World War I, also known as the Great War, drew in not only the major powers of Europe, but those of America and Asia as well. Many economic and political factors caused the war. Newly industrialized nations competed with one another for trade and markets for their goods. Also, the urge for national power and independence from other nations came from old and new powers. When a new nation tried to increase its power by building a strong military, an older nation perceived the new nation as a threat to its power. Such tensions led to the division of Europe into two groups for security: one composed of Britain, France, and Russia, the other of Austria, Hungary, and Germany.

Although the factors discussed above caused the war, the final breaking point was a local conflict between Austria and Serbia, a tiny kingdom in southeastern Europe. Serbia, supported by Russia, wanted to unite with the Serbs living in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and create a Greater Serbia. Austria, supported by Germany, did not want Serbia cutting into its empire. The war officially started in August of 1914, after the assassination of the Austrian heir to the throne, who was visiting Sarajevo, near Serbia's border. The assassin was a young man with connections to the military intelligence branch of the Serbian government. Austria's attempt to punish Serbia drew Russia and its allies Britain and France into a war against Austria-Hungary and Germany. The map below illustrates the geographical location of the countries in Europe and surrounding regions in 1914.

The War Raged on Two Fronts

Germany hoped to defeat France by striking quickly through Belgium and, therefore, to minimize the danger of a two-front war. The highly trained German troops nearly reached Paris before the French stopped them. However, the Russians aided France by suddenly attacking Germany on its eastern front, and Germany sent troops from western Europe to face the attack. With the German forces diminished, the French were able to force the weakened Germans back. The war in the west became a stalemate with neither side able to achieve a victory. As a result, both sides sought new allies to help them gain victory, and the war became a world war as Japan, Italy, Portugal, Rumania, and other countries joined Britain, France, and Russia. Germany and Austria-Hungary drew in Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire, which included Turkey.
On the eastern front Russia kept part of the German army busy. Although Russia fought valiantly, it had not been prepared for war and thus was unable to defeat the Germans. Russian defeats led to a revolution that toppled the tsar of Russia. In late 1917 the new leader of Russia, Lenin, offered to make peace with Germany. As part of the treaty agreement, Germany gained coal mines and oil fields from Russia, which gave Germany power to fuel its army. More important, it allowed the war to be fought on only one front--the western front.

The United States entered the war when Germany began attacking American ships that were taking supplies to Britain and France. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson warned the Germans to stop the attacks, and for a while they did. But they announced an unrestricted submarine warfare after the British blockade shut off supplies to Germany. The final event that caused the United States to join the Allies was the interception of a telegram from the German foreign secretary to Mexico asking Mexico to ally itself with Germany and help fight the United States. Germany promised Mexico financial aid and the recovery of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona when the Allies were defeated.
COMPREHENSION:

World War I--Part I - Level High School - Social Studies

1. What is this passage mostly about?
   Implicit: how and why World War I started (If the student says only World War I, ask, "What about WWI?")

2. What two types of factors caused the war?
   Explicit: economical and political (The reader should remember both of these).

3. How did the rise of new powers cause the War?
   Implicit: when a new country tried to build its military, old countries perceived the new nation as a threat to their power.

4. Name one set of countries in Europe and the surrounding regions that grouped together for security reasons in 1914.
   Explicit: Britain, France, and Russia or Austria, Hungary and Germany (The reader should remember all three countries in one set.)

5. What event finally triggered the war?
   Explicit: the assassination of the Austrian heir to the throne by a Serbian or by a man with ties to the military intelligence branch of the Serbian government.

6. Why do you think that Germany wanted to avoid fighting a war on two fronts?
   Implicit: so its resources wouldn't be divided.

7. How did the defeat of Russia on the western front help Germany?
   Explicit: Germany gained oil fields and coal mines that gave fuel to its army, or it allowed the war to be fought on only one front so all their armies could be unified there.

8. Why did Germany attack U.S. ships?
   Implicit: because U.S. ships were taking supplies to Britain and France, who were part of the Allies.

9. What final event caused the United States to join the Allies?
   Explicit: the interception of a telegram from Germany to Mexico asking Mexico to ally itself with Germany and help fight the United States.

10. Why might Mexico have wanted to join Germany?
    Implicit: Mexico was promised financial aid from Germany, or it was promised it would get part of its original territory back--Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.

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Number Correct Implicit: ______

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___________ Independent: 9-10 correct

___________ Instructional: 7-8 correct

___________ Frustration: 6 or less correct
I am going to demonstrate a process called a think-aloud. When you are ready and come to the word STOP in the text, I will ask you what you're thinking, and then I will tell you what I'm thinking. The purpose for this is to show you many different kinds of thinking that can go on during a reading. At the end of the text I will ask you questions. When you read the final section of the text, I'll ask you to do a think-aloud alone while reading.

In the fall of 1918, German military leaders realized they could not win. One by one Germany's allies quit. STOP. I wonder if the allies quitting was the reason that Germany knew they couldn't win. If the allies had stayed with them, would they have continued the war? (Questioning) On November 3, German sailors mutinied at Kiel, a city and port in northwest Germany. Four days later a revolution broke out in Germany. A republic was founded, and the kaiser fled to Holland. STOP. The revolution was probably the biggest and most important reason that Germany quit; it was like the people of Germany said "enough." (Making new meaning)

Leaders of the new German government agreed to an armistice, which is an agreement to stop fighting. STOP. Now I understand what an armistice is. It comes first and then they make a treaty. (Noting understanding)

They asked that the peace settlement be based on President Wilson's Fourteen Points, which he had described in a speech to Congress in 1918. The Fourteen Points outlined the president's ideas for solving the problems that led to the war. Wilson wanted an end to secret agreements, freedom of the seas in peace and war, the reduction of armaments, the right of nationality groups to form their own nations, and an association of nations to keep the peace. In other speeches Wilson called for a negotiated peace with reasonable demands made on the losers. The Allies agreed to model the peace settlement on the Fourteen Points. STOP. I know something about Wilson and his Fourteen Points and I thought they were good ideas. (Reporting prior knowledge)

Early in the morning of November 11, 1918, the war ended. In a railroad car in the Compiègne Forest in northern France, two German delegates met Allied officials to sign the armistice. The guns were silent.

The Victors Tried to Build a Lasting Peace

No previous war had caused such a widespread horror. STOP. Why did this war cause such horror? (Questioning) More than 10 million troops were killed in battle, and 20 million more were wounded. Thirteen million civilians died from war-related famine, disease,
and injuries. The cost of the war was estimated at more than $350 billion. Destruction was everywhere. **STOP. It doesn’t seem to me that anything is worth all that. If I had lost a father or brother, I would be very angry.** *(Identifying personally)*

**Three Leaders Dominated the Paris Peace Conference**

After the armistice had been signed, the Allied nations met in Paris to discuss peace terms. Contrary to Wilson's wishes, the defeated countries were not allowed to send representatives to the peace conference. Thus, the so-called Big Three dominated the meeting: President Wilson; David Lloyd George, prime minister of Great Britain; and Georges Clemenceau, premier of France. **STOP. I am confused here. I thought that both parties worked on a treaty, but Germany is not even represented.** *(Noting understanding)* At the conference Wilson pushed his Fourteen Points. Above all, he wanted to see a League of Nations, an international association established to keep the peace. To get the others to agree, however, he had to make compromises. **STOP. Compromises aren't always easy because you don't get everything you want.** *(Making new meaning)* Georges Clemenceau, known as the "Old Tiger," had led France during the darkest hours of the war. He wanted Germany to pay war damages because almost all of the fighting on the western front had been on French soil. Most of all he insisted that France be made safe from attack by Germany in the future. He wanted German power destroyed even at the cost of permanently taking much of Germany's western territories from her. Clemenceau placed little faith in Wilson's proposed "League of Nations." **STOP. So France wanted to really get even. The name "Tiger" fits him.** *(Making new meaning)*

Lloyd George in turn wanted Germany's colonies for Britain. He also wanted the German navy destroyed. During the peace talks, he mediated between the idealism of Wilson and the severe terms of Clemenceau. **STOP. Well, England wanted colonies and they wanted to destroy the navy. So Lloyd George was a kind of mediator.** *(Summarizing or paraphrasing)* In the resulting compromise, Wilson gave in on many details and agreed to form an alliance with Britain and France against future German attacks. Clemenceau and Lloyd George agreed to make the creation of the League of Nations part of the peace agreement, which was called the Versailles Treaty. **STOP. I didn't know that Wilson agreed to form a future alliance with England and France as part of the treaty. I thought we were just naturally allies anyway.** *(Reporting prior knowledge)*
COMPREHENSION:

**World War I--Part II** - Level High School - Social Studies

1. What was this passage mostly about?
   Implicit: how the peace agreement was determined at the Paris Peace Conference

2. What happened on November 11, 1918?
   Explicit: World War I ended or the armistice was signed.

3. Name one important point in Wilson's 14-point plan for solving the problems that caused the War.
   Explicit: any one of the following: a reduction in armaments, negotiated peace with reasonable demands on the losers of the war, freedom of the seas in peace and war, an end to secret agreements, right of nationality groups to form their own nations, establishment of a peace-keeping association.

4. Name another important point in Wilson's plan.
   Explicit: any of the above not given as an answer to Question 3

5. Who attended the Paris Peace Conference?
   Explicit: President Wilson; David Lloyd George, prime minister of Great Britain; and Georges Clemenceau, premier of France. (The reader can give either a name, such as Clemenceau, or the position, premier of France, but both are not required.)

6. Why could President Wilson be considered an idealist?
   Implicit: he thought that the League of Nations would keep permanent peace.
   (If the reader says he or she does not know what an idealist is, define the term and then see whether the reader can answer the question.)

7. What did France's leader demand for France in the peace negotiations?
   Explicit: that France be made safe from German attack or that Germany pay war damages.

8. How was the Paris Peace Conference a compromise among the United States, Britain and France?
   Implicit: each country wanted something out of the agreement, and each had to give up something.

9. Which of the Fourteen points was most important to President Wilson, and how do you know?
   Implicit: the establishment of an international peace association, the League of Nations, because Wilson was willing to compromise a lot for it.

10. Why would it have been appropriate for Germany to give money to France, but not the United States?
    Implicit: most of the fighting in the west had been on French soil, so they had sustained damages to their country, whereas the United States did not.

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Number Correct Implicit: ________

Total ________

__________ Independent: 9-10 correct

__________ Instructional: 7-8 correct

__________ Frustration: 6 or less correct
Now I want you to read the next section and when you come to the word STOP in the text, I want you to tell me what you are thinking. When you are done reading, I will ask you to tell me what you remember and then I will ask you questions.

Germany Lost Territory and Wealth in Its Defeat

When the German delegation arrived to sign the Versailles Treaty, they found its terms harsher than they had expected. The Germans were outraged at the war-guilt clause, which placed the entire blame for the war on Germany and its allies. They were also dismayed that many of Wilson's Fourteen Points were missing or had been weakened by changes. The first delegates from Germany refused to sign the treaty. To avoid further attacks by Allied soldiers, however, a second German delegation signed it on June 28, 1919. Even though Germany signed the treaty, there was strong resentment over its harsh terms. STOP.

In the treaty, France won back the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, lost to Germany in the late 1800's. The German territory west of the Rhine River, called the Rhineland, was to become a buffer zone between the two enemies. It was to be occupied by Allied troops for at least 15 years. France was also given the rich coal mines of the Saar, located on the French-German border. But after 15 years, the Saarlanders could vote to have their region go back to the German government or remain under the French. In 1935 they voted to become part of Germany again. STOP.

In the treaty the Allies required that Germany repay much of the cost of the war, or make reparations. They wanted an immediate payment of $5 billion in cash. Two years later they billed Germany for $32 billion, plus interest. The treaty reduced German military power and permitted Germany an army of no more than 100,000 men. The navy was allowed only six warships, some other vessels, and no submarines or military airplanes. The Germans were not alone in thinking such
peace terms were unjust. Even David Lloyd George doubted the justice of the Versailles Treaty. President Wilson hoped that his dream, the League of Nations, could correct the unjust treaty later. **STOP.**

---

**New Independent Nations Were Formed**

Four empires had fallen apart in the course of World War I: the German, the Austro-Hungarian, the Ottoman, and the Russian. Based partly on secret agreements made during the war, the Allies drew up treaties to divide the territory. The map on the next page shows how the empires were divided up. (See map in *World War I--Part III* section of the exam.) The western portion of the old Russian Empire lost to Germany during the war was reorganized. Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia emerged from this territory, and part of this area was used to create Poland. **STOP.**

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The defeated Austro-Hungarian Empire was also divided into several new countries: Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia. The creation of the new countries helped fulfill one of Wilson's Fourteen Points, the right of self-determination, or the right of people to form their own nations. **STOP.**

---

The Ottoman Empire too was divided up. Syria, Iraq, Trans-Jordan, and Palestine were created from the Ottoman Empire. They became mandates, lands given to certain nations to develop. Syria was ruled by France, the other three by Britain. These mandates were promised independence at a future time. **STOP.**

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Redrawing the map of Europe, however, brought some new groups under foreign control. There were social, cultural, and language implications of this foreign control. For example, Austrians living in the southwestern part of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire came under the rule of Italy.
Other German-speaking Austrians were placed under Czechoslovakian rule.

One of the biggest problems was the newly independent Poland, created from the Polish-language provinces of prewar Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Russia. The treaty's authors gave Poland some territory in eastern Germany known as the Polish Corridor. The Polish Corridor and other areas would prove to be problems in the future because they contained many ethnic minorities.

Some Germans lived in the new Polish Corridor, and to complicate matters, many Hungarians also came under Romanian control. Few of these peoples were happy about the changes, and their discontent was a dangerous sign for the future. STOP.

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**Think-Aloud Summary**

- **Think-Aloud Statements That Indicate Understanding**
  - Paraphrasing/Summarizing
  - Making New Meaning
  - Questioning That Indicates Understanding
  - Noting Understanding
  - Reporting Prior Knowledge
  - Identifying Personally

- **Think-Aloud Statements That Indicate Lack of Understanding**

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COMPREHENSION:

World War I--Part III - Level High School - Social Studies

1. What is this passage mostly about?
   Implicit: how the empires were divided up after the war.

2. Why didn't the Germans want to sign the Versailles Treaty?
   Implicit: the terms were too harsh, or they were entirely blamed for the war, or many of Wilson's Fourteen Points were missing or weakened.

3. What would have happened if Germany hadn't signed the treaty?
   Implicit: the Allies would have attacked Germany.

4. What did France gain as a result of the treaty?
   Explicit: provinces of Alsace and Lorraine or the rich coal mines of the Saar.

5. Why didn't France benefit only temporarily when it was given the rich coal mines of the Saar?
   Implicit: after 15 years the Saarlanders voted to become a part of Germany again.

6. How was Germany weakened after the war?
   Implicit: it lost money, military power, and land. (The reader should offer at least two of the three points.)

7. What happened to the land that Russia had lost to Germany?
   Explicit: it was reorganized into five new nations: Poland, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. (The reader should recall at least two of these countries.)

8. How was the Austro-Hungarian empire divided up?
   Explicit: into Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia. (The reader should remember at least two of these countries.)

9. What is the right of self-determination?
   Explicit: the right of the peoples to form their own nations.

10. What caused the problems in the Polish Corridor?
    Explicit: ethnic minorities weren't happy about living under one government.

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