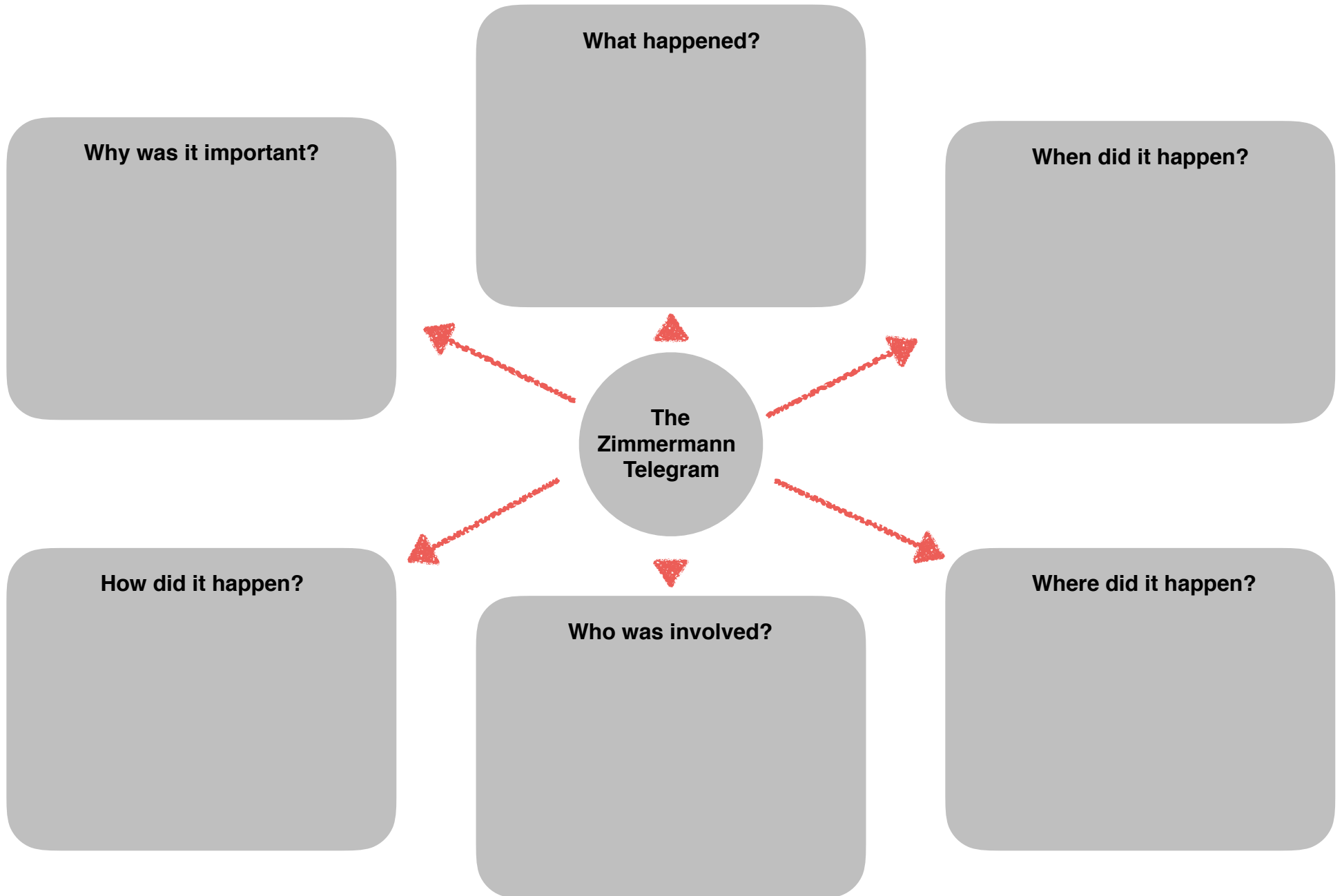


Name:

Event Map

Date:

Directions: Trace the transmission path of the Zimmermann Telegram from creation to interception, dissemination then broadcast.



Name:

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KEY

Why was it important?

The Zimmermann Telegram helped draw the United States into the war and profoundly changed the course of history. The telegram and ensuing cryptanalysis had enormous consequences, making an unprecedented impact on American opinion. Never before had so much turned upon the solution of a secret message.

What happened?

The German Foreign Secretary Arthur Zimmermann sent a telegram through unsecured cable lines to the German Ambassador stationed in Washington D.C. who forwarded the message on to the German Minister in Mexico to be shared with the President of Mexico. British intelligence intercepted the message and shared it with the American government.

When did it happen?

The message was sent on January 16, 1917, from the German Minister, intercepted by the British on January 17, 1917, but not shared with President Wilson until February 24, 1917. President Wilson released the message to the press on February 28 and the American press published the findings on March 1, 1917.

The Zimmermann Telegram

How did it happen?

The British blockade was having debilitating effects on Germany and the Central Powers were becoming desperate. They knew that if they resumed unrestricted submarine warfare that the United States would likely enter the war on the side of the Allies. To slow the United States down, Germany sought to distract America by enlisting the help of Mexico.

Who was involved?

Germany- The Foreign Secretary, Ambassador to the U.S., Minister to Mexico
Britain- Cryptographers in Room 40
America- President Wilson, Congress, the press, the public
Mexico- President Venustiano Carranza
Japan- Prime Minister Count Terauchi

Where did it happen?

The cable was sent from Germany to Washington, D.C., where it was intercepted by Britain as it passed over cable lines on British territory. The message was then sent from D.C. to its intended destination of reaching the President of Mexico (who was to share the message with the Japanese). The British then decoded and shared the message with the U.S. president.