



Name:

Date:

## Geographic Analysis

**Directions:** Ask students to first locate England, Germany, Mexico, and the United States of America on the world map. Then direct students to answer the following questions by indicating on the map or answering in written form on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Indicate the date stamped on the map to identify what year the “World Map of War and Commerce” reflects. Who produced the map? What relevance does the source of this map have on the information provided?
2. Utilizing the “Reference to Coloring” index, identify the countries and territories of the belligerent powers at the outbreak of hostilities that were at war with Germany and Austria-Hungary.
3. Utilizing the “Reference to Coloring” index, identify which belligerent powers were at war with the British Empire and its allies at the outbreak of hostilities.
4. Utilizing the “Reference to Coloring” index, which countries on the North American continent remained neutral in World War I prior to 1917?
5. Utilizing the “Naval and Military Resources” index, analyze the size difference between Britain and its allies “effective fighting ships” and “strength on a war footing” and those of Germany and its allies.
6. Utilizing the “Populations” index, explain what the relative size difference between the British Isles and the British Empire indicates. Repeat this analysis for Russia, Japan, France, Belgium, and Germany.
7. Utilizing the “Foreign Commerce” index, which country had the largest total value of Imports and Exports at the outbreak of hostilities?
8. Rank the size from largest to smallest of the Mercantile Marine forces by country at the outbreak of hostilities (use number of ships not total tonnage).
9. Utilizing the “Food Supplies” index, indicate which countries had the largest and smallest home acreage (not colonial supplies) for cereals and potatoes.
10. In what resource was the United States of America the largest producer?
11. Indicate on the map the territory offered by the Germans to the Mexicans in the Zimmermann Telegram.
12. Calculate how much the territory offered to Mexico by the Germans in the Zimmermann Telegram would increase the size of that country.
13. What geographical advantages would Germany gain by Mexico’s entry into the war?
14. What was the role of Japan and why did Germany mention it in the Zimmermann Telegram?
15. What additional conclusions can be drawn from the information provided on the “World Map of War and Commerce?” Specifically, what information can be gleaned from the “War on German Trade” index?

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## Geographic Analysis- KEY

**Directions:** Ask students to first locate England, Germany, Mexico, and the United States of America on the world map. Then direct students to answer the following questions by indicating on the map or answering in written form on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Indicate the date stamped on the map to identify what year the “World Map of War and Commerce” reflects. Who produced the map? What relevance does the source of this map have on the information provided?

1. ***1917 (see bottom banner for date stamp). The map was produced by the London Geographical Institute. The information could contain a bias towards a stronger, larger, more dominant British Empire and that of its allies.***

2. Utilizing the “Reference to Coloring” index, identify the countries and territories of the belligerent powers at the outbreak of hostilities that were at war with Germany and Austria-Hungary (the Central Powers).

1. ***British Empire & Possessions***
  2. ***France & Possessions***
  3. ***Russian Empire***
  4. ***Belgium & Belgian Congo***
  5. ***Servia & Montenegro***
  6. ***Japanese Empire***

3. Utilizing the “Reference to Coloring” index, identify which belligerent powers were at war with the British Empire and its allies at the outbreak of hostilities.

1. ***Germany & Possessions***
  2. ***Austria-Hungary***

4. Utilizing the “Reference to Coloring” index, which countries on the North American continent remained neutral in World War I prior to 1917?

1. ***The United States of America***
  2. ***Mexico***

5. Utilizing the “Naval and Military Resources” index, analyze and describe the size difference between Britain and its allies “effective fighting ships” and “strength on a war footing” and those of Germany and its allies.

1. ***Britain and its allies France, Russia and Japan had nearly three times as many effective fighting ships as Germany and Austria with a total of 1,238 versus 442.***
  2. ***Britain and its allies had almost double the amount of armed forces with 13 million (12,967,000) versus Germany and Austria with only 7.5 million.***

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6. Utilizing the “Populations” index, explain what the relative size difference between the British Isles and the British Empire indicates. Repeat this analysis for Russia, Japan, France, Belgium, and Germany.

*\*Student answers may vary. The question is aimed at generating a discussion on domestic versus imperial/colonial population size and alliance/country loyalty.*

- 1. The difference in size between the population of the British Isles and the British Empire shows the relatively small number of the British population residing in Britain when compared to the domestic populations of the colonial territories under British control.**
- 2. The population of the Russian Empire residing outside of Russia was roughly 50,000.**
- 3. The population of the Japanese Empire residing outside of Japan was roughly 20,000.**
- 4. The population of French colonial possessions was roughly 40,000.**
- 5. The majority of the population under Belgian control resided outside of Belgium (22.5 million versus 7.5 million).**
- 6. Only about 13 million of Germany’s population resided outside of the country in its territory possessions.**

7. Utilizing the “Foreign Commerce” index, which country had the largest total value of Imports and Exports at the outbreak of hostilities?

**1. The United Kingdom**

8. Rank the size from largest to smallest of the Mercantile Marine forces by country at the outbreak of hostilities (use number of ships not total tonnage).

- 1. The United Kingdom (9,214 ships)**
- 2. Germany (2,321 ships)**
- 3. British Colonies (2,073 ships)**
- 4. France (1,552 ships)**
- 5. Russia (1,216 ships)**
- 6. Japan (1,037 ships)**
- 7. Austria-Hungary (427 ships)**
- 8. Belgium (172 ships)**

9. Utilizing the “Food Supplies” index, indicate which countries had the largest and smallest home acreage (not colonial supplies) for cereals and potatoes?

- 1. Largest: Russia in Europe**
- 2. Smallest: Japan**

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10. In what resource was the United States of America the largest producer?

**1. Petroleum**

11. Indicate on the map the territory offered by the Germans to the Mexicans in the telegram in the Zimmermann Telegram.

**1. Students should refer to the Southwestern United States along the border with Mexico.**

12. Calculate how much the territory offered to Mexico by the Germans in the Zimmermann Telegram would increase the size of that country.

**1. The territory would span the U.S. states of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.**

13. What geographical advantages would Germany gain by Mexico's entry into the war?

**1. If Mexico joined the war on the side of Germany the United States would face a domestic threat on the North American continent along the Southwest Border it shares with Mexico.**

14. What was the role of Japan and why did Germany mention it in the Zimmermann Telegram?

**1. Japan was allied with the British and Germany hoped to use an alliance with Mexico to persuade the Japanese to change sides and join the Central Powers.**

15. What additional conclusions can be drawn from the information provided on the "World Map of War and Commerce"? Specifically, what information can be gleaned from the "War on German Trade" index?

- 1. Student answers may vary.**
- 2. Trade played an important role on the formation of alliances among the belligerent powers at the outbreak of hostilities. The use of naval blockades impeded trade on the behalf of the Germans and thus led to the announcement in the Zimmermann Telegram that Germany would resume it's unrestricted submarine warfare campaign.**