Objective: To examine new weapons of WWI and the horrors of trench warfare.
WWI – Modern Warfare

- World War I was the first “modern war”
- New Weapons:
  - Grenades,
  - Airplanes
  - Machine guns
  - Barbed wire
  - Submarines
  - Poison gas
Poison Gas

- Germany introduced poisonous gas
- Soldiers were issued gas masks for survival
- Being gassed could leave you blind or dead
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Non-Fatal</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>British Empire</td>
<td>180,597</td>
<td>8,109</td>
<td>188,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>182,000</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>190,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>71,345</td>
<td>1,462</td>
<td>72,807</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
<td>55,373</td>
<td>4,627</td>
<td>60,000</td>
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<td>Russia</td>
<td>419,340</td>
<td>56,000</td>
<td>475,340</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
<td>191,000</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<td>Austria-Hungary</td>
<td>97,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,205,655</strong></td>
<td><strong>91,198</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,296,853</strong></td>
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'Gassed'. Painting by John Singer Sargent, 1918/1919.
Trench Warfare

- One of the most and distinctly unique ideas for WWI was the use of fighting in trenches
**Trench Warfare**

**Trench Warfare** – type of fighting during World War I in which both sides dug trenches protected by mines and barbed wire

*Cross-section of a front-line trench*
Aircraft can warn of the build-up of enemy troops before an attack.

Concrete block house for a machine-gun.

Reserve trench.

Support trench.

Front-line trench.

Barbed wire: metres deep and an impassable obstacle for any troops able to reach it.

No Man's Land (the stretch of land between the trenches of the opposing sides) has already been churned up by shell fire. In wet weather it becomes a mass of mud, making it even harder for troops to cross.

Communication trenches are reserves to be brought forward without exposing them to enemy fire.

Front-line dug-outs provide protection but not against a direct hit from an artillery shell.

Long-range artillery is placed about 10 km behind the front line. These guns fire at advancing enemy troops.

A deep dug-out. German ones could be 15 m below ground and too well constructed to be damaged by shell fire.

PROBLEMS FACING ATTACKING TROOPS.
Trenches in World War I

- Most trenches were 4-6 feet deep and 4-8 feet wide

- The SHOVEL was the most important tool you received as a soldier
  - Many times trenches collapsed or were destroyed by grenades and had to be dug again.
Trenches were sometimes very close. Even close enough to hear the enemy through the trench walls.
British trench, France, July 1916
(during the Battle of the Somme)
French soldiers firing over their own dead
Pill box- living quarters below
“OVER THE TOP”

- When your commanding officer said “over the top” the soldier had to come out of the trench and travel across “no man’s land”

- A soldier had about a 30 second life expectancy in “No Man’s Land”
  - It was hard to make it through barbwire with bullets flying
Problems in Trenches

- WEATHER
- RATS
- LICE
- TRENCH FOOT
A photograph of a man suffering from trench foot.
Trench Rats

Many men killed in the trenches were buried almost where they fell. These corpses, as well as the food scraps that littered the trenches, attracted rats.

Quotes from soldiers fighting in the trenches:

"The rats were huge. They were so big they would eat a wounded man if he couldn't defend himself."

"I saw some rats running from under the dead men's greatcoats, enormous rats, fat with human flesh. My heart pounded as we edged towards one of the bodies. His helmet had rolled off. The man displayed a grimacing face, stripped of flesh; the skull bare, the eyes devoured and from the yawning mouth leapt a rat."
Officers walking through a flooded communication trench.
What do you think is happening here?
Soldiers digging trenches while protected against gas attacks