### Trench Primary Source Quotes

"Whilst asleep during the night, we were frequently awakened by rats running over us. When this happened too often for my liking, I would lie on my back and wait for a rat to linger on my legs; then violently heave my legs upwards, throwing the rat into the air. Occasionally, I would hear a grunt when the rat landed on a fellow victim." (R L Venables)

"If you have never had trench foot described to you, I will explain. Your feet swell to two to three times their normal size and go completely dead. You can stick a bayonet into them and not feel a thing. If you are lucky enough not to lose your feet and the swelling starts to go down, it is then that the most indescribable agony begins. I have heard men cry and scream with pain and many have had to have their feet and legs amputated. I was one of the lucky ones, but one more day in that trench and it may have been too late." (Harry Roberts)

"The water in the trenches through which we waded was alive with a multitude of swimming frogs. Red slugs crawled up the side of the trenches and strange beetles with dangerous looking horns wriggled along dry ledges and invaded the dugouts, in search of the lice that infested them." (unknown journalist)

"To get a 'cushy' one is all the old hands think about. A bloke in the Camerons wanted a 'cushy' bad! Fed up and far from home he was. He puts his finger over the top and gets his trigger finger taken off and two more besides. "I'm off to bonny Scotland!" he says laughing. But on the way down to the dressing station, he forgets to stoop low where an old sniper is working. He gets it through the head." (Robert Graves)

"We slept in our clothes and cut our hair short so that it would tuck inside our caps. Dressing simply meant putting on our boots. There were times when we had to scrape the lice off with the blunt edge of a knife and our underclothes stuck to us. " (Elizabeth de T'Serclaes – a nurse on the front line)

"We must looked out for our bread. The rats have become much more numerous lately because the trenches are no longer in good condition. The rats here are particularly repulsive, they are so fat – the kind we call corpse-rats. They have shocking, evil, naked faces, and it is nauseating to see their long, nude tails." (Erich Maria Remarque)

## **Descriptive Writing**

As you read through the primary source quotes, you are to create a Descriptive writing diagram. To do this, use the quotes and page 413-414 to create this diagram. This assignment is to analyze the readings in a way to apply your understanding of trench warfare to your senses and critically think about the situations that soldiers experienced during World War I.

After reading you will set up your diagram in this way:				
Definition:				
Illustration:				
If I were there, I would have experienced				
Sounds	Sight	taste	Feel	Smell

Examples are on the next page

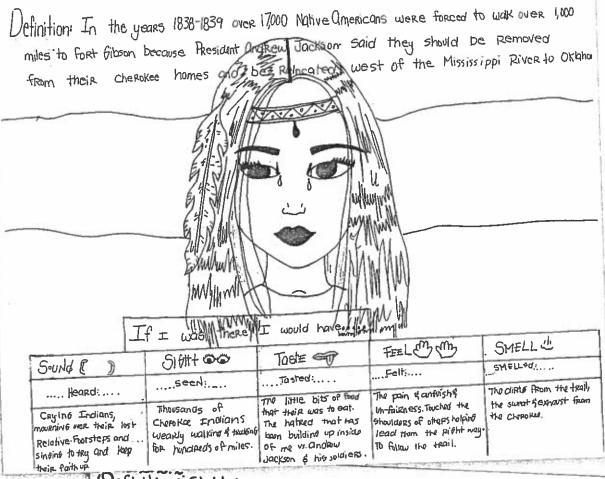
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Definition: Child labor was a cheap way for employers to get workers, during the Industrial Revolution. Since children could work the machinery just as well as grown men they took their place. These children, as early as age 7, worked 10-14 hour days 6 days a week. Mass production work. The working conditions for these children were children at Many children got their limbs cut off or even died from the

She would hear machinery, the cries of children, and her employers voice.

Sight
NUN.

She would see her work for the day, her parents worn out bodies, and the terrors of the Industrial Revolution.

She would taste her small amounts of food the polution in

She would feel her worn out hands, the sted of the machinery and her families tears.

She would smell the poluted air, the sweat from the workers and Steam.

#### Stalemate Source

#### Causes of the Deadlock

For three years of continuous warfare, neither side succeeded in gaining a decisive success on either of the main European fronts, in spite of the millions of lives sacrificed. By the end of 1914, the western front had solidified into two deeply entrenched systems of fortifications running west to east from the English Channel to the border of Switzerland. The fortifications consisted of numerous parallel lines of interconnected trenches protected by lines of barbed wire. The leaders on both sides thought that the way to achieve a breakthrough was to penetrate enemy lines and gain access to open country. In the open country, they believed that they could regain the ability to maneuver. They also thought that the only way to penetrate enemy lines was to start a massive artillery bombardment of a chosen sector and to follow it up with a massive infantry assault.

However, both sides had equal forces, so they could repel enemy attempts to overwhelm entrenched defensive positions. The tragic equilibrium, as it has been called, caused continued assaults. With each assault, both sides attempted to improve upon the preceding one, chiefly by adding more artillery shells to the bombardment and more men to the attack. As more soldiers were killed in futile efforts to overrun enemy positions, leaders continued the same pattern because they felt that they had to prove that it would succeed, thus justifying the slaughter of their troops.

The reason that the leaders continued using this suicidal strategy for the remainder of the war was that no alternative appeared to exist. Maintaining fixed positions in the trenches was no solution, since it produced only boredom and eventually despair. In addition, as each army appointed new leaders, they resumed the deadly offensives to try to earn a place in history by masterminding a breakthrough that would end the war.

[...]

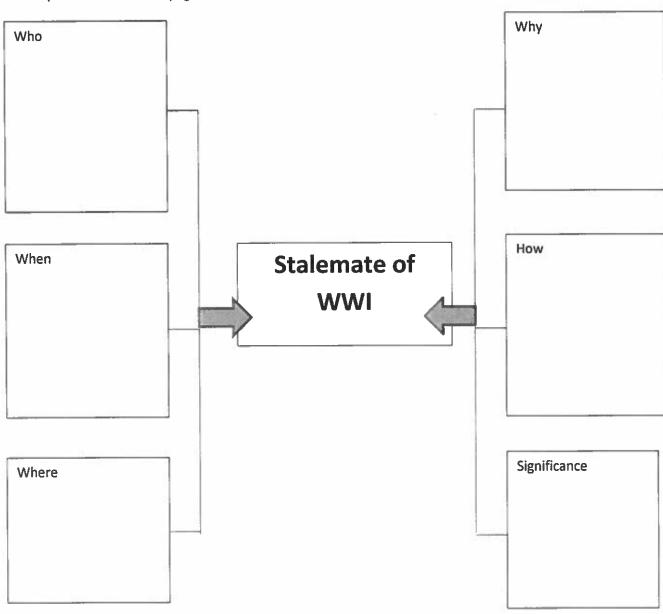
On the eastern front, there was also stalemate, although geographically the armies had plenty of room to maneuver. The Russians followed a strategy that had brought them success against previous invasions from the west in other wars. Russian armies would withdraw eastward deep into Russia's interior, fighting bloody defensive battles as opportunity offered. Then, as the invading armies wasted away, Russia's vast reservoirs of manpower would refill the Russian ranks.

In World War I, however, the strategy did not work. Russian industry could not furnish enough weapons or ammunition to supply the reserve of manpower. On the other hand, the periodic British and French offensives in the west prevented Germany from transferring sufficient forces to the eastern front. Without these troops, the Germans could not shatter the Russian armies and achieve victory. Thus, the exchange of fighting continued, and neither side gained a decisive edge on the eastern front until the Russian Revolutions of 1917.

# **Describing Historical Events**

As you read through the source, you are to create a historical event diagram. To do this, use the passage and page 412-413 to create this diagram. This assignment is to analyze the readings in a way to apply your understanding of WWI stalemate to critically think about the situations that led to the stalemate.

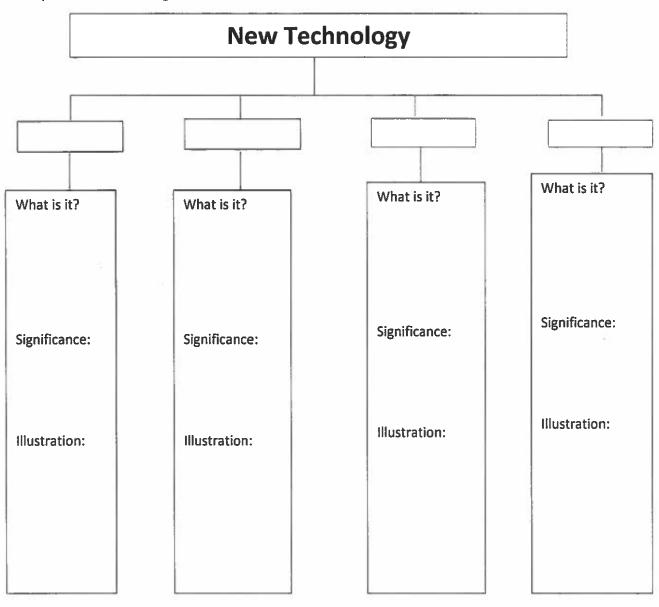
#### Examples are on the next page





# **Technology Chart**

Using your book, page 413-414 create a historical event graphic organizer new technology used in WWI. Fill out the following graphic organizer to help understand the process. Be Creative and use the examples on the back for guidance.



Which piece of technology had the largest impact, in your opinion and state why (use evidence from the text book)

### **WWI** Timeline

You are to create a timeline in which you identify what the major events of WWI were from the Spark that started the war to the beginning of the stalemate on the Western Front. You will use pages 411-414. There are a total of 5 events (The events will not all be specific dates, they may encompass a theme, plan or idea that is experienced throughout). Example is on the back

1914 (p. 411) 1914 (p. 412) 1914 (Battle)

1915 (p. 413)

1916 (Battle p.414)

