The Great War: A Timeline Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the chronological sequence of key events during World War I and recognise the global impact of the conflict.

Ellie the elephant has been organising historical records, but the cards have got mixed up! Your task is to sequence these seven key events from the First World War in chronological order (1 to 7). Once you have numbered them, read the statements to decide if they belong in the early, middle, or late stages of the war.

Word bank: Archduke Franz Ferdinand · The Western Front · Trench warfare · Armistice · Allied Powers · Central Powers · Home Front

1. 1. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand occurs in Sarajevo, triggering the alliance system. (Assign a number 1-7) (1 mark)

2. 2. Britain declares war on Germany. (Assign a number 1-7) (1 mark)

3. 3. The Battle of the Somme takes place, leading to high casualties. (Assign a number 1-7) (1 mark)

4. 4. The use of tanks is introduced on the battlefield for the first time. (Assign a number 1-7) (1 mark)

5. 5. The United States joins the war on the side of the Allied Powers. (Assign a number 1-7) (1 mark)

6. 6. The signing of the Armistice ends the fighting on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. (Assign a number 1-7) (1 mark)

7. 7. Briefly explain why the introduction of the 'Home Front' was so important for the war effort in Britain. Mention one way civilians helped. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a commemorative poppy or a symbol of peace that you think would be appropriate to remember those who served during the First World War.

Extension challenge: Research what life was like for children on the Home Front. Write a short diary entry from the perspective of a child in 1917 describing how they helped with food rationing or 'digging for victory'.