoughts (large Battleships)
- Britain had a huge empire across the world. This included India, Australia, New Zealand, and parts of Africa.
- Britain was very proud of its navy, which was the biggest in the world.
- Even though Britain was the best in the world at shipbuilding, Germany was much better at producing important materials like coal, iron and chemicals.
- Britain was very worried that Germany were building a big navy and wanted an empire as well which would make it even more powerful country.
- King George V (Britain), Kaiser Wilhelm II (Germany) and Tsar Nicholas II (Russia) were all cousins. Wilhelm II didn't think he needed alliances with these countries because they were all related.

### France

- 4,000,000 soldiers.
- 10 Dreadnoughts (large Battleships)
- France had a fairly large empire and controlled large parts of Africa, and parts of the Caribbean.
- France was worried that Germany wanted to increase the size of its empire, especially in Africa.
- France had lost a war against Germany in 1871, and was still angry that Germany took an area of France called Alsace-Lorraine. They wanted to get it back.
- France was very agricultural and didn't have to rely on any other country for food, but they didn't have many factories so needed countries like Britain and Germany to provide iron and coal.

## Russia

- 5,000,000 soldiers.
- 4 Dreadnoughts (large Battleships)
- The Russian empire contained countries near Russia, not across the world. It contained Poland, Ukraine and Finland.
- Because the Russian empire was so vast, it contained a lot of different groups of people. This caused a lot of problems and Russia was a very unstable place.
- Russia had the largest army in the world, but not enough guns for everybody! Also, the poor condition of roads and railways in Russia made it very difficult for them to move soldiers around.
- Russia had a long standing dislike of Austria-Hungary, because both countries wanted to have control over the Balkans.
- Russia was worried that Germany was becoming more powerful and increasing the size of its navy in particular.
- King George V (Britain), Kaiser Wilhelm II (Germany) and Tsar Nicholas II (Russia) were all cousins. Wilhelm II didn't think he needed alliances with these countries because they were related.

## Germany

- 4,500,000 soldiers
- 17 Dreadnoughts (large battleships)
- Germany had a very small empire, including small parts of Africa. Kaiser Wilhelm II wanted Germany to have a much greater empire like the one Britain had.
- Germany's industrial development was the quickest in Europe and made them very powerful. They produced coal, steel and chemical at a faster rate than any other country. These industries were important for building an army and navy.
- Germany was very jealous of Britain's navy and was desperate to build a bigger one. This led to a 'naval race' where both countries were building as many battleships as they could to have a better navy than the other.
- Germany still had a lot of people working in agriculture so didn't have to rely on other countries to trade food.
- Germany and Austria-Hungary both spoke German, and even though there were tensions between them, they both shared a dislike for Russia and its influence in Europe.
- King George V (Britain), Kaiser Wilhelm II (Germany) and Tsar Nicholas II (Russia) were all cousins. Wilhelm II didn't think he needed alliances with these countries because they were related.

## Austria-Hungary

- 3,000,000 soldiers.
- 3 Dreadnoughts (large battleships)
- Over 10 million Germans lived in Austria-Hungary and formed the largest ethnic group.
- Austria-Hungary had a small empire that contained parts of Romania, Italy, Serbia, Poland and Ukraine. The Russian Empire also controlled parts of Poland and Ukraine and also wanted more control of the Balkans including Serbia.
- Austria-Hungary had disagreements with Italy over who controlled a part of Italy called Trentino.

## Italy

- 1,250,000 soldiers.
- 3 Dreadnoughts (large battleships)
- Italy was quite a new country and was looking for countries to form an alliance with in Europe.
- Italy had an ongoing dispute with Austria-Hungary over a region called Trentino, which they thought should be part of Italy.
- Italy relied heavily on Germany and Russia for food to help its growing population.
- Italy wanted an empire, and thought Tunisia in Africa would make an ideal colony. However, France invaded before Italy could in 1881. This angered the Italians who had offered to share Tunisia with France.
- Italy did build an empire in Africa, but this only made relations with France worse.

Country	Strengths	Weaknesses	Possible allies?