card game

Time War

Chronology of the Great War
Because of its global nature, The Great War impacted the entire population – men, women, children – through all areas of daily life.

The game was no exception to the rule and became a vector of propaganda, especially for the young children. It was above all a question of convincing them that the victory of the fatherland was inescapable while maintaining the hatred of the enemy: strategy games very often gave an undeniable advantage to the armies of their own country by heroizing its great figures and soldiers, shooting games invited players to shoot down enemy figures, others to demonize or ridicule them...

An essential element of childhood, transmitting norms and values, play, far from excluding learning, facilitates it by modifying pupils’ relationship to knowledge. Playing involves emotional, communicative, and cognitive skills such as initiative, anticipation, creation and concentration. Thanks to games and the risk-taking they induce, pupils de-dramatize and accept error and failure more graciously.

It thus finds its place in the classroom by allowing pupils to learn differently.

**HISTORY**
- Master landmarks (events and characters) in time.
- Order historical facts in relation to each other.
- Use specific vocabulary in context.

**MORAL & CIVIC EDUCATION**
- Cooperate.
- Respect common rules.

**LANGUAGE**
- Read and understand a text (game rules).
- Read a text expressively.

**ARTISTIC & CULTURAL EDUCATION**
- Link different fields of knowledge.
card game

ALL SCHOOL LEVELS

Game content:
30 double-sided cards (front: event and illustration / back: date and description of the event).

[Provide a sheet of paper to keep track of the points]

Aim of the game:
To reconstruct the timeline to find out the important events of the First World War.

Preparation:
- Players form two teams (one-on-one, two-on-two or three-on-three).
- To begin, each team draws a card randomly; the team with the earliest date receives the first challenge. These cards are then placed back under the deck.
- Shuffle the cards and place them in the center of the table with the front side visible (name and illustration of the event) to form the deck.

Flow of the game:
- The challenge: Team [A] starts the game. They are challenged by team [B] who determines the number of cards to draw from the deck (minimum of 3 and maximum of 6).

Note: the greater the number of cards, the more difficult the challenge; the team that sets the challenge must understand it can also bring more points.

- Team [A] must put the cards back in the right chronological order.
- Counting the points: once the cards have been laid out, it is time to check whether the proposed chronology is correct. To do this, simply turn over the cards to reveal the date and description of each event.

If the challenge is successful, the team scores the number of points corresponding to the number of cards correctly arranged (3 points for 3 cards, 4 for 4 cards...). Otherwise, the team scores no points.

- If the cards are correctly arranged, they remain on the table and allow the timeline to be started. If not, they are returned to the deck.

- For the next round, the teams reverse roles. From the second round onwards, the cards, if they are correctly arranged, are integrated into the general timeline; if not, they are returned to the deck.

- The game is won by the team that reaches 12 points first or, depending on the variations chosen (see next page), by the team that has the most points when there are no more cards in the deck.
Suggestions for variations to raise the level of difficulty when the pupils have played several games and have achieved a first mastery of the chronology:

- **Variation 1**: The challenged team has to integrate the new cards directly into the existing timeline.
- **Variation 2**: The challenge is successful when all the new cards are placed in the right order. If not, they are returned to the deck.
- **Variation 3**: After the first two challenges, and if there are more than 6 cards left in the deck, the team that is going to be challenged can declare itself “Master of Time”. They must then put away all the cards in the deck.
  
  If they succeed (i.e. if all the cards are in the right order) they win the game. If they fail, they lose 10 points, which are deducted from the number of points obtained since the beginning of the game, and the cards are returned to the deck.
- **Variation 4**: The challenged team scores 1 extra point if they are able to explain in a few words (see on the right) the event presented by each card correctly placed in the chronology.

[You are free to adapt the rules and to imagine other variations.]

**Preparation of the cards**:

- Cut out the 30 cards, fold them in half before gluing.
- To ensure a longer life for the cards, it is advisable to laminate them.
June 28th, 1914

The Austrian Archduke Franz-Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo by a Serbian independence fighter. Austria-Hungary accused Serbia of being behind this attack and declared war on them. By the **play of alliances**, the rest of Europe was dragged into conflict.

July 31st, 1914

As a major figure of **pacifism**, the socialist deputy Jean Jaurès was assassinated in Paris by Raoul Villain. With his death, all hopes of saving peace were dashed. **War seemed inevitable**. All the political forces chose to support the government and to form the **Sacred Union**.

August 2nd, 1914

General mobilization was decreed the day before Germany declared war on France on August 3, 1914. It called on **all citizens between the age of 21 and 48**, approximately 3.8 million men, to join the army.
April 22nd, 1915

On this day, near Langemark in Belgium, the Germans used chemical weapons for the first time, releasing 150 tonnes of chlorine on the Allied trenches. From then on, the belligerents set about inventing ever more toxic gases and ways of protecting their soldiers.

FIRST USE OF GASES

September 6th, 1914

With Paris threatened by German invasion, the Franco-British launched a victorious counter-offensive on the Marne from September 6th to 12th. The Germans retreated and dug the first trenches. The front line stabilized. A long war of position began.

FIRST BATTLE OF THE MARNE

April 6th, 1917

Germany intensified its submarine warfare and tried to draw close to Mexico, a neighbour of the United-States, to dissuade the Americans from intervening directly in the conflict. Feeling its interests increasingly threatened, the United-States entered the war.

THE UNITED-STATES GO TO WAR
January 8th, 1918

The United States president wanted to give his country a growing place in the post-war era. In 14 proposals, he wanted to build a just and lasting peace. The proposals were the bases for the signing of the armistice and the Versailles peace treaty.

April 16th, 1917

General Nivelle promised: the Chemin des Dames offensive, in the Aisne, would be decisive. After several weeks of fighting, the attack was a failure. The human toll was terrible and the Germans remained in their positions. The moral of the French soldiers was badly affected.

November 11th, 1918

In the early hours of November 11th, 1918, in a wagon parked in the forest of Rethondes, near Compiègne, in the Oise, the Germans asked for the armistice. The fighting stopped at 11am after 1,561 days of war and ten million dead.
November 7th, 1917

After the February Revolution, a provisional government ousted Tsar Nicholas II and continued the war. Lenin and the Bolshevik party, advocating immediate peace, led the insurrection and took power. A long period of unrest set in in Russia.

March 23rd, 1918

The Germans launched a last chance offensive in the spring 1918. Everything was done to ensure its success. Long-range cannons manufactured by the Krupp company (wrongly called “Big Bertha”) fired on Paris for 46 days to frighten and demoralize the population: 256 dead, 620 wounded.

November 16th, 1917

The man nicknamed “The Tiger” was appointed head of the government by Raymond Poincaré, president of the French Republic. At 76, he showed great energy in the face of adversity. For everyone, he became the father of victory.
June 15th, 1915
As the conflict became more entrenched and the need for ammunition increased, the belligerents mobilized their industries. In France, Citroën, Renault and others reoriented their production to the war effort.

April 24th, 1915
This date marks the beginning of the genocide of the Armenian minority throughout the Ottoman Empire: executions, deportations and internments caused the death of more than one million people in a few months.

October 1918
Taking advantage of the movement of people and soldiers, the deadly Spanish flu virus spread rapidly around the world at the end of the conflict. In three years, the pandemic had killed more than 50 millions people.
May 31st, 1916

The largest sea battle of the Great War took place off the Danish coast from May 31st to June 1st, 1916. Everyone claimed victory. Although the British lost more ships, the German fleet did not dare venture out to sea for the rest of the war.

September 1st, 1918

Following the aborted German offensive in the spring of 1918, the Allies pushed the enemy eastward and they abandoned the area. Many towns were liberated. Although Péronne was in ruins, the arrival of the Australian soldiers was a relief to the population.

January 11th, 1915

An appeal to women to support isolated or familyless soldiers was launched in January 1915. Thousands of women adopted a godson and did their best to provide that soldier with moral and emotional comfort (correspondence, parcels...).
May 1917

General Nivelle launched the Chemin des Dames offensive; that attempt to break through the German front was a failure. After three weeks of bloody battles, nearly 20,000 poilus mutinied and refused to leave their trenches. About fifty of them were shot as an example.

October 25th, 1919

Article 5 of the law of October 25th, 1919: Subsidies will be granted by the State to the communes in proportion to the effort and sacrifices they will make to glorify the heroes who died for the fatherland.

January 25th, 1919

The forerunner of the UN, the League of Nations, was created by the victors in the aftermath of the conflict and was based in Geneva. Its aim was to defend peace in Europe. Its main promoter was the American President Wilson, but the United States did not join the organisation.
November 11th, 1920

In order to maintain a collective memory and to honour all the combattants of the Great War, the French government buried an unknown soldier under the Arc-de-Triomphe, in Paris. Since 1923, a flame symbolises the memory that must not be extinguished.

July 1st, 1916

7h30. Huge mine explosions ripped through the Somme front. The Big push begins. The British and the French attacked the German trenched. But the enemy, far from being disorganised as hoped, fought back. The deadly battle continued for 5 months without any real change in the front line.

September 15th, 1916

Near Flers, during the Battle of the Somme, the British were the first to engage tanks on the battlefield. The results were disappointing, but tanks showed their full potential. They would be a decisive weapon at the end of the conflict.
June 28th, 1919

The victors met in the castle of the Sun King and discussed the conditions of the future peace treaty. On the last day, the text was read to the Germans without them having had a chance to discuss it. **The peace was signed.** The text placed the responsibility for the war on the defeated.

February 21st, 1916

On February 21st 1916, Germans launched a large-scale offensive on the Verdun area. Despite the hope of a rapid breakthrough, the battle became bogged down and after 10 months of bloody fighting, the French re-established the situation to regain their starting positions.

May 7th, 1915

Engaged in all-out submarine warfare, the Germans sank the Lusitania, a cruise ship, off the coast of Ireland. Among the 2,000 shipwrecked, the death of 128 Americans aroused the indignation of the world and particularly the USA.
December 15th, 1916

Henri Barbusse received the Goncourt Prize for his novel "Under Fire". That pacifist writer, who nevertheless voluntarily enlisted in 1914, gives a strong testimony on the living conditions and sufferings of soldiers.

August 17th, 1914

Under the command of Hindenburg and Ludendorff, the German armies repelled the Russian offensive around Tannenberg, on the eastern front. That victory brought glory to Hindenburg. Considered the saviour of Germany, he became a true hero.

January 8th, 1917

The midinettes, workers in the Parisian fashion houses, went on strike for a pay rise in the face of high living costs and a reduction in working hours. The demonstrations increased in the spring and reflected the weariness of this never-ending war.