

Name _____



WWI Aftermath

Directions: Read the passage below about the outcome of World War I, then answer the questions that follow. Use evidence from the text to support your answers.

The Aftermath of a Global War

When World War I ended in November 1918, the world had changed forever. The signing of the **Armistice** on November 11 brought an end to the fighting, but not to the suffering. Millions had lost their lives, cities lay in ruins, and empires that once seemed powerful—such as the Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, and Russian Empires—had collapsed. Nations faced the challenge of rebuilding and redefining themselves in a new world order.

In 1919, leaders from the Allied Powers gathered in Paris to create a peace agreement. The resulting **Treaty of Versailles** placed heavy blame on Germany, forcing it to give up territory, reduce its military, and pay large reparations. The treaty aimed to ensure peace, but its harsh terms left many Germans resentful and humiliated. Some historians believe this resentment planted the seeds for future conflicts.

The United States played a major role in shaping the postwar discussions but refused to join the **League of Nations**, a new organization designed to prevent future wars. President Woodrow Wilson supported the League's goals, but many Americans feared becoming entangled in another global conflict. As a result, the League struggled to maintain influence without full international support.

Across Europe, economic hardship and political unrest spread quickly. Soldiers returning home faced unemployment, and citizens demanded change. The world had hoped for peace, but instead found itself standing at the edge of a new, uncertain era.

1. What event officially ended the fighting in World War I?
2. What were two major results of the Treaty of Versailles?
3. Why did many Americans oppose joining the League of Nations?
4. Which empires collapsed as a result of World War I?
5. According to the passage, how did the outcome of the war create conditions for future conflict?