

# The Course and Conduct of World War I

## ***How was World War I different from previous wars?***

### Key Content Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these Key Content Terms in your answers:

Selective Service Act	369th Regiment
American Expeditionary Force (AEF)	convoy
	Meuse-Argonne Offensive

### PREVIEW

- Listen to “Over There,” a song written during World War I by George M. Cohan, an American composer and entertainer. Then answer these questions in your notebook:
  - What is the mood of this music? Does the mood match the lyrics? Explain.
  - According to this song, why should young men fight in the war?
  - What do you think Cohan’s purpose was in writing this song?
- Listen to “On Patrol in No-Man’s Land,” a song written by James Reese Europe in 1919 about his experience as a lieutenant in the 369th Regiment of the U.S. Army. Then answer these questions in your notebook:
  - What is the mood of this music? Does the mood match the lyrics? Explain.
  - According to this song, what dangers do soldiers have to look out for?
  - What do you think Europe’s purpose was in writing this song?

- What differences are there between “Over There” and “On Patrol in No-Man’s Land”? Which song gives a more realistic version of what the war was like for combatants?

### READING NOTES

Read Sections 2 to 4. After reading each section, follow the corresponding directions.

#### **Section 2**

Tape the map of Europe that your teacher provides onto a page in your notebook. As you read the section, take notes and use the map to help you understand and remember what you read. Be sure to record notes about these topics: *Selective Service Act*, *American Expeditionary Force*, and *369th Regiment*.

#### **Section 3**

Below the map, list the following military technologies: *machine gun*, *flamethrower*, *artillery*, *tank*, *trench system*, *poison gas*, *airplane*, *battleship*, and *submarine*. For each, write a brief explanation of how you think this technology might have changed the experience of war for combatants. This can take up more than one page of your notebook, if necessary

#### **Section 4**

Label the location of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive on your map. In your notebook, write a brief description of what happened there and why it was important.

## PROCESSING

Some of the most vivid accounts of World War I come to us through poetry. Poets on both sides wrote about their experiences in the war. American author Ernest Hemingway volunteered to serve in the ambulance core and then as a soldier once the United States entered the war. He wrote the poem *Champs d'Honneur* (French for “fields of honor”) about a poison gas attack.

***Champs d'Honneur***

Soldiers never do die well;  
Crosses mark the places—  
Wooden crosses where they fell,  
Stuck above their faces.  
Soldiers pitch and cough and twitch—  
All the world roars red and black;  
Soldiers smother in a ditch,  
Choking through the whole attack.

In your notebook, write your own poem that describes the experience of war. Include these elements:

- a title
- at least eight lines
- three or more examples of how World War I was different from previous wars for combatants
- how these examples changed the war experience for combatants