Causes of World War I

8th Grade Social Studies

Unit 1
5 Key Causes — MANIA!

- Militarism
- Alliances
- Nationalism
- Imperialism
- Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand
Militarism

- Development of a nation’s military in preparation for a conflict
- Accumulation of weapons—arms race
- Europe begins to become paranoid
Countries formed allies throughout Europe to create a balance of power.

Ends up making things unstable—if one country declares war, nearly the entire continent would be fighting.
Nationalism

- Belief that one’s country is superior to others
- Countries tried to exert dominance & power over others
Imperialism

- Main points of focus—Africa and parts of Asia
- Looking for natural resources & increased territorial control
Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

- Killed by Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo, Bosnia (part of a group of 6)
- Heir apparent to Austria-Hungary throne
- His wife, Sophie, was also killed
- Protesting Austria-Hungary’s control over Serbian regions of Europe