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**Big Question: What impact did WWI have on Britain and the wider world?
LQ – Why did the Allies win WWI?**

LO: To be able to explain the most important reason for the allied victory in 1918

**Keywords:**

**Blockade** - the isolating, of a place such as a port, harbour, or country by hostile ships or troops to prevent entrance or exit.
**Hindenburg line –** A heavily fortified German trench system named after General Hindenburg.
**Ludendorff –** a German general.
**Zimmerman** – German foreign Minister.

**TASK** – Read the information on the Allied victories at the end of World War One and highlight the most important aspects.

The Germans had stopped using U-Boats in the Atlantic because they had been sinking too many American ships and they didn’t want America to join the war. However the British navy had been blockading Germany since 1914 and Germany were running out of supplies.

In 1917 the Germans decided that the only way to win the war would be to blockade Britain in return but it was much harder for them as they had to cover the whole of the Atlantic Ocean. It was difficult for the German U-Boats to tell which ships were British and which were American (some had American passengers on board). They ended up sinking so many ships that the Americans considered joining the war.

Eventually, the Americans intercepted a telegram from German foreign minister Zimmerman trying to persuade Mexico to invade the United States. Enough was enough, America joined the war.

The Germans launched the Ludendorff offensive in spring 1918 to try and end the war before large numbers of American troops could arrive to fight against them. They were made up of troops fresh from defeating Russia on the Eastern Front and they initially pushed the allies back but suffered catastrophic losses and failed to consolidate their position. The allies pushed them back again.

However by now the whole of Germany was practically starving to death. Sailors at Kiev mutinied when given orders to attack and the revolution spread to the whole of Germany. The Kaiser was forced to abdicate and spread to Holland. The allies eventually broke the Hindenburg line with American support (and the use of tanks).

What **three reasons** do you think were the most important for the Allied victory?

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**TASK** – Create a storyboard describing the Allied victory. Use pictures and words.

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**“The Americans saved Britain and France in the spring and summer and destroyed the German army in the fall.”** – time.com view of the end of World War one. How far do you agree with this statement?

Tip: Say how much you agree (completely/somewhat/a little/not at all), give evidence and explain why (use PEE).

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