

CAUSES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

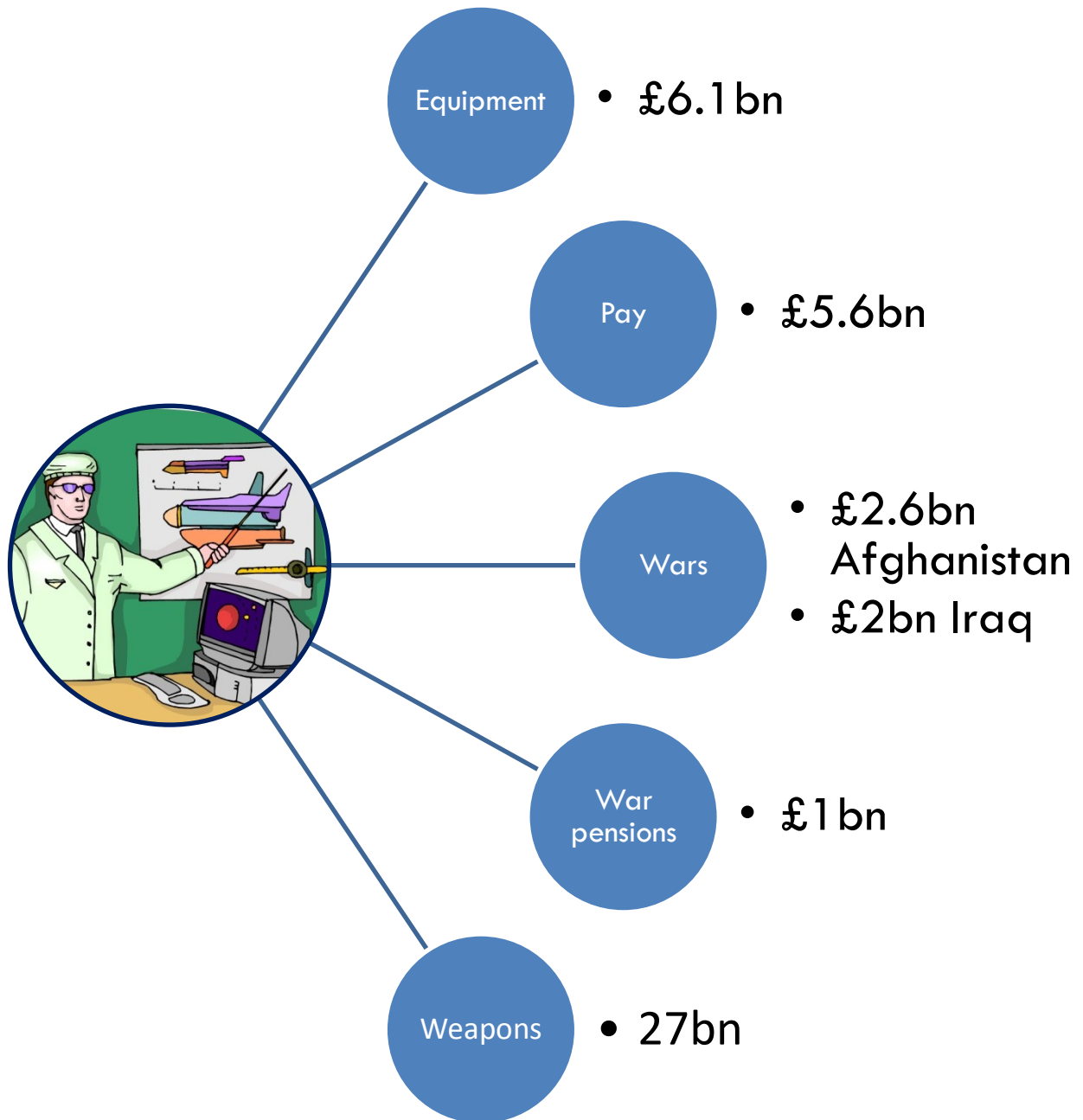
LESSON 4

THE ARMS RACE

<p>Objectives/learning outcomes</p> <p>Pupils will:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know what the term ‘arms race’ means and why this increased the tension between the major powers. • Understand why the building of the dreadnought led to a naval arms race. • Evaluate through sources whether Germany wanted a war in 1914. 	<p>Starter</p> <p>Discuss with pupils why countries need weapons. What are the threats today? What were the threats in 1914? How much does Britain spend on defence? Show diagram. Get pupils to understand the amount in comparison to other government spending. Defence: £44bn Education: £42bn Transport: £15bn. Explain Militarism: building up armed forces; getting ready for war. Can this be applied to some countries today? Why did this happen up to 1914?</p>
<p>Activities and homework</p> <p><u>Activity 1</u> The Arms Race</p> <p><u>Activity 2</u> The Dreadnought and the Naval Arms Race</p> <p><u>Activity 3</u> Did Germany want a war in 1914?</p> <p><u>Homework</u> Homework 1 Cartoon Analysis [Advanced] Homework 1 Admiral Von Tirpitz [Standard]</p>	<p>Plenary</p> <p>Give pupils the following words/phrases:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fear • Jealousy • Naval Superiority • Empire building [A linked cause] • Worsening relations • More money spent on armaments <p>Ask them to start with one word/phrase and answer orally the question, ‘How did the arms race help cause the First World War?’</p> <p>They can use any of the other words/phrases to answer the question.</p>

STARTER ACTIVITY

Britain's Defence Spending 2009



About £45 billion

ACTIVITY 1

THE ARMS RACE

How did the Arms Race add to the tensions between the major powers?

ARMS RACE

This was competition between countries to build up their military strength. The arms race can be referred to as 'militarism'. The way in which the major powers competed to build up their military strength led to a possibility of war.

All the major powers of Europe raced each other to build the biggest and best armed forces. Every country, except Great Britain, had a conscript army. This meant that these countries had a large number of trained soldiers they could call up very quickly in the event of war. In 1914, the German army was the biggest and best in the world - but the Russian army was growing the fastest, and German generals were worried that, in a few years' time they would not be able to defeat Russia. At the same time, Britain and Germany had an arms race to see who could build the biggest navy. Military spending snowballed, as one country increased spending another would follow suit. Military spending doubled in the period 1900-1914. Over 85% of men of military age in France and 50% in Germany had served in the army or navy. France had the highest proportion of its population in the army.

The rivalry between the powers led to a building up of weapons and an increase in distrust.

	Money spent in millions	Percentage Increase in Military Spending by 1913	Size of Peacetime Army 1914
Britain	50,000,000	117	750,000
France	40,000,000	92	1,500,000
Russia	15,500,000	19	1,250,000
Italy	10,000,000	10	750,000
Germany	60,000,000	158	2,500,000
Austria-Hungary	22,000,000	160	750,000

TASKS

1. What happened to the amount spent by each country on its armed forces?
2. Which country had the largest army?
3. Which country spent the most money on its armed forces?
4. What is meant by the term 'conscription'?
5. What is 'militarism' and why did it make war more likely?

ACTIVITY 2

NAVAL ARMS RACE

Britain and Germany were rivals at sea. Colonial rivalry had led to a naval arms race between Britain and Germany. This had seriously worsened relations between both countries. The British-German dispute also led to greater naval co-operation between Britain and France.

Admiral Tirpitz, Secretary of the German Naval Office began a shipbuilding program. The German Navy Law of 1898 increased the German battleships from nine cruisers to twelve. In 1900, Germany passed another Navy Law which doubled the German battle fleet.

In 1880 Germany had 88,000 tonnes of military shipping, Britain 650,000; by 1910 the figures were 964,000 Germany and 2,174,000 Britain.

Britain was concerned but determined to keep her naval superiority. When Britain launched the HMS Dreadnought in 1906 this made matters worse. Dreadnoughts were large, fast and heavily armed battleships with 12inch guns. They set a new standard in naval armaments and rendered all previous battleships completely out of date. The naval race became intense. Between 1909 and 1911 Germany built nine Dreadnoughts while Britain built 18. In 1913, Germany widened the Kiel Canal to allow the easy passage of her Dreadnoughts from the Baltic to the North Sea while Britain built new naval bases for their Dreadnoughts in northern Scotland.

TASKS

1. Explain how a naval arms race developed between Britain and Germany.

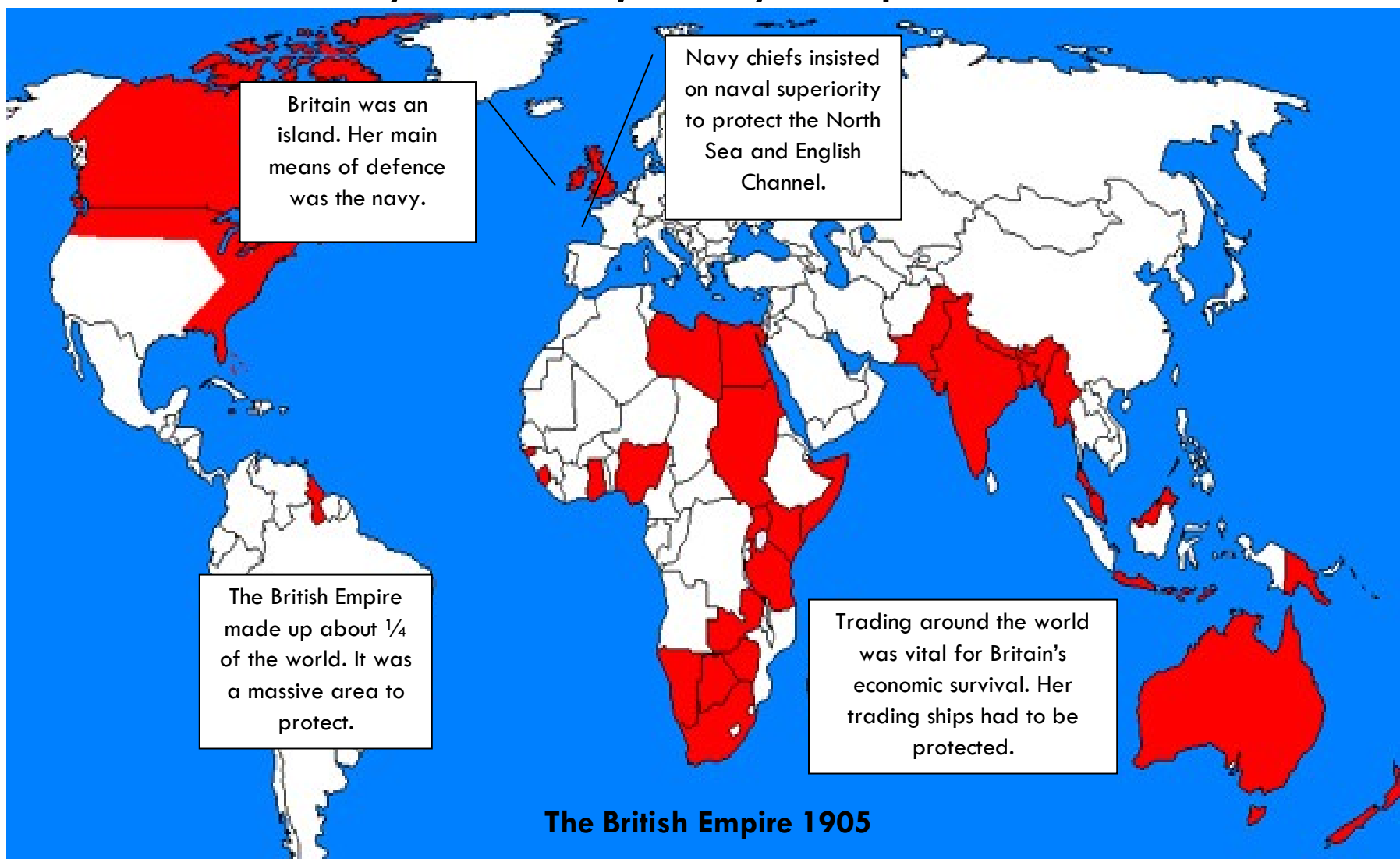
Mention:- Colonial Rivalry, Von Tirpitz, German Naval Laws, military spending and the Dreadnought.

Study Sources 1 and 2.

2. Why was the Royal Navy so important to Britain? [Use Source 1] Give 3 reasons.

3. Why was the Dreadnought such a revolutionary ship? [Use Source 2] Give 4 examples.

Source 1 Why was the Royal Navy So Important To Britain?



THE EFFECTS OF THE NAVAL RACE

Britain's navy had always been bigger than the combined navies of her two largest rivals (The Two Power Standard). This position was threatened by the building of the Dreadnought. This British built battleship made all other warships out of date. Whoever had the most Dreadnoughts would achieve naval superiority, in 1906 Britain and Germany became involved in a race to build the most Dreadnoughts.

Source 3 The race to build Dreadnought ships

Date	Great Britain	Germany
1906	1	
1907	3	
1908	2	4
1909	2	3
1910	3	1
1911	5	3
1912	3	2
1913	7	3
1914	3	1
Total by 1914	29	17

Source 4 British and German ships 1914

Type of ship	Great Britain	Germany
Dreadnoughts	29	17
Pre-Dreadnoughts	40	20
Battle-cruisers	34	9
Cruisers	74	41
Destroyers	167	130
Torpedo boats	49	0
Submarines	75	21

TASKS

1. Study Sources 3 and 4. Which side had naval superiority in 1914? Explain your answer using the information from both sources.
2. Imagine you were given overall command of the navy of one of the two sides. Describe in a short paragraph what you would need to know about your own navy and that of your enemy other than the number of ships.

ACTIVITY 3

Did Germany want a war in 1914?

Source 5

The German answer to all our talk about the limitation of armaments is: Germany shall increase to the utmost of her power... I have lived among Germans, but with the best will in the world I can see no solution to the present collision of ideals but war.

A lecture given in 1913 by J A Cramb

J A Cramb was an Englishman who went to university in Germany, and who loved Germany.

Source 6

The Naval 'War Cabinet' of 1912. General von Moltke [Head of the army] said: I believe war is unavoidable; war the sooner the better. But we ought to do more to press to prepare the popularity of a war against Russia. The Kaiser supported this. Tirpitz [Head of the navy] said that the navy would prefer to see the postponement of the great fight for one and a half years.

From the Diary of Admiral Muller, 8 December 1912

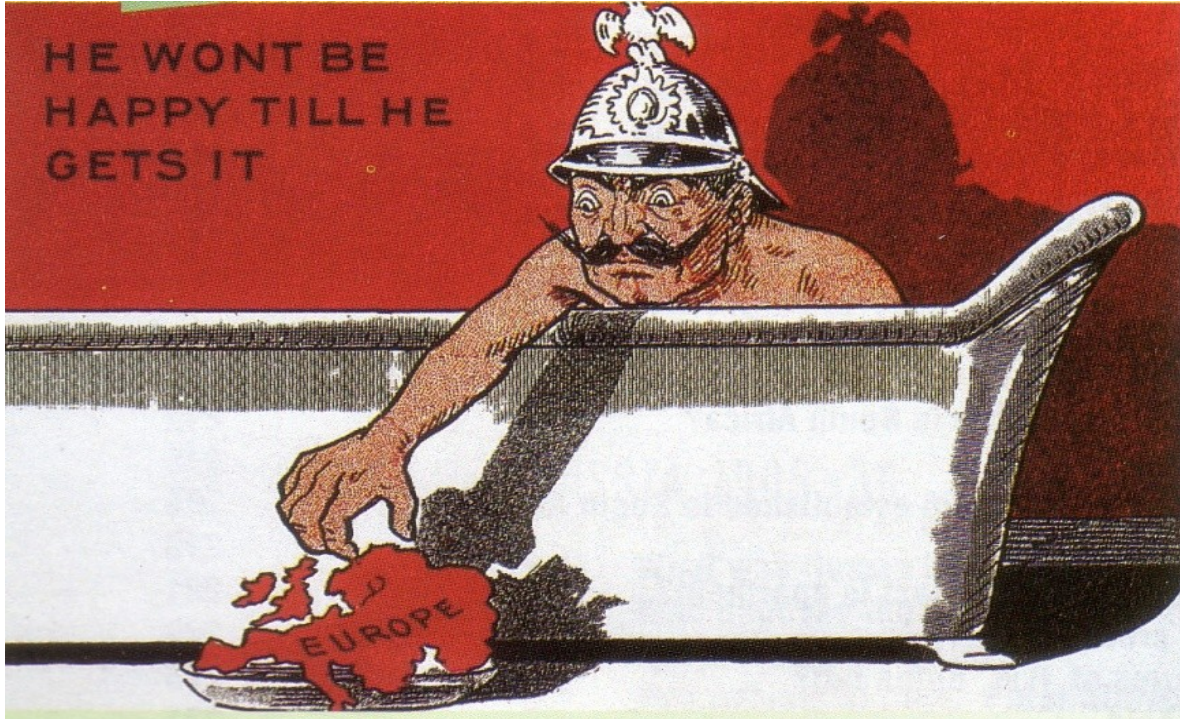
TASKS

1. Read Sources 5 and 6. Complete the source grid.
2. 'The arms race for Germany was about getting ready for war.' Do these sources prove that Germany wanted a war?

Source	Date	Author	What does this source say about Germany preparing for war?

HOMEWORK 1 [Advanced]

CARTOON ANALYSIS



This British cartoon was printed in 1914. The Kaiser is reaching for his Europe-shaped soap.

TASKS

1. Why is the Kaiser looking worried?
2. What does the bath represent?
3. Explain 'He wont be happy till he gets it'.
4. The Europe-shaped soap has slipped out of the Kaiser's hand.
What point is the cartoonist making?
5. How might people in Germany have responded to how the Kaiser is portrayed in this cartoon?