**6 facts about world war one**

**1.**

World War 1 started on 28th July 1914 and would carry on for the next four years.

**2.**

World War 1 finally ended in 1918

**3.**

It all started when archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his pregnant wife Sophie were assassinated in the city of Sarajevo. Franz Ferdinand was the heir to the throne of Austria and Hungary.

Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia for this and so declared war.

**4.**

During the war, countries made a pact to help each other. The two sides were called the Allies and the Central Powers.

The countries on each side were:

The Allies: Great Britain, France, Belgium, Russia and later the USA.

Central Powers: Germany, Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey.

**5.**

Soldiers lived in trenches. These were ditches that they had to dig out of the ground.

The conditions were terrible, and many soldiers got ill from living there. This is where they lived months on end and tried to make attacks against the enemy.

The enemy also had their own trenches. The land between the two was called ‘No Man’s Land’. This is where battles took place. It also had lots of barbed wire and sometimes land mines which were very dangerous.

**6.**

The war finished when Germany signed an armistice.

This is basically an agreement for peace and to stop the war immediately.

The central powers agreed to do this as they realized they wouldn’t be able to win the war after the USA joined the other side. The peace was very hard on the Germans, who had to pay heavy sums of money and resources back to the lands they had attacked. The angry German people were impoverished and this led to them being easily persuaded by a certain dictator 10 years later.