Colonialism and World War I

Pre-Activity Discussion:

What do you know about Africa?

• Why do you think European countries wanted conquer Africa? resources diamonds

"free labour"

• How do you think the people who lived in Africa felt about European imperialists and settlers took their land?



Post-Activity Discussion

 What do you notice about the distribution of resources or regions on the map?

How does it relate to the map of Africa in 1884?

Causes of WWI:

Colonialism

Nationalism

Alliances

COLONIALISM (and Imperialism)

- All the big European colonial powers were competing for colonies and territories to build and maintain their empires
- As they competed for control it created conflicts and rivalries amongst themselves, which escalated into World War I.
- The people living in those colonies were not only deeply impacted by the war, they were also forced to participate on the side of the country that had colonized them



NATIONALISM

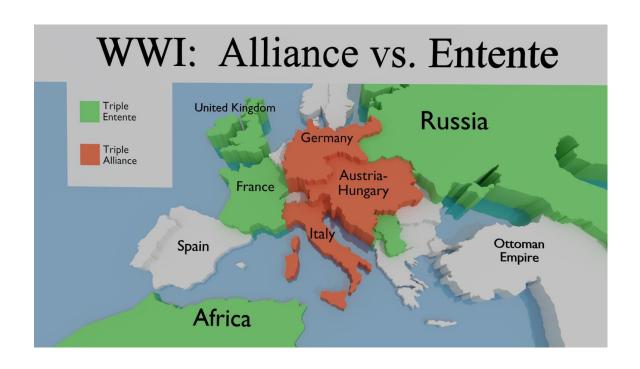
- Strong identification with one's own nation and support for its interests, especially to the exclusion of the interests of other nations.
- New technology created more advanced weapons and armies were bigger than ever before





ALLIANCES

- By 1914 all the major powers were linked by a system of alliances.
- The alliances made it more likely that a war would start.
- Once started, the alliances made it more likely to spread.



Triple Entente:

Britain, France, and Russia

Triple Alliance:

Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy

THE BIG TRIGGER

- On 28 June 1914, heir to the Austrian throne Archduke Franz Ferdinand is assassinated by a Serbian rebel
- Austrians (supported by Germany) blame Serbia (supported by Russia) for supporting terrorists
- Russia prepares troops to support Serbia
- Germany declares war on Russia
- Germany declares war on France
- England declares war on Germany
- WWI started



Discussion Questions:

Why do you think European countries fighting over colonies lead to a big war?

How did the alliance system lead to war? Do you think war was inevitable? Why/why not?

How do you think people living in the colonies felt about being controlled by European countries?

Can you imagine and describe what life was like for them during the war?

Primary Source Investigation

Primary Sources Investigation

What is a source?

A **source** is a piece of information, or a reference used to gather information about a particular topic.

What is a primary source?

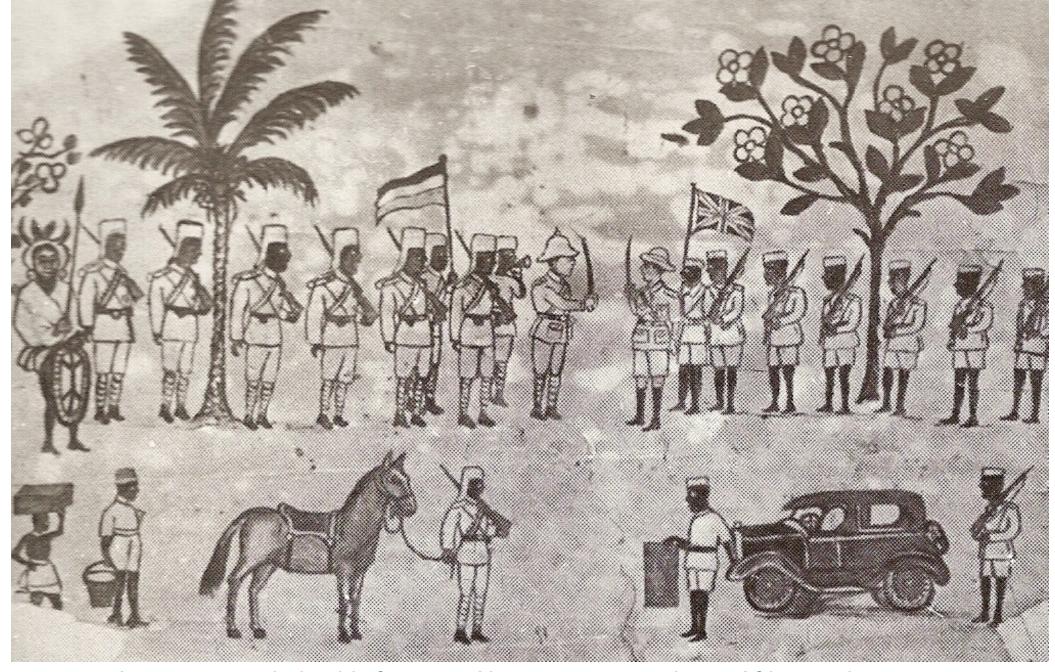
A **primary source** is an original or firsthand piece of information created or produced during the time or event being studied, such as diaries, letters, or photographs.

What is a secondary source?

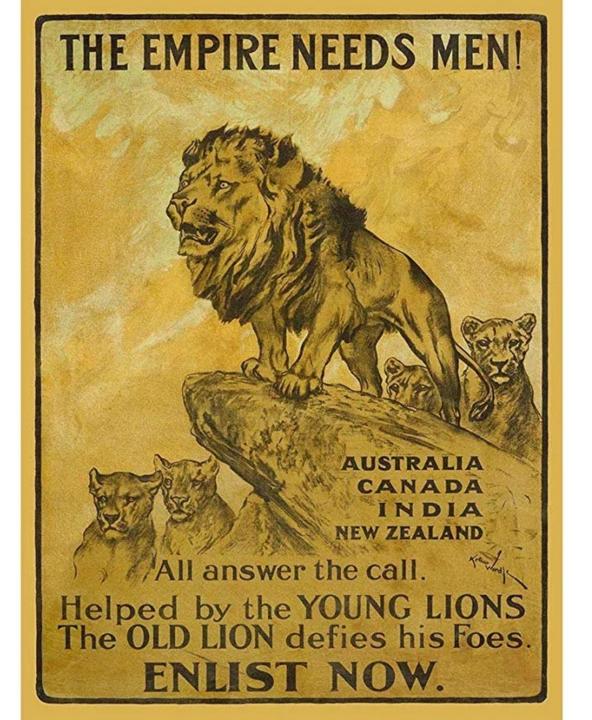
A **secondary source** is a document or resource that analyzes, interprets, or summarizes primary sources or events, offering insights or commentary from a later perspective, like textbooks or history documentaries.

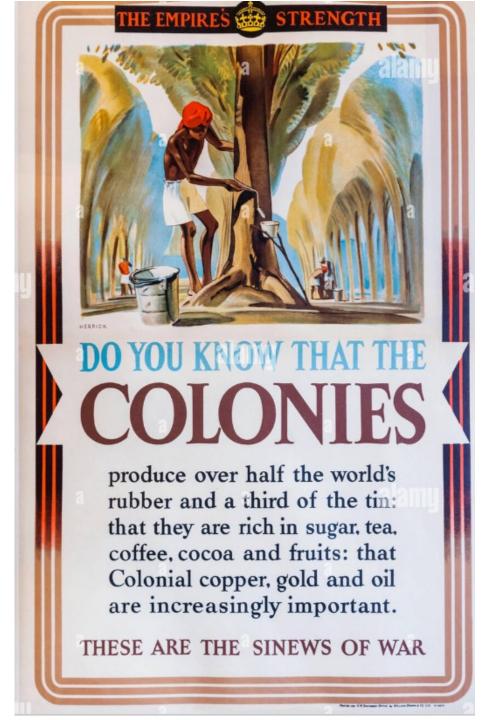
Primary Sources Investigation

- 1) What type of primary source is it?
- 2) When and where was it made? What was happening in that place at that time?
- 3) Look at it closely. Describe it. What details do you notice?
- 4) What do you find interesting or surprising?
- 5) What questions do you have about it?



Lettow surrendering his forces at Abercorn, as seen by an African artist







"Following in the Footsteps of the Dear Old Dad."

